

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
July 14, 2009
Conference Call

Present: Jim Holder
Shawn Sims
Jim Bennage
Joe Thomas
Bryan Brost
Jim Price
Patrick Zimmerer
Jason Fearneyhough

Absent: Juan Reyes
Bridget Kukowski
John Hansen
Dalín Winters
Frank Galey
Ryan lance

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson
Justin Williams

Guests: Terri Barr
Bobbie Frank
Ken Hamilton
Jim Magagna

Minutes

Jim Hodder made a motion to approve the April 13-14, May 19, and June 9 minutes noting the addition of Shaun Sims on the May 19th meeting. The motion was seconded by Shaun Sims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Wyoming We Want

Justin Williams attended and he reported on the meeting. He said a survey was sent out from the last one, as a follow-up to that meeting, to about 900 participants. The results showed that the people in the state want to keep our young people in the state, open space, wildlife, and western heritage. They plan on taking the results and plan ways to keep Wyoming the way it is. They may do conservation easements, etc. The audience poll at the conference showed the majority of the folks would rather have the subdivisions spread out with space around them than to have them condensed. Justin said we should be working with Terry Cleveland and start developing a plan for Wyoming. "Incentive Agriculture" was a quote the Governor used to describe a possible plan. Jim Magagna said we need those folks who support agriculture, but may not understand the obstacles ag producers face trying to maintain what they all enjoy from things like open space, etc. It takes working with all types of groups in order to reach the general public. Jim Bennage asked about the possibility of a media plan. Jim

Magagna responded by saying that the cost of that would be too expensive. He did tell the Board the Public Lands Council has formed a steering committee and the Western Legacy Alliance does have an active public relations committee. Leanne noted the new billboards around the state advertising to thank a rancher for the open space. Joe would like to revisit a possible campaign.

National Brucellosis Elimination Zone (NBEZ)

Jason gave the Board some background on the concept and then told them about the outcomes of the meeting in Idaho with APHIS. He said they agreed to move ahead and continue discussion, but nothing is definite about the boundaries or the details of the plan, at this point. They talked about having a flexible area that would be determined by the state and approved by APHIS. He felt this was key to have that area be defined by the state and not APHIS. Jason said the rules would also be determined by the state and approved by APHIS and he felt Wyoming folks would like to use Chapter 2 rules of the Livestock Board. There would be an MOU in place between APHIS and the states and the group will develop the protocol for handling any case brought forth from landowners. He also indicated there was discussion about depopulating any herd in the area not being the only viable option. Jim Magagna also said the idea of this area is not to put any stigmas or to treat the producers in the area any differently as any other area of the state. Joe Thomas feels that if a producer has one head that tests positive for Brucellosis and the rest are negative, they should be able to continue to test for like three years and not have to depopulate.

Conservation District Requests

Jim Bennage made a motion to appoint Richard Hallingstad to the urban position vacated by Amanda Waldron until the next general election. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Crook County representatives, Jinx Hilty and Wayne Garman explained to the Board that they felt they have the personnel in place now to be able to complete the Belle Fourche Watershed Water Quality Grant. Lack of personnel is the reason for it not being done. **Jim Bennage made a motion to approve the Crook County water quality extension request in the amount of \$25,357.10 through September 30, 2010. This extension is contingent upon the receipt of an interim report for July 2009 with an addition interim report due no later than December 31, 2009. The final report and the return of all unused funds is due no later than October 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Shaun Sims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Jim Bennage made a motion to approve the Sheridan County Conservation District water quality grant request in the amount of \$30,000 with an interim report due December 31, 2009, completion of the grant by July 31, 2010 and a final report and the return of the unused funds no later than August 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Shaun Sims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Posting Board Policies on Web

After discussion, the Board decided to review them prior to the August meeting and have changes/additions ready to approve August 14, 2009. Muff will send out the revisions and they will be on the agenda for adoption in October and then posted on the website.

Wild Horses

BLM is talking about removing the numbers above AMLs and put them in some large holding facilities. Jason said he is concerned the wild horse removal and the horse slaughter issues are being mixed up by the public.

There is a concern of large holding facilities for the horses where the AMLs are above the limits, as to whether BLM would be able to manage the rest of the horses.

Updates

Patrick and Muff talked about the 2009 program and the need for a map to be placed at the information center in Douglas. Muff said she has found it would cost up to \$4,500 for the graphics and map to be done. Patrick felt he could get it done for less and it would be ready for State Fair.

Joint Meeting with Game and Fish in September

Some of the topics suggested were: forage utilization, water, number objectives and the Brucellosis boundary.

Issues

The Department will be helping with the Animal Health check-in at State Fair because the Wyoming Livestock Board doesn't feel they have the funding or the personnel to do the whole week by themselves.

The next meeting will be a conference call August 4.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, President

Date