

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
March 4, 2009
Conference Call

Present: Joe Thomas, Vice President
Jim Bennage
Juan Reyes
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
John Etchepare

Absent: Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Frank Galey
Ryan Lance

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Thomas at 7:07 a.m.

John updated the members on the bills that have been signed into law and the ones still waiting for the Governor's signature.

Joe asked if any of the members had any feedback on the water update from last meeting. Jim Bennage said he thought it was informative and educations and feels Wyoming's water law is on solid ground. John Etchepare feels the reason for that is that the legislation proposed in the past has gone through the Joint Ag Committee and they can ensure the law is going to be good for Wyoming and not just special interests. Jim Bennage was glad to hear from Kara Brighton that if a good water bill were to go through, similar to the one proposed this session by Rosie Berger, that it wouldn't be that detrimental to agriculture. Juan clarified that to say he understood that she was really saying there wouldn't be enough support for a bill to go through. Joe felt overall that it was a good meeting for communicating directly with the Game and Fish and State Engineer.

Jim Bennage was asked for an update of the Business Council. He said they haven't met since December, but he heard they might be having a meeting on the 13th. They have not sent any information to him regarding a meeting and it isn't on their website. Muff will follow-up again with them. He also hasn't seen any outcomes from the strategic plan they finalized at their last meeting.

Joe passed along some concerns he's been hearing regarding the make-up of the RMP group in his area. Jason explained that in general, the agency picks those members and various agencies are allowed to have representation on that RMP.

Jim Bennage asked John about his replacement. John stated that it is a political appointment by the Governor, but he does not know of any of the names being considered.

Joe said that at all future meetings he would like to have updates from each member regarding any meetings they have attended or news from their area. He also said that he will try to have an agenda available prior to the conference calls.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, Vice President

Date