

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
December 8, 2009
Conference Call

Present: Joe Thomas, President
Jim Bennage, Vice President
Jim Holder
Juan Reyes
Shawn Sims
John Hansen
Bryan Brost
Jim Price Jr.
Jason Fearneyhough, director
Frank Galey, Dean

Absent: Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters
Bridget Kukowski
Ryan Lance

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Leanne Stevenson
Margy Anderson

Guests: Cindy Garretson-Weibel
Ken Hamilton
Steve Ferrell

Lusby Case

Steve Ferrell wanted to take this opportunity to visit with the board about the case. After giving the members some background on how this case came up, he explained the position of the Commission. He hoped the agriculture community could understand the Commission wanting to protect what they purchased years ago. Steve said they feel this easement needs to be protected for the people of Wyoming. Muff will find the case electronically and send it out to the members.

Minutes

Jim Bennage made a motion to approve the November 10 minutes. Shaun Sims seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

WBC MOU

Margy Anderson wanted to visit about the MOU that was created back in 2008, but has never been finalized. She said our Attorney General needs clarification on some points and she understood the Business Council's Attorney General did, also. She proposed a meeting with a couple of the board members, Jason and herself to review the MOU and when they have it reading the way they want, then meet with the two attorney's and the business council to finalize the MOU. Margy will set up a video conference sometime in January.

Margy also made a proposal to the board regarding combining Living Legacy, Excellence In Ag Awards and the State Fair Volunteer Awards on the Friday of State Fair. The members felt it would be a great idea to combine all three of those awards.

Cindy Garretson-Weibel said she thinks the Business Council should be invited to the video conference where the sub-committee will be discussing the MOU. Joe said that if they can be invited to their meeting with their board, he'd be okay with that. His feeling is that his board is left out of any communication from the Council. Cindy said the Council has been acting based on the MOU even though they do not have a signed document. Jim Bennage feels the board should agree amongst themselves before meeting jointly with the council.

Rangeland Health

Leanne said the group is looking at where the bar is set regarding a FONSI for grazing Environmental Assessment. They want to ensure credible data is used, as well as looking at some administrative appeals on forest service and BLM land to find the strengths and the weaknesses within the documents. They would like to have a consistent core group, but they are not limiting participation.

Brucellosis

Dr. Galey talked about a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation document outlining a roadmap to solutions for Brucellosis. Out of the six suggestions in the document, there is only one the GBCT can't go along with. They are concerned about the document suggesting the phase-out of the winter feed grounds. This proposal is of great concern to landowners and outfitters. Frank is trying to meet with them to show support of five of the suggestions and to explain the concerns of phasing-out the feed grounds. Scott Talbott emailed a rebuttal to Joe Thomas and he will make sure it gets sent out to the rest of the board. The Brucellosis Consortium is interested in developing an effective oral vaccine for cattle and elk. The group has the participation of the Game and Fish, scientists, and ranchers from all three states (WY, ID, and MT). They are hoping to find 1.8 million for five years of funding. They know most of this money is going to have to come from Universities and Government. Frank also said Denny Raybird is introducing a new bill to delist Brucellosis.

Conservation District Appointment

Shaun Sims made a motion to appoint Owen Williams to the rural position of Coke Landers to the Medicine Bow Conservation District which was vacated by Coke Landers . The motion as seconded by Jim Price Jr. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Draft Wind Policy

Juan likes the draft policy. Jason would like to meet with Juan and Chris Wichmann in Wheatland to finalize the wording of the policy before going to a vote. Juan feels that if county commissioners created a policy, that it would be advantageous to landowners. Jim Price will also attend the meeting in Wheatland.

Wyoming Stock Growers Association Update

Joe said all is going well at this winter convention. Jason is a little concerned about applications for stock water by the Forest Service. He plans on meeting with Magie Beal when NASDA meets in DC.

State Fair Follow-up

Jason was asked to check with our Attorney General to see if \$0 would be considered an amount that could be charged for gate admission. Our attorney said that \$0 was not an amount and therefore, there has to be a dollar amount charged for admission to State Fair Park.

Board Updates

Juan said Frank Galey and the university need to be commended for the Range Beef Cow Symposium. He attended the symposium last week and therefore couldn't attend WSGA/WWGA meeting this week.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Thomas, President

Date