

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
October 15, 2008
Conference Call

Present: Gene Hardy, President
Jim Mickelson
Jim Bennage
Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
Juan Reyes
John Etchepare, Director
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Agriculture

Excused: Joe Thomas, Vice President
Dave Graham
Jack Corson

Absent: Ryan Lance, Governor's Office

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough

Guests: Matt Mead
Cindy Garretson – Weibel
Jim Schwartz

State Fair Advisory Committee Update

Gene attended the State Fair Advisory Committee meeting and said the committee is split on making a recommendation regarding the tail docking policy. James Goodrich will come to the November 3 meeting with a proposal. John said James is looking at the existing statutes for guidance in creating a policy on the issue.

Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) Update

Gene also attended the ADMB meeting and said one of the issues they were looking at was how to ensure the projects are being completed.

Wyoming Business Council Update

Cindy said they are celebrating their tenth year. In doing this they have prepared a business plan. They are having several meetings throughout the state encouraging public input into the strategic plan. They are also accepting comments until October 31. Dalin agreed to attend the one that is Worland, Jim Bennage will take the Gillette meeting, John Hansen will take the Wamsutter one and Gene will try to get to Casper.

Matt Mead said they would welcome formal input on their plan. Even though the next Board of Agriculture meeting is Nov 3 and the comment deadline is October 31, Cindy said she was sure those comments would be incorporated. Cindy would like agriculture step up at those meeting and talk about the value of agriculture to the states' economy. Matt would like the board to go even further by having a "wish list" of projects they would like to see the Business Council address. Jason indicated the at-will employee contract position that would act at liaison to the Business Council is ready to go out.

Wyoming Livestock Board

Jim Schwartz said they are making revisions to the Brucellosis rules but will not make any changes to the Chapter 2 rules until the results of the testing in the northwest and the decisions come down from the tri-state meeting held recently.

He also said they are hoping to create a wildlife management zone in the northwest to help with the brucellosis issue in the area. He indicated APHIS is looking at making some rule changes but noted it is difficult for them to make national decisions when only Montana, Idaho and Wyoming are facing those issues. He invited everyone to a meeting in Riverton on October 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. where they hope to gain producer input and guidance. The possible change of testing from 18 months down to 12 month is receiving a lot of resistance in the brucellosis affected areas of the state.

Issues

Bridget will only be able to be at the meeting in Casper on the 3rd. Several members asked if the meeting could be changed from November 3 and 4 to just November 3 because that Tuesday is Election Day. Joe Thomas is not going to be able to attend any of those days. It was decided to try and condense the agenda to the one day and if needed, meet for a couple of hours on Sunday, November 2. Some of the agenda items are; having James present his proposal, introduce Derek Grant, have Steve Grey attend, hear from Dean and Linda, and prepare comments on the Wyoming Business Council strategic plan.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Hardy, President

Date