

**MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes –April 14, 2014
Location – Telephone Conference Call**

Board Members present: Jack Chambers (President), Brian Solan (Vice President), Max Bauer, Jr. (Treasurer), Jeff Mortensen (Secretary), Shane Clouse, Steve Kline, Bruce Sterling, Mike Colpo, Tom Carlsen & Jim Weatherly (Executive Director).

Call to Order: The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Jack Chambers at 6:34 p.m.

Minutes: Approval of the March 1, 2014 Board Meeting minutes, held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, Montana. **Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the March 1, 2014 minutes are approved, as written. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Max Bauer reported cash on hand of \$131,278.27. Accounts payable include Grant In Aids (GIA) of \$15,000.00: GIA 12-8 Cutoff herd habitat improvements \$5,000, GIA 13-12 Lazy J Cross Conservation Easement \$5,000, & GIA 13-14 Priscilla Peak Habitat Improvements \$5,000.

Membership: Current membership is 321 including 163 Life Members.

Informational:

- Jack Chambers and Jim Weatherly reported that they recently met with Farris Wilkes in Missoula regarding the proposed Wilkes land exchange. Mr. Wilkes is seeking public support for the proposal which would exchange a Missouri Breaks parcel for an island parcel of BLM land within land owned by Wilkes. This would open access to the Bullwhacker area in the Breaks.
- A Montana FWP proposal to establish an exclusion zone for wild sheep in FWP region 6 was discussed. The Board voiced support for the proposal specifically for region 6.
- The Board discussed priority sheep transplant sites, which was previously vetted with the Montana Woolgrowers at a meeting in 2013. Executive Director Jim Weatherly will respond to the Montana FWP, with the Tobacco Roots and Little Snowy Mountains potentials, subject to local FWP Biologists investigation.
- Director Tom Carlsen detailed issues with wild sheep in the Elkhorn Mountains, with two grazing allotments problematic at this time. Strategy is to work proactively with landowners to persuade them to convert allotments to cattle. Funding may be needed to potentially retire the allotments.
- Region 1 of the USFS is updating forest plans for the Flathead and Lewis & Clark National Forests. The Board will monitor relative to impacts on wild sheep.
- The Montana WSF newsletter deadline is May 17, 2014, with a mailing date of May 31, 2014. The publication will include a 2014 fundraiser report and dates and location for the 2015 event to be held in Helena.
- The Teller Wildlife Refuge youth event will be held on May 10, 2014. Shane Clouse projects 400 to 500 youth attendees, with numerous conservation groups involved in the production.

Old Business:

- Jim Weatherly and Shane Clouse summarized the 2014 fundraiser in Missoula, commenting that the event was successful despite severe weather, with good attendance in part due to selling tables.
- The Board discussed the contributions of Tom Powers to wild sheep over many years. **Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the Board nominate Tom Powers for the Gordon Eastman Grassroots Award to national WSF. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Stray legislation for the 2015 Legislative session was discussed, which has the support of the Montana Woolgrowers. Jim Weatherly will visit with the Montana FWP regarding details.
- The potential for a Landowner Recognition Award was detailed. Jim Weatherly will draft possible guidelines which would be included in correspondence directed to hunters successfully drawing permits.
- Discussion regarding the 2015 fundraiser to be held March 6 & 7, 2015 at the Colonial Inn in Helena. The fundraiser committee is chaired by Brian Solan. Suggested focus for 2015 include finding more hunts, additional taxidermy display items, and the possibility of a Montana Mountain Goat auction tag.
- The upcoming Chapter Affiliate Summit is set for June 2014. Brian Solan plans to attend.
- Anti-trapping initiative 169 was discussed, which is opposed by the Montana Trapping Association.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be Saturday, June 21, 2014, at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch near Dupuyer, Montana.

Adjourned: The Meeting of the Board of Directors as adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mortensen

Jeff Mortensen, Secretary
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation