

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
November 13, 2013  
Hilton Garden Inn Room Salon F & G  
Laramie, Wyoming

Present: Patrick Zimmerer, President  
Alison Lass, Vice President  
Shaun Sims  
John Hansen  
Jana Ginter  
Jim Price, Jr.  
John Moore

Absent: Cameron Smith  
Richard Schlenker  
Bryan Brost  
Jim Hodder  
Jason Fearneyhough, Director  
Dr. Frank Galey, Dean UW College of Ag & NR  
Nephi Cole, Governor's Office

Staff: Muff Parker  
Doug Miyamoto

Called to order by President Zimmerer at 10:05 p.m. Roll was taken.

### **Minutes**

**Shaun Sims made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2013 meeting. The motion was second by Jana Ginter. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Farm Bureau Update**

Ken Hamilton and Bret Moline came to the meeting to give the members an update on the items on the Farm Bureau's radar. Their annual convention begins this week in Laramie. They have a few resolutions to take before the membership. One is regarding wildlife management. They are asking for compensation if wildlife is eating private forage. Fencing, Forest Service transfer of grazing permits, and a resolution regarding State Fair will also be discussed. The State Fair resolution says that the WDA review the state fair and open communications. Bret explained the resolution process Farm Bureau goes through before it even gets to the state level. Drones and privacy is another issue they will be discussing this week. They feel there needs to be some regulations concerning them. He said FAA is working on some regulations. FAA feels at this point that you cannot use drones any way you can't use airplanes. Privacy is at the heart of the issue. The last one is the jump on the valuation of irrigated land. They are talking about capping at 10%.

They also spoke to some of the legislation for the upcoming session in February. The landowners' liability to trespassers, number of wells permitted, and the one where all state land purchases have to go through State Lands, along with defining "livestock". There is also some possible legislation to allow the Wyoming Livestock Board to utilize some reserve funding to help with the exposure to Brucellosis outside the surveillance area. The caveat is that the funding approval goes through the Governor and the Livestock Board. The final piece of legislation is the notification to property owners.

### **State Fair Advisory Board Meeting Update**

Doug, Alison and Patrick attended the meeting held yesterday in Casper. The Board did have some in-depth discussion. They decided to form a committee to find the judges. Doug felt their discussion was good because it is something they really have never done before and he also said it has given those members a much better idea what it takes to put on the fair. Alison said that what usually happens is the judges get the letter asking for them to judge at the WSF and because the exposure in Wyoming isn't that great, they wait to see if they get a better offer. This puts our fair at a real disadvantage and causes some judges to cancel at the last minute. The results of the survey that was done at the 2013 fair showed most people felt the fair was well done.

Doug said there will be a tour of the fairgrounds next Monday with the Governor. This tour will show what has transpired and some of the challenges State Fair faces. This tour will also include showing the master plan, but that is always dependant on funding. Some of the most recent letters are upset about the stock contractor. We do have to bid that out and are under financial restrictions. WDA will continue to follow-up with all of the people that have had concerns as time goes on. Patrick would like to see the letters that have come in regarding State Fair. Doug will get those to the members.

### **Living Legacy Update**

Patrick said they are not adding any new trees, but continuing to put up tree guards. Five people have already asked for guards in 2014. The prices will be raising some after this point. Patrick also said they will be planting new trees in the future as needed.

### **Producer Research Grants**

Doug said the RFP closes tomorrow for this grant. He gave a little background on this grant and noted that \$200,000 of funding was given to WDA for research. Producers can apply for this grant and recruit a scientist to do the research. Four proposals were granted in the first round. There is still about \$120,000 left for this second round. Jana would like to get updates on the grants. Doug will ask for follow-up results from those grants. Patrick indicated he felt he wasn't given enough time to review those grants. Shaun suggested having a conference call and split those applications up so it is not too overwhelming. **Shaun made a motion to have the applications sent to the members to have them divided between themselves for review. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.** They will use this process to give the members a better understanding of the grants they review individually, and be better prepared to explain their applications to the group via conference call. Shaun asked when the Producer grants will be ready. Doug feels they won't be ready for December, but will check with Chris to see when they will be ready.

**Jana made a motion to add “with changes as needed” to the previous motion. The motion was seconded by Shaun. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Doug talked to the Food Safety Modernization Act. The rules allow for several changes to the Act. These rules will require more stringent requirements from farm to table. USDA is writing these rules. We have requesting an extension to the rules.

Doug said the department had our budget meeting with the Governor and go before the Joint Appropriations committee next week.

