

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
PO Box 7249
Boise, ID 83707

IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD
Minutes of June 11, 2024, Meeting
Meeting was live streamed via Teams

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)
Jim Fredericks, Idaho Fish and Game (Co-chair)
Richard Savage
Jon Goode (via livestream)
Jerry Cloninger (via livestream)

DEPARTMENT STAFF: Lloyd Knight – ISDA
Jon Rachael - IDFG
Katie Oelrich, Idaho Fish and Game – IDFG
Tricia Hebdon, Idaho Fish and Game – IDFG
Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA
Jason Meyers - ISDA
Taylor Trudeau - ISDA

OTHERS PRESENT: Representative Judy Boyle
Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office
Donna Ralston - USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office
Gordon Wilkerson – Washington County Commissioner (via livestream)
Dexton Lake – IFBF
Dallas Gudgell – IWCN
Suzanne Stone – IWCN
Joey Pietri
James – W.H.Y.
Jennifer Loves
Paul Wilson
Marc Cooke
Judy Sifers
Rosanne Noble – IWCN
Suzanne Stone – IWCN
Brad Carlson – Capital Press
Carl Ball
Ella Driever – TREE/COTW
Lane Justus – WLA
Sasha Truax – TREE
Eva Lorraine Gaudio
Pamela Williams (via livestream)
Caroline Shankel (via livestream)
Garrick Dutcher
Kelly Ravner (via livestream)

Greg LeDonne (via livestream)
Kb (via livestream)
Justin Webb (F4WM)
Karl Prokop
Annie (via livestream)
Troy Oppie – BSPR (via livestream)
Vivian Morrison (via livestream)
Pat Kelly-Fischer (via livestream)
Jeff Abrams – ICL (via livestream)
Liz Jones (via livestream)
Barbara Jones (via livestream)
Stacy (via livestream)
Amanda Korell (via livestream)
Lisa Wallis (via livestream)
Karen Schmidt (via livestream)
Oliver (via livestream)

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Fredericks at 1:04 p.m. MT.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board members and support staff introduced themselves.

AMEND AGENDA

Co-chair Fredericks announced that there was to be no public comment at this meeting. However, with the large public turnout, he asked if a board member wanted to make a motion to amend the agenda to add public comment for this meeting. Co-chair Tewalt made a motion to add 20 minutes of public comment to the agenda. Richard Savage, board member, seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Jon Goode, board member, stated there was one correction in May's minutes to be approved. Jon Goode made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024, meeting with a correction to be made. Seconded by Co-chair Tewalt. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Garrick Dutcher – stated that the board's actions have been more population control and not depredation control, and as such the board is overreaching their authority.

Marc Cooke – Marc spoke about the need to have representation on the board for the non-consumptive community. Marc spoke against lethal means and talked about the future is using non-lethal means. Marc ended by stating that aerial gunning needs to stop.

Suzanne Stone – Suzanne talked about wolves contributing to biomass and biodiversity. Suzanne also stated how people aren't compensated fairly.

Rosanne Noble – Rosanne spoke against aerial gunning. Rosanne also spoke about how wolves naturally assist with keeping CWD in check. Rosanne talked in favor of non-lethal means.

Sasha Truax – Sasha spoke about how H.612 gives the board another level of accountability. Sasha asked the board to fund confirmed predation only. Sasha ended by speaking in favor of non-lethal methods.

Joey Pietri – Joey spoke against killing wolves. Joey stated that we must be responsible for the land and the natural ways of life which includes wolf depredation. Joey spoke about how we need to respect the rights and tax dollars of indigenous people.

Ella Driever – Talked about H.612 and how it allows compensation without a carcass. Ella spoke about how the allocation of funds should be proportionate to other predators and not all towards wolf lethal control.

Dallas Gudgel – Dallas spoke in favor of non-lethal means. Dallas also stated that he reviewed the letter from Chairman Wheeler of the Nez Perce Tribe that says the 2005 agreement is believed to still be in place. Based on that agreement, the Nez Perce Tribe is allowed to kill wolves, but haven't. Dallas also stated that the wolf mortality reports need to be more specific. He also stated that he would like to see an audit of where the money is going.

James "Woody" Woodson – Woody stated he was there on behalf of Wilderness Hostels for Youth. He spoke about how we need to go back to the original endangered species act. Woody ended by stating he was against aerial killing of wolves.

Jennifer Loves – Jennifer spoke against aerial assault on wolves. Jennifer spoke in favor of non-lethal means.

Co-chair Fredericks thanked the speakers for their comments and stated that their comments are appreciated.

REVIEW OF REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

In Kelly Nielsen's absence, Co-chair Tewalt gave an overview of the Tracking of Wolf Control Funds Financial Report, and the state General Fund balance and expenses report.

WILDLIFE SERVICES REPORT

Jared Hedelius stated that at the next quarterly meeting, he will have the Q4 report.

IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME REPORT

Katie Oelrich with IDFG gave a quick verbal overview of year-to-date numbers.

REVIEW OF INVOICES

APPROVAL OF INVOICES (ACTION ITEMS)

Co-Chair Tewalt reviewed all the invoices before the board. Donna Ralston with US Wildlife Services reviewed their four invoices. The two invoices from Idaho Department of Fish and Game were reviewed by Tricia Hebdon with IDFG.

Co-chair Tewalt made a motion to approve the invoices for payment with the stipulation that Kelly Nielsen gives a final approval once he is back in the office. Seconded by Jon Goode, board member. Motion carried.

The final invoice was the chargeback invoice from ISDA for administrative costs. This was reviewed by Co-chair Tewalt. Jon Goode, board member, made a motion to approve the invoice with the same stipulation that Kelly gives a final approval before payment. Richard Savage, board member, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION – OTHER BUSINESS (NO ACTION ITEMS)

Co-chair Tewalt reviewed potential funding items from the Potential FY 2025 Activities handout. She also reviewed funding assumptions using historical data for what to expect this next fiscal year.

Co-chair Tewalt also read off of H.612 to further clarify funding language included in the bill.

OTHER BUSINESS – PRODUCER APPLICATIONS (ACTION ITEMS)

Co-chair Tewalt reviewed the Eastern Idaho Project application, the Valley County Project application, and the Washington/Adams County Training Project request.

Co-chair Tewalt recommended setting a budget first before decisions were made. Co-chair Fredericks stated that there is \$90,000 plus an undetermined amount (Washington/Adams County) worth of applications before the board.

Jared Hedelius of US Wildlife Services gave the next year's proposal of a reduced amount of \$350,000.

With estimated spending items, Co-chair Fredericks stated there is roughly \$125,000 left for producer proposals.

Richard Savage, board member, motioned for \$10,000 to be granted for the Washington/Adams counties training program project. Jon Goode, board member, seconded. Motion carried.

Jon Goode, board member, motioned for 90% funding of the Valley County Project application. Richard Savage, board member, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After no motions were put forward to approve the Eastern Idaho Project application, Co-chair Tewalt recommended giving the Eastern Idaho Project applicants feedback on what the board would like to see for additional information regarding their application.

Richard Savage, board member, motioned to approve the renewal of the US Wildlife Services Agreement. Jon Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Co-chair Tewalt asked for a motion for the proposed potential activities handout to become the budget for FY 2025. Richard Savage, board member, motioned. Jon Goode, board member, seconded. Motion carried.

Both Co-chair Tewalt and Co-chair Fredericks thanked the public for their participation in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

3:06 p.m. – No definitive next meeting set