

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
August 19, 2020

Ed Schriever, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Those in attendance were: Board members Richard Savage, Stephen McGrath, Tony McDermott and Celia Gould; 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, OAG - ISDA; Brian Oakey, Kelly Nielsen, and Janis Perry, ISDA.

Guests attending were: Pam Williams, concerned citizen; Sarah Michael; Lisa Kauffman and Amanda Wight, Humane Society; Suzanne Stone, Defenders of Wildlife; Cameron Mulrony, Idaho Cattle; Talasi Brooks, Western Watersheds Project; Chyla Wilson, Idaho Farm Bureau; Naomi Gordon, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board; Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management; and Garrick Dutcher, Living with Wolves.

Ed Schriever asked for approval of the minutes. Celia Gould moved that the minutes of June 16, 2020 be approved. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried. Celia Gould moved that the corrected minutes of May 19, 2020 be approved. Tony McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ed Schriever asked for public comments.

Suzanne Stone stated that because the public does not have the documents being reviewed it is difficult to make comment. She suggested that in order to be transparent the Board either change the order of public comments to later in the agenda or provide the documents to the public before the meeting. She indicated that there is no current information on the website. She also commented that the most effective use of funds is to use non-lethal means and if lethal is the primary tool, depredation occurs again.

Cameron Mulrony commented that his industry appreciates the work done by the Board and thanked them.

Pamela Williams echoed Suzanne Stone's comments. She asked if when discussing the documents, speakers could give a description for those who do not have copies. She stated that she appreciates the website, even though it is not up to date. She asked if the Board could address the cost to kill each wolf.

Talasi Brooks echoed Suzanne Stone and Pamela Williams regarding the need to review meeting materials in advance. She said requiring a public records request stifles transparency. She expressed concern about trapping wolves in the heat and wanted to be sure the Board was aware of that practice.

Garrick Dutcher commented that elk getting into crops is seen differently than wolves depredating elk, calling it misleading terminology. He felt that the public would like to see more non-lethal means to create more stable packs.

Dallas Burkhalter explained that the revised cooperative agreements were in response to the public and the Board requesting increased documentation to process payments. He began with the agreement

between the Board and IDFG indicating he had revised it with Kathleen Trevor and IDFG staff using the term interagency billing, not invoice. The agreement was reviewed by Brian Oakey and Stephen McGrath and will run through 2025. Ed Schriever thanked the group for their work on this and pointed out a typographical error on page 4. Richard Savage moved to accept the CSA with the typo fixed. Tony McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next, Dallas Burkhalter discussed the revised cooperative agreement between the Board and USDA APHIS saying he had edited it with Jared Hedelius and his staff adding requirements for reporting and support documentation. The agreement was reviewed by Brian Oakey and Stephen McGrath and will run through 2025. Jared stated that the documentation for this meeting was a good faith effort on the part of Wildlife Services to provide what this revised agreement provides for. He asked for any feedback or suggestions that the Board would like addressed prior to signing the agreement. Tony McDermott moved to accept the CSA with Wildlife Services USDA APHIS. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lastly, Dallas Burkhalter discussed the revised MOA between the Board and ISDA for fiscal services. He stated that this clarifies that the Board will approve payment of invoices and inter-agency billings after ISDA makes a recommendation. The agreement was reviewed by Kelly Nielsen. Richard Savage moved that the MOA with ISDA be approved as presented. Tony McDermott seconded. Motion passed. Richard thanked everyone for the good work on the agreements. Ed Schriever reminded the Board of their responsibility to review the reimbursements so that any issues can be resolved prior to the meeting. Celia Gould whole heartedly concurred and asked that accurate information be received in a timely manner.

Kelly Nielsen reviewed the year-end FY20 financial statement with the four fund sources. The beginning balance in all four funds was \$533,966; revenues collected were \$98,111; with interest, transfers and general fund the total revenues were \$420,557; expenses were \$591,337; and ending balance of \$363,185. Ed Schriever explained that the loss of \$170,780 was by design to reduce the carry forward balance and by receiving a lower general fund amount.

Kelly Nielsen then reviewed the FY21 financial statement to date. He explained that the Board will receive general funds annually without a request. However, with a 2% mandated holdback plus a 5 percent holdback for the fiscal year 2021 in the amount of \$19,600. This \$19,600 will be added back to the FY 2022 base. The amount for FY21 will be \$372,400. By statute the livestock and Fish and Game funds must be used before the state match funds. Tony McDermott appreciated the clarity. Ed Schriever commented that when the state match fund is exhausted it is gone and asked if the general fund money will roll over to the next year. Kelly said any general fund money left at the end of the fiscal year will revert back to the general fund account.

