

## Recording of Proceedings

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
April 8-9, 2013  
AmericInn Lodge and Suites  
Laramie, WY

Present: John Hansen, President  
Patrick Zimmerer, Vice President  
Jana Ginter  
Jim Hodder  
Alison Lass  
Cameron Smith  
Jason Fearneyhough, Director  
Dr. Frank Galey, Dean

Absent: Governor Matt Mead's Office  
Richard Schlenker  
Shaun Sims  
Bryan Brost  
Jim Price, Jr.  
John Moore

Guests: See Attached Attendance Sheet

Staff: Doug Miyamoto, Deputy Director  
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Chris Wichmann  
Jessica Crowder  
Justin Williams  
Mandy Gershmel

The meeting was called to order by President Hansen, roll call taken and a quorum was not established.

### **CCAA Update**

Justin Williams provided a background and update on the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Three years ago, several agencies were asked to develop a state-wide CCAA for conservation measures on sage-grouse. The process should have only taken one year, but several roadblocks have slowed the process. One such roadblock is predation. Predation is not a determined loss of sage grouse because there is not real data. Once data becomes available, the environment assessment may change. Another hurdle is the size of this CCAA. Most agreements are small and incorporate only a few families or ranches, but this one will be statewide. The process should hopefully be wrapped up later this year.

### **Green Mountain Common Allotment Litigation Update**

Jessica Crowder gave a presentation on the Green Mountain Common Allotment (GMCA), Litigation. The last time Bureau of Land Management (BLM) made a decision regarding the GMCA environment assessment (EA), was in 1999. Since then, there have been several reasons to recreate the EA. Several groups, government agencies and permittees have differing interests: livestock grazing, carrying capacity, range improvement projects, well developments, reconstruction of reservoirs, cultural considerations (teepee rings, trail systems, etc.), wild horse movements, and sage grouse habitation. These conflicting interests are the reason the EA has been stalled for over a decade, and the reason the case has gone to court. The case went to court in early 2013, and hopefully the judge will make a decision by late summer.

### **Joint Business Council – Agriculture Board Meeting**

The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) Board meeting will be held in Thermopolis on May 22, 2013. The Business Council is inviting the Board of Agriculture members to join them for lunch and an afternoon tour in Kirby, WY. Various topics would include: interstate meat shipment, WBC strategic plan and how agriculture fits in that, and Board of Agriculture updates.

### **Board of Agriculture Updates**

Doug Miyamoto updated the board on several topics Shaun Sims wanted to discuss. The first topic was black footed ferret reintroduction proposals. Both the Director and Deputy Director, Doug Miyamoto, discussed with Natural Resource Conservation Service, NRCS, previously, and NRCS will not push on the black footed ferret initiative unless Wyoming wants the program. The second topic Doug discussed was utilizing vacant BLM, and Forest Service (FS), allotments during times of drought. The third topic Doug touched on was the Environment Site Assessment (ESA– Farm Service Agency, (FSA), reform agreements. Shaun Sims will discuss this topic more in depth at the next meeting.

### **Wyoming Department of Agriculture Update**

Doug Miyamoto updated the board on various issues. One topic was different State Fair Advisory Committee policies and statutes from the Board of Agriculture. The State Fair Advisory Committee would like to realign their policies and statutes with the Board of Agriculture.

Doug also discusses interim topics for the Joint Agriculture Committee. Interim topics for this year will include interstate shipments and raw milk.

Various agencies are working with USDA to streamline the process on emergency declaration for counties for this drought season. WDA is taking the lead on dissemination of weather and drought information for this season, as well.

WDA is involved in helping write policy papers on water and energy issues for the Governor's office. These papers will be integrated into WDA's plan, and will provide a brief background for various water and energy topics.

WDA is operating on the 8% budget cut submitted last legislative session. There is no clarification for budget cuts for next year, and the budget report is due a month earlier this year.

A federal invasive species bill is currently being drafted and will concentrate on money and programs for the states' invasive species plan. This bill will help get over \$1 million currently being used for administrative costs and redistribute through a block grant to the states so the states may get that money on the ground.

### **Raw Milk Update**

With recent legislation regarding raw milk this past Legislative session, Director Fearneyhough explained the Department never intended to regulate raw milk within a family, but rather to constituents. Raw milk is an interim topic this year and the Department has been asked to write a report on how bordering states are handling with raw milk. A few concerns the Department have are the human safety issues and cow shares. Several cases of folks becoming sick from drinking raw milk have broken out around the country.

### **April 9, 2013**

President Hansen called the meeting to order and roll was taken. A quorum was established.

