

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
July 12, 2011
Conference Call

Present: Shaun Sims, President
John Hansen, Vice President
Alison Lass
Jim Hodder
Bryan Brost
Patrick Zimmerer
Jason Fearneyhough, Director

Absent: Jana Ginter
John Moore
Jim Price Jr.
Bridget Williams
Dalin Winters
Frank Galey, UW Dean of the College of Ag and Natural Resources
Governor Mead's Office

Guests: Ken Hamilton
Kim Porter
John Emmerich

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Doug Miyamoto
Leanne Stevenson
Justin Williams

Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

Jason updated the board on the discussion he and Doug have had throughout the state regarding flooding.

Minutes

John Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Review of Water Quality Reports

John Hansen made a motion to accept the Popo Agie Conservation District's final report due on July 29, 2011 and received on June 27, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Sweetwater Reconnaissance Study Project, as well as payment of returned State Water Quality Funding of \$15,078.53. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Hodder made a motion to not take action on the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District Interim Report due June 30, 2011 because the Interim Report was not complete. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Patrick Zimmerer made a motion to accept the Sheridan County Conservation District's Interim Report due on June 30, 2011 and received on June 28, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the 2010 Sheridan County Water Quality Improvements Project. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

John Hansen made a motion to accept the South Big Horn Conservation District's interim report due on June 30, 2011 and received on June 29, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Continuation of Big Horn River and Tributaries Water Monitoring. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Hodder made a motion to accept the Sublette County Conservation District's interim report due on June 30, 2011 and received on June 28, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Hoback River – Surface Water Quality Project. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Alison Lass made a motion to accept the Washakie County Conservation District's interim report due on June 30, 2011 and received on June 16, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Watershed Implementation Program III Project. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Black Tailed Prairie Dog Update

John Emmerich talked about the initiative. The effort is being coordinated by USFWS and has been going on for 20 years. They have identified 19 sites for introduction of the Black Tailed Prairie Dog and their hope is to have a population of around 5,000. Many of the sites they have identified are on private land, so they are developing an incentive based plan to meet their goals. The plan has the following components:

Direct payment to landowners for supporting prairie dogs as incentives. This would include a boundary for the dogs. There would also be some regulatory management, which may include the 10-J Rule. The agreement would be between the landowner and the USFWS, as they would be the ones to control the boundary. This would be totally a voluntary program on the part of the landowners.

There is also plague control going on to help provide a safe prairie dog community for the black tailed prairie dogs.

They are now looking for funding by putting together an operational plan. Bill Taylor is going to facilitate this plan. NRCS would probably provide the funding and USFWS will do the control. The plan would cost \$20,000,000 per year to operate. He said they would like to see a recovery program work in Wyoming.

Shaun feels the 10-J rule needs to be implemented to cover the state. John Emmerich said they have had several discussion regarding that issue and feels it would provide protection for those landowners who do not sign up for the program, but end up with black-tailed prairie dogs on their property.

Shaun asked about the funding and whether the funding comes through the NRCS and then to USFWS. John said they are trying to find the funding to support USFWS support of the program.

Jt. Meeting with G&F on September 8

Suggested agenda items: Rolling out initiative allowing hunting on private ground.
Aquatic Invasive Species update and the impacts to agriculture.
Wolf Management.
Efforts between WDA, G&F and the Livestock board which have been accomplished to date regarding to Brucellosis.
Predator problem with Sage Grouse Update. Are finding anything on their \$50,000 research project?
Elk Feedgrounds and the connection with Brucellosis. Time to close the feedgrounds to eliminate the Brucellosis problem.

John and Shaun will get back with G&F so it will be ready on the 8th.

Water Quality Reports

Justin Williams explained that Ann from the Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District did get in the information that was missing from their report sent to him via electronic yesterday. **Alison Lass made a motion to accept the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District's interim report due on June 30, 2011 and received on July 11, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the 2011 – 2012 Shoshone River. It was noted the report was late. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Sims, President

Date