

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
April 9 and 10, 2012
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Present: Jana Ginter
 Jim Hodder
 Shaun Sims
 Alison Lass
 Bryan Brost
 Patrick Zimmerer
 John Hansen
 Cameron Smith
 Jason Fearneyhough
 Frank Galey

Absent: Jim Price
 John Moore
 Richard Schlenker

Monday, April 9, 2012

Called to order by President Sims followed by the introductions of members.
A quorum established.

Legislative Review

Doug talked about the outcomes from the last legislative session. He said the interim topics are: Review of NR Management Issues, WDA – Uniform construction of State Fair grounds; licensure of reciprocity for applicators; Commission style of the Department of Agriculture including the function of the Livestock Board and the Department of Agriculture; review of predator statutes; state land and forestry – long term solution for bark beetles; and the state engineer’s office is looking at defining beneficial use of water. They will also have a livestock review of brand inspections and animal health. Another study will be the UW review of ag studies including a natural resource database of endangered species.

Legislation was passed that impacts those who seek any change of use of water rights. That entity would be required allowing the lessee know of the change and seek their approval. This would allow the permittees to be more involved in the change.

There was a bill passed that now allows one vote for the entire entity; not allowing proxy voted at the Predator Management Districts meetings.

The department received \$200,000 to go through ADMB for the wolf management predatory area. Wyoming has to maintain 100 packs and this funding will help assist in the problem wolves.

The bill passed changing the terms for youth board of agriculture members from a 6 year to a 4 year term.

The department also received \$200,000 for applied ag research funding to the University of Wyoming for those needing applied research funding quickly.

The law allows for the Governor hire a natural resource coordinator if he so chooses. There was a bill in the legislature that defines it from "may" to "shall". The legislation did not get introduced.

There was also an appropriation to the governor's office for a Baseline Scientific Assessments in the amount of \$500,000. It looks like the funding will go through the Governor's office.

They also appropriated \$1.3 million to the Game & Fish for Aquatic Invasive Species. This will give them some funding to be at the ports of entry and includes 18 contract positions.

Shaun said Carbon County doesn't have very many sheep, but those using the grounds in the desert receiving the benefits during the winter, are getting a refund for the full amount of fees paid to the PAB's and those sheep are then going on to Colorado. This is also affecting Sweetwater County.

The department received \$30,000 for livestock marketing reporters. This is a 50/50 cost share with the barns.

Frank Galey said the new center moving to Sheridan at the Adams ranch. The focus there will be on horticulture, dry and irrigated land trials, etc.

Election of President

Jason ran elections. He explained that traditionally the vice president becomes the president. He asked if John was interested. His answer was yes. **Jim Hodder made a motion to cease nominations after hearing no further nominations. Patrick seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Jason then opened nominations for vice president. **John made a motion to nominate Patrick Zimmerer. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. Alison moved all nominations cease. The motion was seconded by Jana Ginter. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Minutes

Jana moved with Alison second to approve the March 13 minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Beef Council Update

Ann Wittman talked about what the Beef Check Off does and how their small budget is trying to promote beef and educate the public about beef and its nutritional value. She also talked about "pink slime" and what they are doing to dispel the misconception.

Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team Update

Frank Galey said RB51 booster study and zero prevalence study will be presented at the GBCT meeting this week in Cody. Also, the WSGA program will be presented by Jim Magagna.

Break

The next board meeting will May 23rd and 24th in Pinedale. Cindy Garretson-Weibel said that on Tuesday the 22nd is the Wyoming Business Alliance Economic Forum in Pinedale. They will be having dinner and a presentation will follow. The board will meet with the council from 8 to 12 on the 23rd and then tour the Jonah field in the afternoon. The board will then meet from 8 to 11 the morning of the 24th.

She said the issues identified by the board and council are: slaughter processing; Wyoming Authentic; and on-line farmers market. The council would also like to talk about the Wyoming Beef Herford Program that just launched last week jointly with UW and the Wyoming Business Council.

It was noted that Frank Moore with the Lamb Coop should be invited to the May 23 joint meeting.

Update from BLM

Marty Griffith talked about the Wildlife eco-sanctuary by Centennial where BLM will place 250 head of horses from either the Rock Springs gather or the upcoming gather (Wilson's). This will be a holding facility with a more natural environmental. This will be a non-producing herd and will be funded from DC office.

