

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
June 16, 2020

Celia Gould, Idaho State Department of Agriculture; called the WebEx teleconference meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Those in attendance were: Board members Richard Savage, Stephen McGrath, and Ed Schriever; Martha Wackenhut and Toby Boudreau, Idaho Fish and Game; Jared Hedelius and Donna Ralston, USDA – Wildlife Services; Matthew Reiber, Division of Financial Management; Dallas Burkhalter and Katy DeVries, OAG - ISDA; Brian Oakey, Kelly Nielsen, and Janis Perry, ISDA. Board member Tony McDermott and Sam Eaton, Governor’s office joined the meeting in progress.

Guests attending were: Phil Davis, rancher; Pam Williams, concerned citizen; Ken Cole and Talasi Brooks, Western Watersheds Project; Chyla Wilson, Idaho Farm Bureau; Naomi Gordon, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board; Rusty Kramer, Idaho Trappers Association; and Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management.

Celia Gould asked for approval of the minutes. Ed Schriever commented that he had two corrections: on page 2 under Kelly’s report the amount of budget reduction should be “2% with an additional 5 %” and on page 3 under ungulate protection he would provide the correct language. He then moved that the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting be held for approval until corrected. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brian Oakey advised the chair that a motion to amend the agenda was in order. Ed Schriever moved and Richard Savage seconded that the agenda be amended to move Kelly Nielsen’s presentation in front of Dallas’s and to add review of the amended FY2020 Fish and Game Work Plan. Motion carried.

Celia Gould asked for public comments.

Pamela Williams asked if the new board member who represents the public at large could give some information about himself. Stephen McGrath responded that he is a retired attorney who lives in Swan Valley. He indicated that he feels he represents the tax payer and the boards has authority to see that funds are properly managed.

Talasi Brooks stated that she feels the board’s practice of refusing to make available meeting documents makes it hard for the public to weigh in and offer constructive criticism. She referred to a situation that showed Wildlife Services had killed 34 wolves regarding three depredations as inequitable and an overblown reaction.

Kelly Nielsen reviewed the three Fish and Game invoices that have not been paid: March 6, 2020 for \$31,104 that now includes supporting documentation, May 13, 2020 for \$62, 287 that now includes supporting documentation, and May 29, 2020 for \$32,965 that includes supporting documentation for a new fuel trailer. Richard savage asked for background on the amount being paid from the livestock fund and for the fuel trailer. Ed Schriever explained that at Wildlife Services’ request a fixed wing pilot contracted by Fish and Game was used to spot livestock depredating wolves. Since this was not ungulate work, Fish and Game requests that the \$9,144 be paid not from the fish and game fund, but the livestock

fund. This amount is included in the Fish and Game invoice for \$62,287. Toby Boudreau described the challenges of providing fuel for helicopters in the Lolo Zone. The fuel trailer would reduce the run time of hauling barrels of fuel into that remote area. Stephen McGrath asked if the invoice for the trailer had been approved by the Fish and Game Commission. Ed Schriever stated Fish and Game was seeking reimbursement for invoices that have already been paid. He moved that the three invoices be approved. Richard Savage seconded. Motion carried.

Kelly Nielsen presented the Q3 Wildlife Services April ;1, 2020 invoice for \$69,242. Ed Schriever moved that the invoice be accepted for payment. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Stephen McGrath stated that he had not seen the underlying documentation and could not vote to approve to pay the bill. Kelly Nielsen indicated that he had received a detailed accounting report, but no copies of receipts or invoices. Motion died on a tie vote, so item is held.

Kelly Nielsen explained he was not yet comfortable with the supporting information provided for the Wildlife Services May 1, 2020 invoice for \$23,852 for work done in the first quarter of 2017. Ed Schriever commented that the format of the documentation for this invoice is the same as the one that just went down, so he did not feel a motion was in order. Celia Gould stated that if there is no objection, the invoice would be held.

