

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
January 13, 2010
Conference Call

Present: Juan Reyes
Jim Hodder
Shaun Sims
Jim Bennage, Vice President
Joe Thomas, President
Bryan Brost
Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Kukowski
Dalin Winters
Jason Fearneyhough, Director

Absent: Frank Galey, UW College of Agriculture Dean
Ryan Lance, Governor's Office
Jim Price Jr.

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson
Justin Williams
Chris Wichmann

Guests: Jim Mickelson
Jim Cochran
Tori Diest
Cindy Garretson-Weibel

Minutes

Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2010 conference call. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation District Amendments

Jim Bennage made a motion to accept Laramie County Conservation District's request for an extension of the Monitoring and Outreach in the Crow Creek Watershed Project with the following contract date changes; contract will now expire on March 31, 2011 with an additional interim report due on July 1, 2010 and a final report and return of unused funds due on April 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Shaun Sims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Dalin Winters made a motion to accept Washakie County Conservation District's request for an amendment of the Watershed Plan I & E Implementation II Project to reflect the tasks and budget as proposed by the District. The motion was seconded by Juan Reyes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Both of the amendments were recommended for approval at the WACD board meeting January 8, 2010.

MOU Among the WBC/WDA/BDA

Jason said a few of the members and he had met with our Attorney General and the AG shared the concerns the contract division had over some of the language in the draft MOU. They also indicated the MOU needed to be simplified. They said there needed to be better ties of all the parties. The changes should be ready for the February meeting. Matt Mead said in principal and in practice we are very close. As soon as the changes have been made by the two attorneys', Jason will make sure it is sent to all the parties to the MOU.

Updates from Members

Joe asked each of the members to talk about anything of interest in their areas. Shaun said the Western Watershed filed a permit in the Wasatch Cache National Forest so there will be some issues coming from that. Most of the members are pleased with the moisture the state has received, except Jim Hodder. He said if they don't get more snow, there could be some problems this summer. Juan said the cold whether we have been getting has been hard on feeding cattle, but the carry over on the reservoirs looks good.

Bryan Brost said they have had a report of a wolf and several mountain lions in his area. He still feels the elk feed grounds need to be phased out. He said the money saved could be used for research on Brucellosis.

Joe asked if anyone knew what the numbers were from the sugar beet harvest were and if they got a disaster declaration. Jason said he would get the dollars per acre lost on the sugar beets out to the members. Joe also wondered if there would be any programs available to sugar beet growers. Cindy Garretson-Weibel hadn't heard anything for sure, but thought there might be some stimulus money.

Yesterday Jason hosted a conference call with other western state regarding grasshoppers. He has also talked to the Joint Appropriations Committee regarding funding grasshopper programs. The JAC wanted to know the cost of an effective grasshopper program, which Jason told them would be around nine million annually. There is a possibility of using some of the West Nile appropriation, but he is going to continue to work with other agencies. In his talks with USDA APHIS, they have indicated they will try to do their best to take care of problems on federal land, but are not sure they would have any funding for private lands. Jason said there are several western states that are going to have severe problems with grasshoppers next year. He also said the Governor is in support of preventative programs with Western Governor's and some of the western states are preparing resolutions to take to NASDA in late January.

Dalin said about thirty percent of the beets were frozen and they are going to be feeding them to the lambs.

Jim Mickelson said his area is seeing about a fifty three percent of normal moisture in the Green River Basin so they may be in for a rough summer.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, President

Date