

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
September 13, 2012
Casper Events Center

Board Present: John Hansen, President
Patrick Zimmerer
Jana Ginter
Shaun Sims
Alison Lass
Bryan Brost
Jim Price, Jr.
Cameron Smith

Absent: Jim Hodder
John Moore
Richard Schlenker
Jason Fearneyhough
Dr. Frank Galey, Dean of the College of Ag & Natural Resources
Governor Matt Mead's Office

Commissioners Present: Michael Healy, Vice President
Aaron Clark, President
Charles C. Price
Fred Lindzey
Carrie Little
Richard Klouda

Absent: Ed Mignery

The meeting was called to order by President Clark at 1:30 pm.

Introductions of the Commission and Board were made.

Joint Access Program

Mark Nelson updated the members on the status of the program. There were four persons selected to receive \$2,000 from the sale of the Commission licenses sold. The program recognized some of the folks from the four quadrants of the state for their work on allowing access to hunting and fishing on their private lands. The awards will be given at the awards luncheon during the joint WSGA, WACD and SRM Convention in December. Shaun Sims

thanks the two groups in working on the program and for getting it off the ground. He also said he would contact the three organizations to make sure the recognition of the four landowners would be on that agenda. Mike Healey suggested that Game & Fish staff provide their top three candidates for the committee to review and determine the winners for next year. Scott suggested that if anyone has suggestions, such as Mike's, to please let Jason Fearneyhough and himself so they can better refine the program. President Aaron Clark thanked Senator Anderson for attending the meeting.

Wolf Delisting Update

August 31 the delisting rule was filed. The first hunting season begins October 1 and the likenesses go on sale tomorrow morning. Brian Nesvick said that all wolfs taken in the trophy area have rules to follow, such as physically bringing the wolf to the G&F for inspection. Those taken in the non-trophy areas of the state do not have those same requirements. The state needs to be able to document the number of breeding pairs in the state at the end of the year which is ten pairs and 100 wolfs as per the agreement with USFWS. There have been two groups filing notice of intent to sue. The suits themselves would not be filed until 60 days after filing of the intent or after November 1 of this year. It will not affect the 2012 wolf season. Wyoming needs to show the genetics to be certain we don't lose the delisting. It will, therefore, be so important for all wolves to have genetic testing if taken in the trophy area and would be great if hunters would also do that for those taken as predators. There are three distinct areas of the state. For the trophy game management area the department will treat those claims as they do for black bears and mountain lions. In the flex area, the department will handle losses the same as the trophy area. In the rest of the state, there will be no compensation because the wolves are considered a predator. Kent Drake said the ADMB is in the process of drafting rules for the predator zone and how important the data that is collected is for the long-term management of the wolf. The ADMB has \$100,000 available for the wolves. The emergency rules should be ready by September 31 and are good for 120 days. Brian said the department will enter into a post delisting agreement with the USFWS for five years after October 1.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Mark said they are still not in the state. They are bringing in about ½ million dollars income for the program. They have increased their surveillance of the lakes and rivers of the state and have found Asian clam in the Laramie Rive and Curly pondweed in Lake DeSmet. They plan on educating the public on these, as well as the muscles to prevent the spread of them. He also spoke about the future of the program and how they plan to continue to have an aggressive program. The states to the north, south, and west also have very aggressive programs and Nebraska is just beginning their program. It is key to all of the states working together to prevent the spread of all aquatic invasive species.

Elk Management

Brian Nesvick talked about the increase in elk harvested in the last year. Season structure, access etc. have helped when worked in conjunction with each other, has made their management program work. Doug Miyamoto asked if there had been additional claims and/or inquiries due to the drought. He also asked if there were something WDA could to. Brian said it would be

helpful for education on the steps needed to be taken and the time frames would help. Aaron Clark suggested the Game & Fish and the Board of Agriculture take a look at statutes on this issue.

Drought Update

Steve Tesman, a staff biologist in Cheyenne presented a power point on how the drought is affecting the wildlife and in turn causing them to eat from the ranchers' alfalfa and grasses. He reviewed the drought maps which indicated Wyoming is extremely dry, with our precipitation well below normal.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hansen, President

Date