

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
May 19, 2021

Board members in attendance: Celia Gould, Ed Schriever, Richard Savage, Stephen McGrath, and Butch Suor.

Staff in attendance: Chanel Tewalt, ISDA; Martha Wackenhut, IDFG; Jared Hedelius, USDA – Wildlife Services; Dallas Burkhalter, OAG - ISDA; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA and Sam Eaton, Governor’s Office.

Co-Chair Celia Gould called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. MT and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions for board members, staff and stakeholders followed.

Director Gould asked Dallas Burkhalter to discuss amendments to the agenda to add the word “action item” to three items: approval of minutes (action item), Wildlife Services invoices (action item), Fish and Game Invoices (action item). Director Schriever moved to amend the agenda with the three modifications. Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Gould asked for public comments. Comments were limited to two minutes per presenter.

Suzanne Stone raised concerns about the data that was presented during legislative committee meetings related to Senate Bill 1122 and wolf numbers. Ms. Stone expressed concerns about fair chase and how much money is spent on control versus how many livestock animals are killed reportedly.

Pamela Williams raised a concern regarding IDFG agreement funding and whether receipts were required for contractors.

Justin Webb said FW4M would like to be of service to the state, and SB 1122 does not include percentage numbers as presented by media. Mr. Webb stated that receipts are required for state contractors.

Derek Goldman is concerned about harvest practices and removal numbers.

Gerrick Dutcher would like funding to be allowed for non-lethal control and to see a more effective balance with livestock considering livestock losses are small by his estimate.

Savannah Ray would like the state to work with ecological organizations to better understand potential impacts of control, and she is concerned about private contractors being paid with taxpayer funds.

Pamela Williams asked for research about challenge grants. Ms. Williams indicated she had contacted IDFG and was told receipts were not required for challenge grants.

Co-Chair Gould asked Jared Hedelius for the Wildlife Services Control Summary. Mr. Hedelius reviewed the report (attached). Mr. McGrath stated that removing 90% of wolves, as reported in media, would not be possible because it took 14 people more than 1100 hours to removed four wolves. Director Schriever asked for an update on Wildlife Services helicopter and to what extent work had been affected by the loss

of equipment. Mr. Hedelius reported the replacement is up and working but still in the early stages. He estimated that Wildlife Services work in the prior year likely would be more than the current year.

Co-Chair Gould asked Martha Wackenhut for the IDFG Activity Report. Ms. Wackenhut reviewed the report (attached). She noted that IDFG was not able to collar any wolves this year which left some unspent funds under the agency's agreement with the Board. At the February Board meeting, IDFG requested the use of \$30,000 under the current agreement to be used for Challenge Grants.

Co-Chair Gould asked Kelly Nielsen for the Board's fiscal report. Mr. Nielsen provided a financial update. The IWSCB livestock account funds all were spent by last fall. The Fish and Game account fund had approximately a \$35,000 balance. Mr. Savage asked if the account funded with dedicated funding roll over to subsequent years, and the answer is yes.

Co-Chair Gould moved to Wildlife Services invoices. Mr. Nielsen said the documentation provided by Wildlife Services corresponded correctly to the invoice in the amount of \$4,891.50. Director Schriever moved the invoice be paid; Mr. Savage seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the second Wildlife Services invoice in the amount of \$42,408.59. Mr. Nielsen said the documentation provided by the agency corresponded correctly to the invoice. Mr. Suor expressed concern about the cost per wolf. Mr. Savage moved the invoice be paid. Director Schriever seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Co-Chair Gould moved to IDFG invoices. The Board discussed IDFG invoice documentation. Mr. Nielsen noted the documentation provided on aircraft costs. Director Schriever explained that under IDFG's Challenge Grant structure, reports are due on June 30. Mr. McGrath moved the invoice be paid. Mr. Suor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Co-Chair Gould moved to the IWDCB and Wildlife Services Work Plan, which will expire on June 30, 2021. The work plan financial totaled has varied in previous years. The Board will take up the discussion of a renewed Work Plan at a meeting in the near future.

Co-Chair Gould introduced Sam Eaton, from the Office of the Governor. Mr. Eaton provided a high-level overview of Senate Bill 1211. The changes related to the Board are the ability to contract with private individuals; additional IDFG funds; and the ability to extend permits for take. Co-Chair Gould said that implementation of the new law would have to be within state procurement laws. Mr. Nielsen spoke gave a brief outline of what types of contracts would fall within purchasing processes. Co-Chair Gould noted that Board's agreement with the ISDA for financial services will need reviewed given a new scope of work.

Mr. McGrath asked about a future executive session for legal issues. Mr. Burkhalter will assist the Board in evaluating that need for a future meeting.

Co-Chair Gould asked for other business. The next meeting will be in June and Board members will look for dates. Mr. Savage moved to adjourn. Director Schriever seconded the motion. Motion carried.