

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
August 20, 2010
Director's Office, Wyoming State Fair Park
Douglas, Wyoming

Present: Juan Reyes
Jim Hodder
Shaun Sims, Vice President
Jim Bennage, President
Bryan Brost
Jim Price, Jr.
Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters
Jason Fearneyhough
Dr. Frank Galey

Absent: Joe Thomas
John Hansen
Bridget Williams
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Minutes

Juan Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2010 Conference Call noting two typos on the second page. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Animal ID and Animal Welfare Update

Dr. Logan was on hand to talk about the need for Animal ID in Wyoming in addition to our brand program. Once the hide is removed, it is unknown the origin of that animal. He said there are three bills that the Joint Ag Committee is working on for the upcoming session. The first is the Protection of Livestock Animals which will protect routine animal husbandry and rodeos. The second is a pet protection bill, which will cover all dumb animals not considered livestock. The third bill they are working through is Livestock Traceability.

There is a meeting planned for October 4 and 5 with the Joint Ag Committee to discuss legislation, including animal Id on all interstate transportation of livestock.

Pathway to Water Quality

Nephi Cole with NRCS talked about the water quality demonstration he is doing this week. Pathway to Water Quality is a project NRCS and several partners are working on at State Fair Park. He said Grant Stumbough is chairing the steering committee and that he is chairing the technical committee. He talked about the pathway itself as being somewhat of a French drain type one using a product to allow runoff to flow to the wetland below they will be developing.

Intern Presentations

Rachael Ross said she has been working with Derek Grant this summer. She enjoys the photojournalism aspect of her internship. She has done several press releases and has worked on the Directors' Reception.

Working on a date base for food processors is what Ashley Braisted has been working on during this internship. She also updated the Farmer's Market database. She worked on the education aspect of the new changes to the food rule. She is also working on a power point presentation for the Joint Ag Committee.

Leanne talked about some of the projects Ryan worked on this year. Ryan told Leanne that he learned a lot, but he thinks the ag message needs to be in the classroom. Ryan is being taught that NEPA is something to be dealt with and on the agriculture side. Those NEPA decisions make a huge impact to the producers. He is in Panama working on carbon sequestration through the university. Shaun talked about the "adopt a rancher" program in Evanston and he thinks it worked well in educating the young folks about the ag world. WAIC is working on that, as well, and doing a great job, but he encouraged the members to be more engaged in educating the young folks. This would mean having the young folks visit the ranch, as well as the classroom work.

NRCS Update

Paul Shelton talked about the process they have been using in replacing their public relations person. They are going to work with that person about getting the ag message out to those in the public who don't know about ag.

In conjunction with their 75th Anniversary, he gave some background of the Bureau of soils, SCS and now NRCS. In 1935 public law 46 Mr. Bennett created the SCS. This is the 75th anniversary of NRCS. President Roosevelt encouraged each state to partner with the present day partnerships.

He said they chase farm bill dollars in order to do the work they need to do. They received 1 million in assistance to work with weed and pest to remove the salt cedar and Russian Olive in the Big Horn Basin. EQUIP has received 14 million in 2010. They have used the funds to do many things, including: 1) preparing 9 nutrient management plans, 1 million feet of fence, sprinklers, 13,500 feet of buried pipe, 379,000 pumping plants and worked on 1,533 watering facilities, as well as conservation easements, farm & ranch lands protection program, and the Grasslands Reserve Program. Regarding Soil Surveys, they have mapped 2,000,000 acres. They hope to be finished with private lands soon and by 2015, the whole state. On the Sage grouse Initiative, they have had several folks working on describing CCCAs, conferencing, etc. They are hoping to put together a good paper the DC will sign in the near future.

NASS Update

Todd Ballard was on hand to give us an overview of the current surveys they have been conducting. He said Barley and hay are down from last year, with sugar beets and dry beans are looking better this year. Rangelands are looking better than average and they are seeing grasshopper in some areas. In the September survey, they will be covering small grains and county ag production for row crops.

Conservation District Business

The districts submitted two final reports and one interim report as required by their contracts. **Jim Price made a motion to accept the staff recommendation from Justin Williams for Lower Wind River Conservation District's interim report due on July 31, 2010, and postmarked on July 30, 2010 which fulfills their interim contract requirement for ocean lake Watershed Planning and Use Attainability for Muddy Creek and Poison Creek Water Quality Grant Project. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Patrick Zimmerer made a motion to accept the staff recommendations from Justin Williams for Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District's final report due on August 1, 2010 and received on July 30, 2010, which fulfills their contract requirement for Bitter Creek Shoshone River Watershed Plan Implementation Project. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Hodder made a motion to accept the staff recommendation from Justin Williams for South Big Horn Conservation District's final report due on August 1, 2010 and received on July 23, 2010, which fulfills their contract requirement for Big Horn River and Tributaries Water Monitoring Project. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Ruby Pipeline Discussion

Leanne Stevenson and Jim Magagna talked about an agreement made between Western Watershed and El Paso. Jim said that El Paso basically paid Western Watershed off. El Paso will not go back on the contract with Western Watershed because they are a 100 year old company and stand by the contract, but do see they made a bad decision. Jim said that basically Western Watershed got paid not to sue El Paso. Fifteen million goes into an endowment with the annual earnings to be use for public lands. The funds also cannot be used for litigation. Jim feels this is El Paso's way of empowering the public lands to be able to fight.

AgriFuture Summit

Mary Randolph was on hand to talk about the plans for the conference on October 13, 14, and 15, 2010 in Evanston. She said the Roundhouse will be the venue and the City of Evanston is not charging for the use of the facility. She reviewed the draft agenda with the Board and asked if they had any ideas for for Dr. Jay Lehr.

UW Update

Dr. Buchanan said he is very pleased with enrollment numbers for this fall. The lab is on track for completion and is under budget. The Board members expressed their pleasure with the direction of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Mobile Slaughter

Ted Craig said there will be a demonstration and workshop in Colorado October 7 and encouraged everyone to attend, as this will serve as a prelude to the AgriFuture Conference in Evanston that Mary talked about.

Agribusiness Division Update

John Henn was representing Cindy, as she was not able to attend. He spoke briefly about what each of the divisions are working on.

Joint Meeting with Game & Fish

Jason said that in his conversations with Director Ferrell, Steve had said he would like to hold the issues to those we can agree on. The group decided on the following items for discussion: Private Land Access; the Joint Statement on the Importance of Private Land Access for Wildlife Management; Sage Grouse; Collaborative Process for Implementing the Wildlife Protection Recommendations for Wind Energy Development in Wyoming; and Wild Horses.

Bryan Brost would like to add the issue of phasing out the elk Feedgrounds. After discussion, President asked for a motion. **Bryan Brost made a motion to encourage the Game and Fish to develop a program to phase-out the Feedgrounds. The motion was seconded by Juan. Motion failed.**

Jim Hodder made a motion to have Steve Ferrell and Jason Fearneyhough find a facilitator that they agree on for the joint meeting September 9, 2001. The motion was seconded by Jim Price. Motion Carried.

Update on the Gateway to the West Project

Pam Anderson said both Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power are planning new lines for the next 20 to 30 years. There will also be a 500 KW line from Medicine Bow west to southwest of Boise, Idaho.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bennage, President

Date