He said the purchase of the property at State Fair did go through yesterday.

#### **Public Comment**

Sonia asked if there was a minimum size for those grants. Doug said there is no minimum requirement. Shaun said we have tried to get the word out and said that if there is a way to get them out to her, we would be happy to do so.

Margaret Brown explained the League of Women voters’ position on agriculture and will be revamped on the national level and they may be asking for more information.

Shaun talked to the immigration laws and migrant workers. He said those issues are still being discussed at this point.

Shaun said he attended the Tri-state Wool Growers meeting which was well attended.

Jana said she thinks there is going to be a growing market for recyclable textiles and also thinks there is an opportunity for wool.

The Board of Agriculture meeting was adjourned and they picked the meeting back up when they met that afternoon with the Game and Fish Commission. The two discussed the following issues.

#### **Access Recognition Program**

Mark Nelson said the program is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Last year’s recipients received their award at the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA) Winter Convention in December, 2012. He said there is currently \$66,600 in the account and the 2013 awards of \$2,000 each and a plaque will be given at 12:15 at the Parkway Plaza in conjunction with the WSGA Convention. The new timelines for the awards is now March 31 with the letters going out in April. The funding comes from the commissioner’s tags being sold through the foundation. Mike Healey reminded the two groups to keep the momentum going on this program. Members of the Board of Agriculture like this program because it encourages those landowners who have said this award was rather sparse compared to the awards given out by the WSGA. Carrie Little would really like to see a little bit larger presentation this year. Shaun Sims will make sure a slide show presentation is put together. Mark Nelson will see about getting a larger presentation done before the WSGA. **Shaun made a motion to adopt the proposed boundaries for the Access Recognition Program as presented. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. Shaun added to**

**adopt the timeline changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Little. All voted in favor to both motions and they carried.**

#### **Enhanced Brucellosis Surveillance in the Bighorn Mountains**

Brian Nesvik talked to the brucellosis that was found in the Big Horn Mountains Area 40 for elk. There were two elk showing zero prevalence for brucellosis from samples taken by hunters. This raised some serious concerns. In the spring last year, some public meetings were held to inform producers, hunters, etc. as to what this meant. The Game & Fish has since then enhanced their surveillance by getting more samples, etc. They sent kits out to every hunter that received a permit, as well as they were also on the ground reminding hunters that they really needed these samples to determine how many more elk were carrying the disease. Of the 15,000 kits, and 5,000 man hours, gave results to-date of 615 that were submitted and 357 were suitable for testing, one was a low zero positive. That elk came from the same hunt area as the 2 from the previous year. Carrie Little asked Dr. Meyer to talk about the testing of cattle. He said this did raise some alerts for the Wyoming Livestock Board in the cattle marketing arena. They started a voluntary program with producers at no cost to the producer and to date 1,656 samples collected all showing negative. 70% from Sheridan and 30% came in from Big Horn County. They plan to encourage more sampling in the Big Horn County.

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

Mark Bowden gave a power point presentation in which he gave some background to the program and the advancements the Game and Fish have made to the program. Originally it was to keep the muscles out, but has grown to include other aquatic invasive species. They now have check points at the ports, as well as the lakes in the state.

#### **Overview of Game animal Damage for Summer/Fall 2013**

Scott Edberg passed out the past years' damage report. They had 218 claims using 1.36 million dollars. The claims are down by about 50% from the previous year but they do anticipate more claims coming in this time of the year. He feels the moisture received this year has made a big difference. Scott said the best thing to do is to get to know the local game warden and USFWS personnel in advance so that if there is damage done by wildlife, they can tell the livestock owner how to take care of the situation when it happens.

#### **Progress with the Department's Elk Management Strategy**

Game & Fish thinks this is probably the best time in the state of Wyoming for hunters. The enrollment of private lands has been very successful. The Hunter Management Access Program was engaged in two of those. Allen from Cody talked about the programs in the Cody region and said the new programs have facilitated more elk harvest. He also gave a power point presentation on the Meeteetse Creek, Wood River and Gooseberry Creek Hunter Management Access Program.

Rick King spoke to the Iron Mountain Hunter Management and Access Program. He too, had a power point presentation describing the areas.

Area 7 is now a pilot program, also.

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Mike Healy talked about what a great relationship they have with the Board of Agriculture. Patrick said his board appreciates the joint meeting and building of relationships and encouraged everyone to attend the WSGA meeting and especially the awards luncheon.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Zimmerer, President

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Date