### **Minutes**

**Jim Hodder made a motion to approve the February 19, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cameron Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Election of President and Vice President**

**Jim Hodder nominated Patrick Zimmerer for President. Patrick Zimmerer accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Cameron Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**John Hansen nominated Alison Lass for Vice President. Alison Lass accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Cameron Smith. All vote in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Water Quality Grant Reports**

**Jana Ginter made a motion to approve the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District Baseline Monitoring and Education Project final report. John Hansen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Cameron Smith made a motion to approve the Natrona County Conservation District Kendrick Watershed Selenium Monitoring and Public Education Project final report. Doug Miyamoto reported that the salt levels rise with progressive irrigation and they are continuing to monitor to keep the salt levels down. John Hansen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**John Hansen made a motion to approve the Lower Wind River Conservation District Watershed Improvement Interim Report. Jim Hodder seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Conservation District Supervisor Appointments**

**Jana Ginter made a motion to appoint Todd Heward to the At-Large position and Shanon Sims to the rural position for the Medicine Bow Conservation District. Cameron Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Amendments to Motions from February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Meeting**

**Jana Ginter amended her motion to approve the Laramie County Upper Crow Creek application for \$27,807.00 with an interim report due November 30, 2013 and a final report and the return of unused funds by January 31, 2015 to read “motion to approve the Laramie County Upper Crow Creek application for \$27,807.00 with an interim report due December 30, 2013 and a final report and the return of unused funds by January 31, 2015”. Jim Hodder seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Alison Lass amended her motion to approve the Natrona County Small Acreage application for \$20,000.00 with an interim report due November 30, 2013 and a final report and return of unused funds by November 30, 2014 to read “motion to approve the Natrona County Small Acreage application for \$20,000.00 with an interim report due November 30, 2013 and a final report and return of unused funds by October 31, 2014”. Jana Ginter seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Patrick Zimmerer amended his motion to approve the Star Valley Septic System Education application for \$14,100.00 with an interim report due September 30, 2013 and a final report and return of unused funds by April 31, 2014 to “read the motion to approve the Star Valley Septic System Education application for \$14,100.00 with an interim report due November 30, 2013 and a final report and return of unused funds by April 30, 2014”. The motion was seconded by Cameron Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**NRCS Update**

Astrid Martinez, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, gave an update on their easement operations. All of their easement operations have moved to Oregon over the winter, and they are working to ensure all the case files are complete and verify the producer qualified. If they do find one or the other is the case, they will be asking for funds back from the producers. USDA will be sending a few teams to audit all policies and case files and ensure they have been followed. The overall process should be complete by the end of the year.

**Wyoming Livestock Board Update**

Dr. Bob Meyer, Assistant State Veterinarian, gave an update on various issues such as trichomoniasis, brucellosis, animal disease traceability, new branding rules, and the project on Worland and Riverton livestock sales.

### **University of Wyoming, College of Agriculture Update**

Dr. Frank Galey, Dean of the College of Agriculture, provided a synopsis of the 6% budget cuts the University is facing. The budget cuts are starting to affect agriculture directly, especially in service areas and positions are no longer able to be filled. Dr. Galey will be speaking with the College of Agriculture Advisory Board next week and hopes to increase outreach to agriculture producers.

### **Gravel Pit Certification Presentation**

Adrienne Peterson of the Sublette County Weed and Pest provided a background to the gravel pit certification program. Weeds were getting transported to other counties by gravel trucks, and they needed a way to slow, or even halt, the movement of weeds. They created standards on what to check for while inspecting gravel pits and trucks. The goal is to have all states and counties participate in this program. Education is the biggest advantage to this certification program. So far 22 states have joined in the venture and are working to possibly eradicate the movement of some weed species.

### **Wild Horse Update**

Director Fearneyhough provided an update on the wild horse issue in Wyoming. The consent decree is not looked at favorably by the national office of BLM as they feel it gives Wyoming an advantage on the wild horse overpopulation. During Director Fearneyhough's trip to a wild horse meeting in Oklahoma City, OK, the issue of single species management was brought up and talked about in length.

### **Living Legacy Update**

April 22-23, 2013, are the dates for the work day on the State Fair Grounds. They will have 27 tree guards to place as well as several trees. They will also be pruning trees. The Foundation did receive \$3,000.00 to purchase plaques with the tree species.

### **WDA – Weed and Pest Update**

Slade Franklin completed the Weed and Pest grants. Federal legislation on invasive species is progressing and will allow for block grants to each of the states. Emergency Insect Management Committee budget was cut \$174,900 to \$1.2 million. \$30,000 was cut from the grasshopper program, \$334,000 was cut from the pesticide registration program, and \$100,000 was cut from the grant funding on Forest Service and State Lands invasive species.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Zimmerer, President

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Date