The Sage Grouse Land Use Plan is being combined with some of BLM's current plan and the Forest Service plan.

The Secretarial Order has been funded and the money is in the banks for the Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and no federal funds can be used. All reviews are done through the Washington office via the RMP.

They have drafted trailing procedure for remedies for big horn sheep. That memorandum has several interpretations. The IM is now written and awaiting signature. There will also be an IM for trailing. Trailing permits do require they go through the NEPA process, whereas they haven't in the past.

The administrative fee for AUMs could be increased to \$1. Marty has not received any update other than it has been proposed and has yet to go through congress and the president.

Marty said they are looking at possibly more birth control for the wild horses. They are running out of room for the horses that are gathered. When asked by Bryan Brost about the impacts of wild horses on the sage grouse, Marty said to his knowledge, those impacts have never been reviewed. During the horse gather's last summer around Lander and the Divide Basin, Marty said many mares did receive the PCB vaccine and they gathered about 1,800. The Lander gather did not get completed due to weather, but they did complete the Divide Basin.

When asked about the Rock Spring RMP, Marty said they are working on it. Chris asked for an update on the consent decree. Marty said it is due to expire in about 1 year and it is in the hands of the attorney's. The national office does not want to renew the decree, but the Wyoming BLM liked it because they got first cut in the budget which meant more money. If the consent decree is not renewed, it will affect the Rock Springs plan which is currently in process.

Grant Processes and Responsibilities

Julie Cook said the members do have responsibilities on some of the program that run through the WDA budget. She went on to explain how the funding is distributed from the funding appropriated by the legislature. She said the department is going to look at the review and action of each of the grant applications, whether it is a new grant, an amendment or an extension.

Living Legacy Bills

Margy presented a bill to the BOA for \$650 to F.A.I.R. **Alison Lass made a motion to approve the invoice payable to F.A.I.R. in the amount of \$650 for sponsorship of the 2011 Director's Reception. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Guard Dogs

Cat Urbikight presented a power point on the various dogs used as guardians for livestock. She said she traveled overseas to visit with other producers who have used a variety of species for thousands of years.

NPDES

Hank Uhden reviewed the permitting process for major pesticide discharge as opposed to minor pesticide discharge.

SLAG Update

SLAG has not recommended any price increases for 3 years. They are not proposing any for 2012, but they do have additional species to add to the list. **Shaun made a motion to approve the pricing for 2012, with it becoming effective May 15, 2012, as presented. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Jim Hodder made a motion to approve the SLAG committee as presented for the next three years. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jennifer Schuller

Jennifer from EPA thanked the WDA and Hank for all of their input on the NPDES permit. She agreed with Hank that the congressional rule is not going any further.

The Spill Prevention Counter Control (SPCC) Regulation has been in place since 1974 but is coming to light recently. EPA is seeing a big increase in the details of the regulations. It requires anyone who has over 13,000 gallons of oil be compliant on this regulation. EPA is working on education rather than a heavy hand. There needs to be a plan kept on hand explaining what you would do if there were a spill if

the amount is under that amount. This regulation falls under a spill to water and not spill to ground. Jennifer said ASMARK.org is providing the template for the prevention plan. EPA also has one on their website that they developed with other industry organizations.

EPA regulates ag dust. EPA regulates the following: Ambient air; nitrogen oxide; sulfur oxide; pm10 and pm2. They will be retaining the pm10 and but not proposing regulating ag dust even though is based on that standard. Because they are ambient standards, where there is ag and mining, they are not location monitored.

Waters of the US is not defined at this point. Jennifer said the guidance was written based on the latest court ruling. The future is still unknown and she doesn't see anything by November of this year.

State Fair Advisory Board – Living Legacy

Jim Mickelson encouraged the members to attend more than just Friday of the week of State Fair.

When he heard the BOA raised the cost of the trees to \$1,000, he knew most folks would not be able to purchase any at that price. He said now that the price has been reduced, there are more people willing to purchase the trees. Patrick indicated the BOA is working to making that change.

Patrick said he is proposing three donor levels. He presented the 2012 work plan. There was discussion on the cost of the trees, guards and placement throughout the park.

