

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
June 14, 2011
Conference Call

Present : Shaun Sims, President
 John Moore
 Alison Lass
 John Hansen, Vice President
 Jim Price, Jr.
 Jim Hodder
 Jason Fearneyhough, Director

Absent: Jana Ginter
 Bryan Brost
 Patrick Zimmerer
 Bridget Williams
 Dalin Winters
 Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Ag and Natural Resources
 Governor's Office

Guests: Jim Magagna
 Cindy Garretson-Weibel

Staff: Doug Miyamoto
 Justin Williams
 James Goodrich

Called to order by President Sims at 7:00 a.m. Roll was taken.

Minutes

Alison Lass made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2011 meeting. The motion was second by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation District Business

Jim Price, Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation of Jim Schiermiester and the appointment of Kevin Lund as the at-large supervisor to the Powder River Conservation District until the next general election. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Alison Lass made a motion to accept the Meeteetse Conservation District's final report due on May 31, 2011, and received on May 26, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for Greybull River Streambed Processes and E. coli Distribution, as well as payment of returned State Water Quality Funds of \$1,000. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS Initiatives

Shaun discussed the initiative being proposed by NRCS where they are encouraging landowners to have prairie dogs to increase habitat for the black footed ferret. He said the prairie dogs cut the grass too close to the ground and causes erosion of the soil. Another concern is controlling the prairie dogs so they don't impact neighbors who don't want them. Jim Magagna said Mark Isle has been involved in the effort, as a landowner. Private lands are dependent on federal land permits and unless the federal agency is a partner in this, it's difficult to have the whole program work. The funding is another issue. Presently, if landowners sign up, there is no clause to get out of the project if there is no funding. NRCS is funded through the farm bill and it is not a wildlife bill, it is to help agriculture. There was discussion of the direction that NRCS is going. It was noted that NRCS was not willing to give WACD some documents they had requested without FOIA. The Sage Grouse Initiative is also a wildlife initiative. Justin is going to meet with Game and Fish June 22, 2011 in Casper between 10 a.m. and noon at the Game and Fish Office.

State Fair

James talked about the oil leasing. He indicated there is a company interested in leasing the oil and gas rights on State Fair land. The AG Opinion was that upon approval of the BOA, they need to obtain the approval of State Land Board. If they approve this, the State Land Board will conduct a web auction and lease those rights to the successful bidder. James is asking the Board for approval of bidding the lease of the oil and gas rights through State Lands. James said he didn't know the term of the lease. Jim Price asked James if the State Land Board will negotiate the contract. James said yes, but he felt it would be wise to keep an eye on the negotiations to ensure there was no damage done. Shaun asked James if the income will come back to State Fair. James said to the best of his knowledge the income would come back to them. James felt there needed to be some additional discussion with State Land Board before going forth. Shaun wanted to make sure we were covered as far as not allowing any buildings to move, etc. to accommodate the oil or gas company. James wants the Board to give permission to go forward in the process. James said he would come back to the board with any information before they proceed with the lease. **Jim Price made a motion to give James permission to go to the next step, keeping in mind the concerns brought up and report back to the board. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

James was interested in selling naming or advertising rights on the buildings and arenas on the fairgrounds. The agreements will most likely to be multi-year agreements. The AG opinion was to get the approval of the board, as there is nothing in statute disallowing the naming of the buildings or advertising rights. James said he is seeking initial approval from the board to sell naming rights and advertising on the arena. The grandstand, the arena, the silver arena, the equine center, the three sections of the campground, and the old sheep barn are the areas he is looking at for either naming rights or advertising. James said the agreements would have specific time limits. He said they are inquiring with others to ensure the income is appropriate. Jim Price said the BOA should have final say on the final naming of anything. James said it should probably be done on some type of public advertising or RFP. He agreed the naming should not go against agriculture or be displeasing to the community. James said, in answer to Shaun's question, that there would not be any large billboards or anything like that. James said they do not want to overpower the buildings with advertising. Alison Lass asked if the naming could change names in the future. James said yes, that they could be change as the agreements expire. James said he is finding that the agreements are usually 3 to 5 years. Shaun would like to see them come back to the BOA for approval. **John Hansen made a motion to proceed with**

advertising and naming of the buildings on the fairgrounds. Jim Price, Jr. seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

James said some of the events held on the fairgrounds are smaller and they are not picking up any additional events, but are getting any cancellations of events due to the downturn in the economy.

Updates

Jim Magagna gave the members an update from the WSGA convention. They had over 300 participants at their summer convention last week. He said there is an effort of the Wyoming Association of Church's to declare the Red Desert an area of conservation. WSGA did create a policy in opposition to that effort. They wrote a policy in support of Representative Lummis and Senator Barrassos's justice act. Stock water rights on federal lands are an ongoing discussion. They will be meeting with the State Engineer's office along with WACD, WFB, and WWGA next week to further that discussion. Jim also indicated this is a good time for herd expansion opportunities with the good grass, etc. He felt it was a good convention with more positive attitudes from their members. Most of their concerns seemed to be from the federal level.

Shaun updated on the WACD board meeting in Evanston. They discussed most of the same issues that were discussed at the WSGA Convention. They also worked on the tool called Sweetwater which has a wealth of knowledge. The tool will allow users to find any water wells, etc. The use restrictions are limited to the CD supervisors and employees. They are preparing an MOU with the WDA. They are restricting its use because they are afraid of its misuse.

Jason is attending WUSATA meeting in Vancouver. He did give an update of ADMB meeting held last week. Initially they had \$500,000 and received \$525,000 in requests. They funded about half of the projects or about \$250,000 on research projects. The only proposal which was not funded was the guard dog study.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Sims, President

Date