

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
December 4, 2019

Celia Gould, ISDA; called the meeting to order at 1:33pm. Those in attendance were: Scott Reinecker, Idaho Fish and Game; Martha Wackenhut, Idaho Fish and Game; Todd Grimm, USDA – Wildlife Services; Matt Reiber, Division of Financial Management; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Dallas Burkhalter, OAG - ISDA; and Janis Perry, ISDA. Participating by phone were Board members Richard Savage and Tony McDermott.

Guests attending were: Pam Williams, concerned citizen; Alyson Martin, wolf advocate; Phil Davis, Animal Damage Control District 2; Frank Rohn, observer; Walt Bitmar, observer; Naomi Gordon, Idaho Wool Growers Association; Rusty Kramer, Idaho Trappers Association; and Brad Carlson, Capital Press.

Following introductions, Celia Gould asked for approval of the minutes. Tony McDermott moved that the minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting be approved as submitted. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Celia Gould asked for public comments.

Pamela Williams stated that transparency was an objective in the strategic plan. She felt that for the benefit of the audience, it would be helpful if each speaker would describe what document was being discussed.

Phil Davis expressed his concern about myopathy and the little evidence of trauma by wolf depredations. He mentioned a program at Washington State University where myopathy could be tested for \$200 to \$300 per animal. He wondered if this could be funded by the Board.

Alyson Martin conveyed her opposition to the existence of this Board and stated that she did not want her tax dollars spent this way.

Rusty Kramer explained that he favors the continued legal hunting and trapping of wolves. He said ninety-six wolves had been taken by trappers this season, especially in North Idaho.

Frank Rohn stated that he supported fact based solutions rather than special interests and supports ideas from other parts of the country that have been successful.

Phil Davis feels that more collars are needed on wolves to follow those that are depredating. He supports a proposal where if trappers get a wolf trapped and they notify Fish & Game to collar the wolf, the trapper would be rewarded for giving the information. He thinks this would be a viable alternative.

Richard Savage explained that it is Fish and Game's decision as far as collaring wolves and that is not the Board's role. Scott Reinecker indicated that the common sense guy says maybe that would work. He offered to talk to his wildlife staff and Wildlife Services about the suggestion.

Brian Oakey explained that a website has been an action item for some time. Since this is the governor's board, it was important for the website to be connected to the governor's office. Emily Callihan has made the website live this week <https://wolfboard.idaho.gov/>. Currently the agendas and minutes are on the site. Brian will clarify with Emily about posting the meeting documents to the site.

In Kelly Nielsen's absence, Brian Oakey reviewed the tracking form showing a starting balance of \$533,966 and a current cash balance of \$601,425. He reminded the group that we are only part way through the year.

Celia Gould asked about the approval of invoices paid since July 1. One bill submitted by Fish and Game recently for \$29.55 of flight insurance has not been paid. Richard Savage moved and Scott Reinecker seconded that the invoices be approved. Motion carried.

Todd Grimm summarized the Wildlife Service's depredation control report from July 1 to November 15. He stated that they have completed 161 investigations, involving 81 producers in 14 counties. He stated that 75 cases (47%) involved confirmed depredations due to wolves. This was down 48%. In response, Wildlife Services removed 30 wolves and collared one.

Martha Wackenhut explained that Fish and Game has taken no action yet, but is planning for winter when they plan to collar two to four wolves in the Lolo zone. She mentioned that they plan to purchase a fuel trailer to facilitate capture and removal activities.

Brian Oakey asked who might represent the Board in January to JFAC. Celia Gould volunteered Richard Savage. Richard agreed. Scott Reinecker nominated Richard to make the presentation; Tony seconded the nomination. Motion carried. Celia indicated that the staff would help with preparing Richard for the January 15th presentation.

Brian Oakey indicated that with the recent resignation of Carl Rey and the vacancy not yet filled, the Secretary/Treasurer position is open. Richard nominated Tony McDermott to fill the position and Scott Reinecker seconded the nomination. Motion carried.

There being no other business, Celia Gould adjourned the meeting at 2:09 pm.