

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture and Wyoming Business Council  
May 22, 2013  
Days Inn Thermopolis, Wyoming

Present:	<b>Board of Agriculture</b> Jim Hodder Jana Ginter Alison Lass, Vice President Bryan Brost Patrick Zimmerer, President Jason Fearneyhough, Director	<b>Business Council</b> Jay Anderson Jim Bratton Pete Illoway Mike Sullivan Nathan Bekke, Co-Chair Chris Davidson Lee Lockhart Mike Wandler Rex Lewis, Vice-Chair Cactus Covello Gary Negich Lynne Michelena, Sec/Treas. Jim Espy Pat Schmidt
Absent:	Cameron Smith John Moore Jim Price, Jr. Shaun Sims Richard Schlenker John Hansen Dr. Frank Galey, UW Dean	Absent: Tom Scott
Staff:	Muff Parker, Recording Secretary	

The meeting was opened with introductions. Lunch was ready so this became a working lunch where discussion was good between the two boards.

### **Cooperative Interstate Shipment of Meat**

The WBC-Agribusiness Division and the WDA are researching the possibilities of having plants within the state of Wyoming that would be interested in having a USDA inspected plant in order to sell meat outside the state of Wyoming. Jason said his office has been talking with other states to see if they have such a program and some details of its operation. A report on this issue is due to the Joint Ag Committee in September, when they will decide if they should pursue some legislation. Jason said they are guessing the cost to the Department will be around 1 million dollars. The costs would include training, a veterinarian, and additional inspectors. This does not include the modifications that will be needed to any existing facilities.

### **Policy Issues Related to Agriculture in Wyoming**

Jason talked about invasive species. He had testified in Washington regarding the issue. The estimate needed from federal government is \$1.26 billion and up to combat the issue. This money is currently spread out to several agencies. The government is talking about making this funding available thru a block grant to the states to fight new and existing species.

Jason also talked on the H2A Program. This guest worker program is trying to include the sheep industry into the organization which is made up of several ag organizations. It is difficult to recruiting Americans into the sheep industry, even though they do try. This program is specific to agriculture.

**Update on the Wyoming Authentic Products Meat Processing Project**

John Henn, from the WBC said the owner (David Fails) couldn't be here because they are due to open July 1. John said they should be processing their own beef by mid July. He has 3 distributors on board and they will take the boxed beef from a federally inspected plant in Colorado and distribute to a few markets in Wyoming restaurants and hopefully a large grocery chain in Utah.

**WBC Strategic Plan**

Bob Jensen talked about the development of their strategic plan. Their plan is divided between the following three sections: Business Development – support; Business recruitment – bring business to Wyoming; and Community Development – working with cities and towns' leadership.

This is the economic strategy Bob says work well for the WBC. They feel working with the partners and communities have been very successful. They have invested between 200 and 240 billion dollars in Wyoming communities which has created 3,000 jobs. The WBC also has a loan program but it is not being utilized much right now because the bank loan rates are lower than their 5%. Cindy Garretson-Weibel then reviewed the programs and their success within the Agri-Business Division of the WBC.

Patrick said finding workers is becoming more difficult and sees technology to head off that problem. Alison Lass said products like round-up ready sugar beets have made a very positive difference in her operation. Jim Hodder said he has a greenhouse and it is surprising what a difference that has made in his niche marketing. He also sees the locally grown food is increasing. Bryan Brost said he sees the fat going into livestock needs to be eliminated.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Zimmerer, President

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Date