Jason asked that the BOA check with the WDA on any sponsorship done prior to WDA because WDA may have already approached the industry for donation to State Fair.

Shaun made a motion to accept option number 1 as described on the application form. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Patrick went over the donor listing as of April 9, 2012. There should be around \$13,350 in the F.A.I.R. account.

Julie said F.A.I.R. is willing to purchase the replacement of the trees, as that is an expense they can take care of it. It was decided to deplete the balance of the F.A.I.R fund.

Shaun made a motion to pay out the balance of seven trees at \$150 each. Jim Hodder seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The balance would take care of plaques, two tree guards, and two trees and work in cooperation with FAIR to ensure the accounting is correct.

Shaun made an adjustment to a previous motion made at another meeting, from \$1,000 to equal \$1,190 to reflect the additional cost of plaques and guards in conjunction with .FA.I.R. The motion was seconded by Alison. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

That would leave a balance of \$1,165 for the production of plaques for tree guards. **Alison Lass made a motion to use remaining funds in coordination of nine complete plaques. Jana Ginter seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Julie will draft a letter to F.A.I.R. completed by June 30, 2012 which will give notice of termination of the contract.

Update regarding State Fair

Royal Canadian Mounted Police will have three shows at the rodeo.

There will be four concerts: Western Underground; The Guess Who; Dirks Bentley; and Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers

There is currently \$230,000 in the bank which does not include the match, with over \$250,000 to be coming in.

Mineral leasing on State Fairgrounds

The Office of State Lands has requested a review of what land is owned by the state. We are not under the same obligations as State Lands where we have to lease out for the best possible amount for the State Schools. Jason said any decisions regarding those lands are to be made by the Board of Agriculture. Any money made from a lease would go into the general fund.

Tour of the lab

Lunch

Conservation District Approvals

Shaun Sims made a motion to appoint Edith Heyward to replace Robert Burg as an urban supervisor to the Sheridan County Conservation District until the next general election. Jana Ginter seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Hodder made a motion to accept the Sheridan County Conservation District request for the 2010 Sheridan County Urban/Residential Runoff Demonstration Project extension, with a revised contract due date of June 30, 2012 and an additional interim report due on December 30, 2012. Shaun Sims seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Board Updates

Jana Ginter attended the State Fair Advisory meeting via teleconference. Each of the counties is encouraged to have a float in the parade. Working through the county commissioners, they are hoping to have this happen.

Shaun attended WACD and NACD. The WACD summer meeting will be in conjunction with the tree dedication of the Living Legacy Program at State Fair. Shaun is also working with the Wyoming Business Council on the mentoring program.

Farm Bill Update and Sugar Beet Update

The Farm Bill is supposed to be out by September 30, 2012. In Jason's conversations to ag organizations, congress, NASDA, etc., it is not going to happen. There is a request of \$10 billion in addition to those already in the bill. The committee is very polarized, partially due to the promises of no increase to government, and partially because of cuts to the dairy industry. In the west, invasive species is huge. They would like to have block grant funding to give to states (\$150 million) with Wyoming interested in cheetgrass, etc. Nobody is in favor of the way funding has been done in the past like direct payments to crop insurance type programs. Supporting local agriculture production and putting money into foreign markets is another debate. In order to get their programs, those in DC are getting money for wildlife, but when this happens, conservation loses.

Some of the bill is looking at enhancing the coordination of invasive species, participate in conservation programs, increase MAP funding, and administrative funding for coops.

Jason said the Round-up ready Sugar Beets are still going through comments. The last action allowed people to plant and that is still the case today.

Immigration

Jason updated the members on the changes since the last update. H2A is still a problem as far as getting immigrants into the country to work on our farms and work in the sheep industry. There is work being done on a guest worker type program. Because of the labor laws, in August, there will be people being sent home while the sheep are still on the mountain. Immigration is saying that when they are sent home, the producer is in violation of the contract. Labor and immigration are not communicating. He also handed out a proposed policy for adoption by NASDA. Shaun said that this year has been a bit smoother in getting immigrants in to work in the sheep industry.

Public Comment

Donn Randall asked about the Farmers Ranch Research Grant. Jason said there is \$200,000 available July 1 and it will probably be handled similar to the RHAP program and will be for shorter on-the-ground research.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hansen, President

Date