Kelly Nielsen discussed the preliminary report from the Legislative Services Office (LSO) Audit. He indicated that there were no findings or recommendations which assumes that the controls in place are adequate. A letter accepting the recommendations is expected. Ed Schriever commented that the board has paid Wildlife Services bills in the past and with no findings from LSO for 2017-2019. Kelly stated that LSO recognizes that the current procedure is for the Board to review the invoices. Kelly also mentioned that revenues are close to \$90,000 with a lot of revenue typically at the end of the fiscal year.

Dallas Burkhalter presented the proposed changes to the Cooperative Services Agreements with Fish and Game and Wildlife Services. Following direction from the workgroup, quarterly Board meetings to review invoices were suggested along with additional detail for supporting documentation. He indicated that he was finetuning the wording with Kathleen Trevor on the Fish and Game agreement. Jared Hedelius stated that Wildlife Services would not have concerns about the quarterly meetings but would need to have assurance that they would be reimbursed for their work. Celia Gould said she felt she is sending a loud message that she needs to know what she is paying. Jared indicated he agreed 100 per cent, but his concern is with prior bills. Ed Schriever stated that he appreciates the willingness of Wildlife Services to accept the revised requirements. However, work in Q3 was done prior to a new and different standard. I feel that it is unfair to expect this retrospectively. Jared stated that the agreement would need to be reworded to coincide with Wildlife Services policy. Donna Ralston mentioned that Wildlife Services cannot commit to a timeline for invoices since billing is done out of Minneapolis. Dallas responded that the timeline was aligned to match the federal timeline so Kelly has time for review. He would like guidance on how to adjust the wording. Dallas stated that since the original agreement is in effect until 2024, there is time. Richard Savage commented that he recommends continuing to work on the agreements. Celia Gould asked Dallas and Jared to continue to work on the Wildlife Services agreement wording.

Dallas Burkhalter presented the Fiscal Services agreement with ISDA. Brian suggested that all three agreements are tied together. Celia Gould recommended that Dallas set the expiration date for the amendments to 2025.

Jared Hedelius outlined the Wildlife Services Work Plan for FY21. He stated that it is similar to the FY20 plan with the addition of an aviation flat rate collection line item that is an hourly charge for aircraft use and repairs for both the helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. A second bill for this charge would be submitted to the Board each quarter. Richard Savage moved to approve the Work Plan. Tony McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carried. Donna Ralston commented that the supplemental documentation necessary for the past bills needs to be figured out. Celia Gould asked if there was a desire to revisit the invoices. Richard Savage moved to approve the Q3 invoice for \$69,242. Tony McDermott seconded the motion saying if we owe the money it ought to be paid. Board Member McGrath dissented pending receipt of supporting documentation. Motion carried and approved for reimbursement.

Martha Wackenhut explained that the revised FY20 Fish and Game Work Plan reflected the increase above \$110,000 for the fuel trailer expense. Ed Schriever pointed out that there is carry over money from other years when the expenses did not reach the \$110,000. Tony McDermott moved that the revised Work Plan be approved. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried. Martha then explained that the Fish and Game Work Plan for FY21 is similar to the current year primarily for aircraft services and collaring in the Lolo zone. She indicated that a bullet has been added for submitting invoices for review at least 15 days before the quarterly Board meeting. Tony McDermott moved that the FY21 Work Plan be approved. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Celia Gould called for election for officers that are created in statute. Tony McDermott nominated Richard Savage to continue as vice president. Stephen McGrath seconded the nomination. Motion carried. Ed Schriever nominated Stephen McGrath as secretary/treasurer. Richard Savage seconded the nomination after some discussion about the duties involved. Motion carried.

Brian Oakey presented the updated Strategic Plan which is another statutory requirement. He commented that the fiscal services contract and the legal services contract were now separate bullets. An additional objective was added: "The Wolf Board may consider additional proposals from statutorily authorized entities to perform wolf depredation control activities throughout the State of Idaho," along with the updated cybersecurity objective. Tony McDermott moved that the Strategic Plan be approved. Ed Schriever seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With no other business, Celia Gould adjourned the meeting at 3:54 pm.