

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
May 23, 2012
Pinedale, Wyoming

Present: John Hansen, President
Patrick Zimmerer, Vice President
Jana Ginter
Jim Hodder
John Moore
Bryan Brost
Cameron Smith

Absent: Jim Price, Jr.
Shaun Sims
Alison Lass
Richard Schlenker
Jason Fearneyhough, Director
Frank Galey, UW Dean College of Ag and Natural Resources
Governor Meads Office

Staff: Doug Miyamoto, Deputy Director
Muff Parker
Linda Stratton
Dawn Helms
Dru Haderlie.

Wyoming Business Council (WBC) Board of Directors & Staff Present were: Directors present included Jay Anderson, Nathan Bekke, Dick Bratton, Jim Espy, Rex Lewis, Lee Lockhart, Lynne Michelena, Gary Negich, Patrick Schmidt, Norma Shelton, Mike Sullivan, and Mike Wandler. Staff members present included Bob Jensen, Cindy Weibel, John Henn, Mary Randolph, Ben Peterson and Linda Hollings

After introductions, the two Boards discussed the following issues:

Horse Slaughter

Sue Wallis stated that her group had partnered with a Belgium company to locate a slaughter facility in the mid-west – possibly in Riverton. Doug Miyamoto said the department supported the project. A WDA staff member reminded all that because of a 1940 law, horses cannot be slaughtered in a multi-species facility. While the federal government has allowed exceptions in the past staff was unsure of the federal outlook on it at this time.

Slaughter Facility

Cindy Weibel gave a brief summary of a Business Committed Grant project to construct a 6,000 square foot value-added beef processing facility in Cody for Wyoming Authentic Products, LCC (WAP), and a start-up company. Initial plans indicate that the company will process 25 head a week initially, with intent to grow to 100 per week in five years.

WDA indicated that at the present time they did not have enough manpower to do the things that would be required for them to inspect federally inspected plant operate in Wyoming. A suggestion was made to propose a budget request for additional manpower.

Mountain States Lamb Co-op

Frank Moore, Chairman of the Board for the Mountain States Lamb Co-op presented an update on the co-op. The co-op was joined in partnership with Rosen Kosher Products based out of the Bronx in New York City. In 2008 the coop bought out the partner.

Premium Heifer Program

John Henn reported on a new market opportunity for cattle producers called the Premium Heifer Program. The program is designed to help agriculture producers add value to their livestock and provide potential buyers with a source for females of known production practices and genetics.

Henn said that the program will assure buyers across the country that certified animals are managed, raised and bred in accordance with program requirements. The market will see a high demand for heifers and will be a great marketing opportunity for cow-calf producers in the state.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hansen, President

Date