

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
January 11, 2011
Conference Call

Present: Juan Reyes
Jim Hodder
Shaun Sims
Jim Bennage
Joe Thomas
Bryan Brost
Jim Price, Jr.
Patrick Zimmerer
John Hansen
Bridget Williams
Jason Fearneyhough

Absent: Dalin Winters
Governor Matt Mead's Office
Dr. Frank Galey, Dean of UW College of Ag and Natural Resources

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson, Manager of Natural Resources and Policy Section
Derek Grant
Dean Finkenbinder
Ted Craig
Michelle MacDonald, Natural Resources and Policy Section

Guests: Jim Magagna
Ken Hamilton
Bobbie Frank
Cindy Garretson-Weibel
Mike Willis
Mike Kenney, Dubois-Crowhart
Cathy Meyer, Lower Wind CD
Carrie Rogaczewski, Sheridan CD
Lisa Ogden Natrona County

The meeting was called to order by Jim Bennage at 8:15. Roll was taken and a quorum is present.

Meeting Minutes

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

CD Water Quality Grants

Carrie briefly explained the Sheridan County Conservation District water quality project. **A motion was made by Shaun Sims to approve the Water Quality Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for Sheridan County Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Cathy Meyer briefly explained the Lower Wind River water quality project. **A motion to approve funding the project in the amount of \$30,000 was made by Joe Thomas. The motion was seconded by Shaun Sims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Lisa briefly explained the Natrona County Conservation District water quality project. **A motion was made by Jim Price, Jr. to approve the Water Quality grant in the amount of \$29,769.28. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Mike Kenney briefly explained the Dubois Crowheart project. **A motion was made by Joe Thomas to approve funding the project in the amount of \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Jim Price, Jr. All voted in favor. The motion carried.**

Bobbie explained the WACD Board's reasoning behind not funding the Lingle Ft. Laramie or the Lower Wind River projects for ground water monitoring.

Juan Reyes asked Bobbie to clarify why the districts are asking for funding for septic systems, which should be covered by the county and the water wells won't be funded. She explained that the older septic systems (pre-1972) are the ones receiving help. They relate to surface water problems. The water wells are related to ground water. The criteria are going to be reviewed by the WACD board before any funding is given to districts for well water.

Changes to State Government

Only three appointments have been made to date. Current Ag committees were reviewed by Jason. He will meet with the Joint Appropriations committee on Friday and should know more about the supplemental budget requests outcomes at that time. Governor Freudenthal did remove the Deputy position off the freeze list with the caveat that the new Governor needs to have say. There has been nothing new since Governor Mead took office.

AgriFuture

Jim Bennage said there has been some planning on another AgriFuture in 2011. Ted Craig said October 12 through 14 or October 19 through 21, 2011 are potential dates for the second AgriFuture in Laramie. Jason said that the meeting they held in Casper at Stock Growers Convention they concluded that the opportunities for the young people to have met with Ag leaders on a one-to-one basis was extremely beneficial. That is the reason for meeting close to the borders to encourage participation from other states and close to universities or higher education facilities.

One Hundred Cow Project

Jim Bennage explained that the project was developed at by Dr. Sleight who is at the Curtis Community College. This program, which encourages young people to get in involved production agriculture and

entrepreneurship in agriculture is one that would serve Wyoming well. Cindy Garretson-Weibel attended the meeting so she updated the board on the discussion that took place in Laramie. They identified two areas of focus; one is students coming out of college and the second are those who have family connections or ranch-hands that have no ownership. They did a lot of brainstorming and the next step would be putting together a pilot project of a couple of student matched with ranches and put together the Wyoming Program. Ted Craig was concerned that Dr. Slate would not be invited to participate in the program and he feels that Wyoming does need to recreate the wheel. He went on to say that Dr. Slate has spent a great deal of time creating this program and Ted thinks the knowledge and expertise of Dr. Slate would bring to a Wyoming program are invaluable to its success. We need to find ways to be able to feed the world in the future. Jason agrees with Ted that we include Dr. Slate in the process of creating Wyoming's program. Cindy feels there is a lot of energy from the group and she feels there will be a lot of action. Cindy is putting together a summarization and will make sure the Board of Agriculture is included in the mailing.

Landowner Incentives

Shaun Sims, John Hansen and Jim Bennage met with the sub-committee of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission during the Stock Growers Convention in Casper. A suggested proposal of donating some of the proceeds from each Commissioner licenses to a recognition program, a cash award or possibly improvement to the landowner was given by the representatives of the Commission. The criteria would be something that the BOA would decide upon. Jim Bennage feels that the proposal is very generous if it is approved by the full commission and \$30 - \$40,000 would be real significant. Jim said that the Commission will be discussing the landowner incentives later this month and will be letting the board know what the general thought was from that discussion. Shaun Sims agreed that the gesture by the Commission that were on that sub-committee was very impressive. Jason said the offer of help the Commission and the Game and Fish Department gave during the difficult time in the Northwest with Brucellosis has been much appreciated. He feels this is the beginning of working together in the future and he appreciates their help.

Changes to the Board of Agriculture

Jim Magagna said the issues agriculture faces are not subject to partisan politics and it has been difficult to find producers in some counties to serve on the board. He said there is a risk that we may end up with members of one political designation if that is what any governor chooses to do, but he feels we citizens have done a pretty good job in electing governors that don't let partisan politics play a big part in Wyoming. The Board has approved the political changes to the statute and the changes to the terms of the youth members.

Ken Hamilton said he thinks if there are going to be changes, there needs to be a broad discussion. He said the appointees still need to be involved in agriculture. Ken proposes a commodity method of selection. He also said they may be appointed on a regional basis rather than on a rotation.

Bobbie Frank said one of the options might be to go through a more judicial district rather than the current county rotation. Some of the conservation districts are concerned about getting rid of the political split.

Juan said that regardless of party, he thinks that maintaining the best possible representation is more important than party affiliation.

Joe Thomas said he feels the same as Juan. He said it is getting more and more difficult to find Democrats or Independents willing to serve in some of the counties in the state.

Jim Bennage reminded that the board has already voted in favor of the changes to the statute. If any additional changes are made, the board will have to re-discuss the issue. Jim Bennage asked if the board feels this is an issue that should be discussed further in February. Jason said the board will be meeting in February after the bills are due out of the house of origin so the discussion would come too late. Jim Magagna said he is willing to hold on the introduction of the bill until the board makes their final decision. Shaun feels there needs to be further discussion before this bill goes out for introduction. He said there are some folks out there that are not in favor of this bill. Jim Hodder feels the same as Shaun. **Juan made motion that the Board of Agriculture is in favor of this legislation, and knowing there are some concerns by some Ag groups, to put this proposed bill on hold pending further discussion. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Ag Groups to Meet

Jim Bennage would like to discuss the possibility of the Board of Agriculture to meet with various Ag groups on a regular basis. Joe thinks it's a great idea. Jason Fearnelyough said he is committed to improving communication with the Ag groups.

The members were reminded to turn in receipts for travel as soon as possible after their return and to not hold on to them.

Muff reminded the board that Mary Randolph is still looking for Ag folks to participate in the Link Wyoming Project. If any of the members are interested, they were asked to get a hold of either Mary or Muff.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bennage, President

Date