

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
December 8, 2010  
Conference Call

Present: Shaun Sims, Vice President  
Joe Thomas  
Bryan Brost  
Jim Price Jr.  
Patrick Zimmerer  
Bridget Williams  
Dalin Winters  
Jason Fearneyhough

Absent: Juan Reyes  
Jim Hodder  
Jim Bennage, President  
John Hansen  
Ryan Lance, Governor's Office  
Dr. Frank Galey, Dean

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Justin Williams

Guests: Ken Hamilton  
Bobbie Frank  
Cindy Garretson-Weibel

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sims and roll was taken.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Bridget Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2010 conference call. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

### **Update on Brucellosis outbreak in Park County**

Joe Thomas said they should be finished testing today. Last Tuesday they had a meeting about the second outbreak. 4,500 head have come back negative. They did not have to test twice. They did another test on the original herd and it showed a positive titer. The 2<sup>nd</sup> outbreak was a herd of buffalo. The owner of the herd said it would be too hard on the buffalo to test three times and the producer has said he will eliminate the herd. Game and Fish can't solve the problem with the hot elk because they can't work in the park. The herd across the river is sitting at 16% hot, which is right there at Joe's. There is not going to be a state quarantine at the moment. If they pick up a reactor outside of the surveillance area, it could change the status. Game and Fish said they can't round up the herd and test and slaughter because they can't catch them all. Marketing is the biggest issue as Joe sees it. There have been at least 24 head of cattle and buffalo with reactors. Joe asked Jason if there is some funding out there to do some testing of the elk herd. Joe said they have talked to Game and Fish about finding

some funding. Jason said there is a small amount of money in his budget, but to find a vaccine would cost several thousands of dollars. Without the focus from the federal level, that creates a huge funding issue. Joe said the pressure needs to be kept up. Jim Price wondered if anyone has approached the wildlife trust fund. It looks like something they may be able to help with this. The livestock board has funding available at \$3.50 per head, but Joe said there would be at least 17 producers in his area applying for the funding. He said at that rate the fund would be empty in no time. Jason said these avenues don't take care of the real problem. Joe suggested that those outside of the area are curious if they may have brucellosis, they can test for about \$3.50 a head. He also said they don't know if there are problems outside of the area. He said those cows go through the sale barn without bleeding them. Joe said he is going to talk to the Stock Growers. Jason said we may talk with Game and Fish about reducing those herd sizes in the area.

#### **Update on Incentives**

With the absence of Jim Bennage, Jason gave this update with the information he knew. As of a couple of days ago, the plan was to meet during Stock Growers to discuss this. Steve Ferrell is sending John Emmerich and Jason will be around. Shaun would like to attend the meeting. Jason is concerned that both Jerry Galles and Jim Bennage are leaving the prospective boards and we need to have others on the subcommittee.

#### **State Wildlife Action Plan**

Justin Williams said that Glenn might be a little late. He talked about the water quality grant funding should be approved by the WACD next week and he would like about 20 minutes on the January agenda. The funds that were returned by a district go back to the general fund and not to other districts. Glenn joined the call and he said the comment period is over and he has submitted the comments to the Commission. He is working on finding some answers to the comments. They are planning on having a draft of the final plan on their website in January and then be finalized and submitted to the Commission at their meeting at the end of January. The plan will be posted at the beginning of January is the document the Game and Fish will present to the Commission later that month in Cheyenne will be the same draft one available on their website early January..

#### **Conservation District Appointment**

**Jim Price made a motion to approve the appointment of Bill Jones to the urban position on the Board of Supervisors for the Powder River Conservation District and to accept the resignation of Judy Novakovich. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **Additional Updates**

Justin met with the Big Horn Domestic Sheep and said they are hoping to apply for funding for Brucellosis testing with the Wildlife Livestock Disease Fund. There is about \$120,000 available. There is no sunset date and it appears the funding will still be appropriated. Jason said the amount of money in the fund is by no means enough to do the necessary research. Jason says he's not trying to put a damper on any research, but the issue needs to be discussed further and additional funding needs to be found to be able to tackle the real problem.

Shaun Sims said the NY judge sided with BLM on some gathers in Colorado. There is to be a horse slaughter symposium in January in Las Vegas. Salt Wells and Adobe town gathered 3,000 but did not

remove all of them. They did do some birth control on them after they gathered them. The BLM has asked for the department to participate so they can tell the agriculture side of the story. Audubon did an interview with Leanne Stevenson and they said they did a fair job of showing the ag side of the story.

Jason asked Cindy to talk about the incubator. Facility in Powell is giving them a chance to keep business in Wyoming rather than having to take the processing to Idaho.

One of the projects is a new incubator to help local producers. This project allows several small businesses to be working out of a common building, sharing staff and equipment until they are established and can go out on their own.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Bennage, President

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Date