

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
November 28, 2016

Virgil Moore, Idaho Fish and Game, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Those in attendance were: Celia Gould, ISDA; Carl Rey, Board member; Todd Grimm, Wildlife Services; Donna Ralston, Wildlife Services; Brad Compton, Idaho Fish and Game; Benn Brocksome, Governor's Office; Amber Christofferson, Division of Financial Management; Ray Houston, Legislative Service Office; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA; Brian Oakey, ISDA; James Stoll, ISDA; Janis Perry, ISDA. Attending by phone were Board Members Tony McDermott and Richard Savage.

After introductions, Virgil Moore asked for approval of the minutes. Tony McDermott moved that the minutes of the May 25, 2016, and the August 22, 2016, meetings be approved as distributed. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

No one asked the board to give public comments.

The Organizational Chart that was sent to DFM in October was distributed.

Kelly Nielsen explained the FY17 Tracking report. He reminded members that expenses from FY16 were paid in July so appear in FY17.

Todd Grimm updated the Board with the Wildlife Services investigations from July 1 to October 31, 2016 – 66 in 16 counties. Wildlife Services removed 23 wolves; four more were captured, radio-collared and released. During this period, 18 employees performed work associated with the agreement for an estimated total of \$171, 388. He also brought a handout showing Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions from 2004 to 2016. By a number of metrics wolf depredations are down in the last three years in Idaho. Virgil Moore indicated that he had testified in Washington DC regarding the wolf situation in Idaho and was pleased to report the progress made. He stated that the metrics show that we aren't wasting money with what we are doing. Carl Rey asked if other neighboring states have inquired about Idaho's program. Celia Gould indicated that Montana and Nevada had shown interest.

Ray Houston with the Legislative Services Office explained how the presentation to the legislature would be different this year. He indicated that the focus was away from power point presentations and toward the legislative budget book. He stated that the board should have a budget for FY18, as well as being able to explain the expenditures for FY17. A ten-minute overview would be the start of the presentation and he expected that one of the board members would do that. He also expected that Todd Grimm would be present to answer questions.

Kelly Nielsen expressed his concern that the current agreements with the livestock industry and the sportsmen would be honored for the full five years. Carl Rey hoped that the legislators

would see the carryover as a possible result of only having a half of a year the first year. Brian Oakey asked for some direction on the fund balance. Celia Gould would like some marching orders from industry. Virgil Moore stated that he knows we will need funds beyond the sunset to meet elk management goals particularly in the wilderness areas. Todd Grimm stated that we are spending less than what we originally thought this work would take. Carl Rey argued that that could be a reason for a trust fund. Virgil Moore shared that during this same period of time depredation in Wyoming has gone up, so see what we have avoided. Ray Houston asked if the general fund amount should be reduced if the livestock amount is reduced.

Tony McDermott explained that he had met with Sen Keough to discuss the fact that more ungulates were on the valley floor than up high and may need more protection in the back country.

Richard Savage expressed that from the livestock industry perspective the system is working and you can't argue with success. He also feels it is good to have money in the bank.

Tony McDermott asked why livestock depredations have gone down when pack numbers have stayed the same. Brad Compton indicated that the average size of the packs is down.

Brian Oakey explained that to address the extension of the sunset provision, the board would make a recommendation to the governor's office in July or August of 2017. So at the summer board meeting the proposed legislation could be on the agenda.

Virgil Moore suggested that Carl Rey may be the member with less baggage to make the presentation to the legislature since he is the member at large. Carl agreed to do it. Brian Oakey suggested that the Wildlife Services report be highlighted and figure out how to justify the carry-over.

Amber Christofferson asked Ray Houston when he would be sending out his observations. He said December 15. She indicated that her office (DFM) would also be sending guidance. Brian Oakey set the first of the year as a deadline for a first draft.

Benn Brocksome stated that he and the governor's office continues to supports the board.

Carl Rey asked that contact information of everyone that attended the meeting be attached to these minutes.

Referring to the memo on private contractors sent to board members, Tony McDermott indicated that Sen. Keough plans to introduce legislation to add private agencies to the Wolf Board statute. Richard Savage stated that we need to do the job we were intended to do. Virgil Moore expressed that until he saw legislation he would not be able to make a decision. Brian Oakey explained that adding private agencies would open up auditing policies. James Stoll indicated that with the issue of liability it might get complicated. Benn Brocksome stated that the statute

was formed using the resources we had. He recommended sticking to what we are doing. Virgil Moore suggested that the board be prepared to respond.

Carl Rey asked what the role of the board will be in the sunset provision. Brian Oakey suggested that the board will need direction from the governor's office. Brad Compton reminded members that the Fish and Game Advisory Committee had originally recommended that the Wolf Board be formed, so they might play a role.

Virgil Moore adjourned the meeting at 3.05 pm.