Next, Kelly Nielsen discussed the Q4 Wildlife Services invoice for \$98,346. He explained that the documentation provided from an accountant's perspective is detailed information by type of expense and related to the accounting systems used by Wildlife Services. He appreciates the detailed reports and has no questions on what was submitted. Jared Hedelius commented that the intent was to be as clear as possible including receipts in the electronic files and additional information in the activities report. Stephen McGrath asked if Kelly would be able to answer a line item question given the information provided. He stated that he was unable to access the zip fines but was comfortable if Kelly could. Kelly

responded that he could at a high-level financial review. Tony McDermott moved that the Q\$ WS invoice be approved for payment. Stephen McGrath seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In regards to the lingering Wildlife Services invoice for \$23,851.98, Kelly Nielsen stated that the supporting documentation is adequate. However, since the Board had paid invoices each quarter around that time frame, he had no certainty that these charges were not duplicates of already paid charges. He stated that he was unable to get comfortable paying this invoice. Richard Savage asked was he would need to get comfortable. Kelly responded that for the entire period, all of the expenses would need to be itemized. He felt it was impossible to validate with the information that he has. Stephen McGrath moved to table the issue until Kelly has met with Jared to get further information. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Celia Gould asked to be recorded as voting no saying that she could not get comfortable with a five-year-old invoice and she wasn't sure that Kelly or Jared had enough time to dig up what is missing. Ed Schriever commented that at this point the inability to be sure these are unique charges falls on Wildlife Services to do the forensic accounting.

Lastly, Kelly Nielsen recommended that the interagency billing for FY21 indirect cost recovery in the amount of \$86.00 be paid. Tony McDermott moved that it be paid; Stephen McGrath seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Celia Gould expressed concern about the 6% interest charge per annum on the Wildlife Services invoice. Jared Hedelius responded that Wildlife Services does not charge interest and should not be concern. He asked if there were any questions regarding the overhead waiver document. He indicated that the 11% overhead fee has always been waived, but the 5.15% fee from the national office would be charged. Donna Ralston further explained that the Idaho Wildlife Services will waive the 11% pooled jobs cost administrative cost, but they have not control over the 5.15% overhead charged by the national office. She indicated that this charge shows up on the invoice as a program support line item.

Jared Hedelius reviewed the Wildlife Services Depredation Control Summary for FY20. He explained that during the fiscal year Wildlife Services conducted 205 investigations, finding 102 of them were confirmed wolf depredations; most were on private land, followed by forest service land. They removed 93 wolves for the protection of livestock and radio-collared 3 wolves. Currently there are 41 active control actions in the state. He indicated that this work involved 11,645.25 employee hours. The report ties back to the information bullet points in the agreement that the Board had requested. Stephen McGrath asked what per cent of the budget is spent on investigations versus removals. Jared responded that he estimates that a relatively small amount is spent on investigations. Stephen asked if he could refine that number.

Martha Wackenhut commented that no actions for IDFG had occurred since the previous meeting. She reviewed the Fish & Game Summary stating that their efforts were focused this year in the Lolo zone where ungulate populations are below objective. Three wolves were captured and collared and 17 wolves were removed from the Lolo Elk Zone. Their expenses totaling \$117,241.55 included aviation services, purchase of collars, and a fuel trailer to facilitate capture and removal activities. Stephen McGrath asked about personnel costs in the report. Martha responded that is not included. Stephen then asked about the expanded information on the Idaho wolf population. Ed Schriever responded that using cameras and genetics set out in early summer, Fish and Game will generate a summer estimate, but the numbers will

not be available for awhile. In response to a question by Tony McDermott, Toby Boudreau stated that about 800 cameras had been set out.

Martha Wackenhut explained that the letter from the Fish and Game Commission to the Board directs that the fish and game subaccount funds are to be used for management and control of wolves for the protection of ungulates in areas where management objectives are not being achieved.

Janis Perry explained that the Performance Measurement Report template comes from DFM and that she updated it with information from the financial tracking report and from both depredation summaries. Celia Gould moved that the Performance Measurement Report be approved. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

When Ed Schriever asked if there was any other business, Stephen McGrath suggested the Board create a plan for transparency in making documents available to the public. Ed Schriever stated that he would work on it before the next meeting in November.

Ed Schriever adjourned the meeting at 3:43 pm.