

Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board

Regular Meeting
December 18, 2014
Boise, Idaho

Board members participating in the meeting were Celia Gould, Jim Unsworth (for Virgil Moore), Tony McDermott, Richard Savage, and Carl Rey. Other participants included Brian Oakey, Chanel Tewalt, Kelly Nielsen, Angela Kaufmann, Brad Compton and Todd Grimm.

Chairman Gould called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Brian Oakey explained that the current six-month Work Plan would expire at the end of 2014. He asked Todd Grimm for a review of the current plan. Mr. Grimm explained that WS did not need to bill for the full amount authorized in the plan. He noted that wolf depredation activity was slower than the year before. He explained that winter activity could pick up significantly and that IDFG had possible work outlined. He spoke to the proposal he lined up for the Board's consideration, which would come in at \$235,980.

Richard Savage asked if there was still funding for livestock related depredation control. Mr. Grimm noted that his proposal included approximately \$54,000 to reflect the amount in the wildlife subaccount and that other money in the proposal could account for livestock depredation control.

Carl Rey asked whether ISDA had been paid is contracted price for administrative support. Kelly Nielsen answered that the Board had paid for FY15 and that it would pay again in July for FY2016.

Tony McDermott asked if the WS proposal adequately accounted for potential elk depredation in northern Idaho. Mr. Grimm answered that he felt comfortable that it would. Mr. Oakey noted that the current MOU with WS called for quarterly reports and asked if the Board wanted to consider biannual reports. Mr. Rey made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Mr. McDermott. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was review of WS report and billing. Mr. Grimm noted that that, in time, he would be able to provide the Board with trend data. Mr. Rey noted that the trend data was critical because it would give context to quiet depredation years.

Mr. Rey moved that the Board approve the minutes from the last meeting on September 2, 2014. Mr. Savage seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Gould reviewed the budget process used by the Division of Financial Management in budgeting for State of Idaho agencies. Chairman Gould explained that the Board would know the Governor's budget recommendation the day the legislative session started and that his recommendation for funding is what the Board must use. Chairman Gould indicated that the Board would present its budget before the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, and she

recommended that Mr. Rey present the budget. He agreed to do so. She also suggested meeting the day before to practice the presentation and noted that ISDA would help in the preparation of the presentation. Mr. Savage asked that the presentation include an explanation of the Board's short timeframe since it was seated.

Mr. McDermott explained that sportsmen were very concerned about elk herds related to wolf depredation. He stated that Lolo was a prime example. Mr. Savage noted that he had heard about a pack of wolves in his part of the state following herds of elk. Mr. Grimm asked if any wolves had been killed, and Mr. Savage indicated that he wasn't aware of any. Brad Compton added that IDFG was aware of the issue.

Kelly Nielsen gave a finance report. He explained the fund structure with the four subaccounts, all of which is established in Idaho Code. He noted that interest would roll over to the next year. Mr. Rey asked if the brand assessments was related to inspections, and Mr. Nielsen clarified that the funds were from assessments on brand registrations. Mr. Nielsen added that the Board's contracts are each tracked separately. He continued that the Board would likely have some carryover to the following year. Mr. Savage emphasized the need to explain any possible carryover to the Legislature. Mr. Nielsen furthered explained how bills were paid from amongst the subaccounts. Mr. Rey noted that one year with increased depredation control work could drain all funds. Chairman Gould agreed on the benefit of some fund balances and the virtue of not spending funds for the sake of spending accounts down.

Chairman Gould asked for any additional updates. Mr. Oakey reminded the group of the end date for the first Work Plan, which was December 31, 2014. Mr. Grimm added that he had a Work Plan available for immediate consideration. Chairman Gould asked for the draft to be printed and distributed to the group. Tony McDermott moved to accept the Work Plan as presented with the two co-chairs signing it. Mr. Savage seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chairman Gould announced that the next meeting would be held on February 2, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.