

## **MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Minutes – May 17, 2017**

**Location – Wild Sheep Foundation – 412 Pronghorn Trail, Bozeman, Montana**

**Board Members present:** Brian Solan (President), Max Bauer, Jr. (Treasurer)-by phone, Jeff Mortensen (Secretary), Tom Grimes, Mike Colpo, Justin Spring, Shane Clouse – by phone, & D.J. Berg. Director absent: Grant Winn II. Also present : Gray Thornton, President/CEO of WSF, Kevin Hurley, Senior Conservation Director of WSF, Kurt Alt, Conservation Director of WSF, and Becky Layne, Exhibits/Store Manager of WSF.

**Call to Order:** The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Brian Solan at 10:04 a.m.

**Minutes:** Approval of the April 23, 2017 Board Meeting minutes, held via conference call. **Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the April 23, 2017 minutes are approved, as written. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cash on hand totals \$173,4800.00. Accounts payable include Grants In Aid (GIA) of \$32,000.00: GIA 15-11 South Dakota Disease Study \$10,000 over 2016 & 2017, 2018, GIA 16-14 Kurt Alt's efforts \$20,000, GIA 17-3 Petty Creek project \$2,000.00.

**Secretary's Report of Membership:** Current membership is 443 including 261 Life Members and 182 Regular Members.

#### **Informational:**

- Kurt Alt supplied a summary of recent activities. The Sheep Symposium was very successful, generating significant interest. A social event for the working group is proposed. A draft letter regarding Montana unlimited areas is in the works.

#### **Open/Old Issues:**

- GIA 16-5 Anaconda fencing proposal was discussed, and is on hold at this time.
- Garrity WMA land purchase near Anaconda, from RY Timber. Per Mr. Solan, the new FWP Biologist for the area is supporting a re-start of this proposal, with a revised \$300,000 request to be submitted to NRD. Additional funding is being pursued through the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust. Participation from MT WSF may include a proposal to fund a horse bridge for access, the amount to be determined.
- A re-build of the MT WSF website was again discussed, with ongoing discussions with Traci Ulberg regarding a budget. Shane Clouse is planning to network with Traci. After discussion, upon motion and second, the Board approved a maximum budget of \$5,000.00 for the website re-build.
- Dates for the 2018 Fundraiser are March 9 & 10, 2018 in Bozeman. Discussion took place regarding the positives and negatives for the Gran Tree and the Commons. The Commons is located miles from lodging and must be vacated Saturday night. The Gran Tree is limited to approximately 300 tickets for the banquet. After discussion, the Board opted to stay at the Gran

Tree for 2018. It was noted that Montana Senate bill 25 passed and should now allow on-line sale of raffle tickets. Ideas discussed for 2018 include a Yeti cooler auction and additional auction rifles. Mike Colpo will spearhead the custom rifle next year.

- The Chapter & Affiliates Summit is set for June 21 - 23, 2017 in Polson, Montana at the KwaTaqNuk Resort. Mr. Solan suggested that the Board approve a Bighorn level sponsorship for the event in the amount of \$2,000.00. Upon motion and second, the expenditure was approved. A permit to access Wild Horse Island has been secured with State Parks. Boat transportation to Wild Horse Island is needed. Due to scheduling at the resort, the Dinner/Auction may move to Thursday night. The auction will benefit the Stimson land acquisition near Plains, Montana, which has a price tag of approximately \$40,000.00. Shane Clouse is to work with the Stimson Representative. Rooms have been arranged for MT WSF Board members attending.

#### **New Issues**

- D. J. Berg has investigated this funding source, and will submit an application, which is to be accompanied by a \$40.00 fee.
- National Wildlife Federation request. After discussion the board declined to fund. The Board prefers to focus on Montana projects.
- Boy Scouts request. The board reviewed the merits of this request, however declined to fund at the request is not specific to wild sheep.
- 2018 Sheep Show in Reno, January 18 – 20, 2018. Upon motion and second the Board approved the \$1,100.00 booth fee.
- The May 2018 Newsletter deadline is approaching. The publication will include a call for the upcoming Board of Directors election, photos from the 2017 fundraiser, an article authored by Kurt Alt, and information regarding the Life Member sheep hunt drawing to be held at the 2018 fundraiser.
- **Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting is to be held in June, 2017 at the Chapter & Affiliates Summit in Polson, Montana.

**Adjourned:** The Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff Mortensen*

Secretary  
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation