

**MINUTES**  
**Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board**  
**January 25, 2018**

Celia Gould, ISDA, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Those in attendance were: Carl Rey, Board member; Richard Savage, Board member; Tony McDermott, Board member; Ed Schriever, Idaho Fish and Game; Toby Boudreau, Idaho Fish and Game; Katrine Franks, Governor's Office; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Dallas Burkhalter, ISDA; and Janis Perry, ISDA.

Guests attending were Mark Carter, Governor's Office intern; Lisa Kauffman, Idaho Humane Society; Suzanne Stone, Defenders of Wildlife; Krista Lyons; Kristin Ruether, Western Watersheds; Scott Lake, Western Watersheds; Pam Conley, Mary Westerlund and Pam Williams, concerned citizens.

Celia Gould asked for approval of the minutes. Richard Savage moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting be approved. Tony McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Celia Gould asked for public comments. Pam Williams reiterated her request to have the Wolf Board information on a website. Celia Gould indicated that the Board would look into that.

Suzanne Stone passed out copies of three studies: "Effects of Wolf Mortality on Livestock Depredations," from Washington State University, "Killing wolves to prevent predation on livestock may protect one farm but harm neighbors," from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and "Adaptive use of nonlethal strategies for minimizing wolf-sheep conflict in Idaho from Journal of Mammalogy. She urged the Board to consider a longer term view so the losses are not repeated. She also encouraged an open mind about other measures of controlling wolves. She recommended that the word "lethal" be struck from the statute if the goal is to reduce livestock losses.

Krista Lyons also asked the Board to consider non-lethal means and to think of co-existence rather than conflict when it comes to controlling the wolf population.

Pam Conley stated that she did not support her tax dollars being used for killing wolves. She asked that the Board focus on non-lethal methods, especially if using public money. She indicated that she would like to see the Board dissolved if it only focused on lethal methods.

Kristin Ruether also asked that the word "lethal" be removed from the proposed bill. She stated that it was shocking that livestock deaths have increased. She suggested that the legislature consider more diverse representation on the Board, someone who represented conservation. She felt that the Board is one-sided.

Scott Lake echoed removing the term "lethal." He supported more diversity on the Board with more public interest. He questioned what is happening in the Lolo zone in 2018. Ed Schriever answered that Fish and Game is evaluating the Lolo zone. Scott asked the Board to consider what Alaska Fish and Game is doing in wolf control

Mary Westerlund stated that this is her first meeting and she came to learn. She does support a board that is more diverse.

Lisa Kauffman thanked the Board for listening to public comments. She also would like to scratch the word "lethal." She commented that other western states are using non-lethal means and urged the Board to use every available tool

Kelly Nielsen then reviewed the FY2018 Fiscal Report. As it always does, the report includes three sub-sections. The Livestock collections so far are \$37,320; the Sheep are \$20,892 with the expenses being the transfer of \$95,290 to the Fish and Game sub-section. Two payments totaling \$62,930 have been paid for ungulate spending. The Other sub-section contains the state match. Payments from that sub-section include administrative services, travel expenses, as well as bills from Wildlife Services. The Excess sub-section has a zero balance. The cash balance on all of the funds was \$930,774 as of 1/22/18. Toby Boudreau stated that Idaho Fish and Game had submitted a bill of \$41,942.89 on January 12, 2018. Kelly indicated that his office had not received that bill, so they agreed to follow up on that billing. Responding to an audience question, Toby Boudreau stated that the bill was for camera and other work in the Lolo.

Brian Oakey explained that the JFAC Committee convenes tomorrow, January 26 at 8 am and the Wolf Board is third on their agenda. He presented a one-page infographic that was prepared to help identify Idaho Codes and sources of money for the Wolf Board. He also indicated that the meeting documents included spreadsheets from the past three fiscal years. Rob Sepich will co-present with Carl Rey on the Wolf Board budget request tomorrow. Richard Savage thanked Brian Oakey for his preparation on this presentation.

Carl Rey commented that this year's presentation is similar to last year's. Celia Gould thanked Carl for taking on this task of presenting to legislature for a second year. Carl asked the group how he should respond if questions arise over the sunset provision.

Richard Savage responded that he had heard lots of discussion with differing viewpoints regarding the sunset provision. He stated that the Fish and Game Advisory Committee is supportive. The suggestions that Richard has heard include: continue fund, but do away with the Board, decrease the general fund amount, rather than remove the sunset, extend it for one more year or extend it for another five years. Celia Gould commented that as agency we are implementers not policy makers and we will advocate for the governor's position. Richard reiterated that the Fish and Game Advisory Committee is very supportive, if conservation is considered. Carl Rey stated that for the presentation, these differences do not change what I have to say. Ed Schriever commented that the policy question won't be handled by JFAC, but will be handled later.

Tony McDermott thanked the staff for their hard work. He commented that the Fish and Game Advisory Committee totally supports the Board, as well as the sportsmen. He thanked Suzanne Stone for being present. Ed Schriever expected questions from JFAC, but the raw numbers don't tell the whole story. He indicated that the work of the Board might be encouraging livestock operators to report depredation. He also said that the process of conflict management is getting more responsive.

Carl Rey stated that Todd Grimm had indicated that education may have increased the number of reports. He felt that there is benefit of explaining to others the way the money is handled by the Board.

Suzanne Stone stated that she felt that there are non-lethal methods that are at least as cost effective. Scott Lake commented that according to his calculations the Board is spending \$6,000 per wolf for lethal methods. Kristin Ruether stated that that would be a million dollars for \$50,000 worth of livestock. Celia Gould responded that those calculations do not consider the interest of sportsmen or ungulate protection. Tony McDermott stated that general funds money are not used for Fish and Game actions.

Suzanne Stone asked if people could get more than four days notice for meetings. Celia Gould indicated we could try, although the Board is complying with the Open Meeting Law.

Celia Gould asked if there was any other business. Tony McDermott thanked the staff for getting him to Boise on short notice. Celia Gould thanked all of the staff for their work. Katrine Franks extended her thanks from the Governor's Office.

Celia Gould adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.