

**MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

**Minutes- May 17, 2012**

Location-Telephone Conference Call

**Board Members Present:** Mike Menke (President), Glenn Erickson (Vice President), Doug Dreeszen (Secretary), Tom Grimes (Treasurer), Jack Chambers, Steve Kline, Bruce Sterling, Brian Solan, Jim Weatherly (Executive Director).

**Director's Absent:** Mike Colpo

**Other Members Present:** None

**Call to Order:** The Board of Director's Meeting was called to order by President Menke at 6:36 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes of the January 4, 2012, Board Meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the January 4, 2012, minutes be approved as written.

Minutes of the February 25, 2012, Board Meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the February 25, 2012, minutes be approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** J. Weatherly reported that the current balance is \$100,252.09. Accounts payable: \$6,300.00, Skalkaho weed control project. (This is a 3-4 year project which has been extended). We have received \$1,825.00 income from the State of Montana regards to the MT WSF Specialty License plate, with \$4,252.12, in expense's to date.

**Membership:** We currently have 282 members, 23 which are past due and 144 Life members.

**Informational:**

- Jim W reported that we have 3 sample license plates left. Jim has been contacted by a license plate collector and will probably sell these in the near future.
- Jim W reported that we have about 200 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pins left over. After a short discussion it was agreed to send MT WSF Life Members a pin. Jim will do this in the near future.

**Issues from February Membership Meeting needing follow-up:**

- Discussion regards to making Spanish Peaks Area into an Unlimited Hunting District. Doug D reported that we already have 5 unlimited sheep hunting areas and from what the FWP feels this area doesn't meet the criteria because of access issues. T. Grimes stated that opening it up could have a negative outcome with over harvest of rams as was the case in the past.  
We took the position not to support this proposal.

- Jack Atcheson Jr's. proposal on "Increased Opportunity" regards to the concept of harvesting more wild sheep. After a discussion, the Board felt that if this did occur, the Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy would have to be changed. The Board felt that we support Quality over Quantity pertaining to harvesting bighorn rams in Montana. After further discussion, the Board chose not to support this endeavor.
- Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act: This project has come up twice in the last couple of years and their presentation took up a lot of time in the meeting. It was agreed to monitor these presentations in the future and give a time slot for their topic.

**Review of the Fundraiser:**

- Pledge forms... Name and address information on these are important for our record keeping and for follow-up, thank you letters and general business matters dealing with the fundraiser.
- Jim W. reported that we netted \$40,088.33 from the Banquet/Fundraiser in Bozeman, and it appears we sold 200 dinner tickets and had about this many attend the dinner. We were billed for 200 meals.
- M. Menke reported that we need to follow up and track the winners of the raffles and gun drawings better and assign someone to this duty.
- Everyone thought that the Friday evening meeting was a good idea and not only had a lot of interest, but was well attended. We need to pursue this in the future and have a guest speaker. The General Membership meeting was also well attended and had a lot of participation on several issues.
- T. Grimes was acknowledged for being the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet/Fundraiser Chairman, and for a great job.
- Bridger Mountains proposed bighorn sheep transplant study: Jim W reported that there is a lot of interest in this again from folks in the Bozeman area and that the Gallatin Valley Wildlife Association has set up an up coming meeting on May 31, 2012. Jim W will attend this meeting.
- 2013 Montana Legislature draft bill request to set criteria for wild sheep transplants by Senator Murphy: Murphy is the person who stopped the Lewis & Clark transplant this past winter. There will probably be some future bills coming up concerning bighorn sheep transplants and other wildlife matters.

**Old Business:**

- Bylaw Changes-No Activity
- Domestic/Wild Sheep interaction education: No activity, however the Committee is waiting for the opportunity to meet with the Woolgrowers and start some sort of communication so everyone can work together on this matter.

**New Business:**

- Little domestic sheep issue in H.D. 680 (Fencing Request): Jim W reported that we have been contacted by Scott Hemmer, MT FWP Region 6, wildlife biologist, as there is a concern of a small domestic sheep herd that is in close proximity to known bighorn sheep in H.D. 680, and there was a funding request for fencing to keep the domestics contained in a small pasture. Jim stated that he will research this matter further and contact the owner of the domestics and attempt to open a line of communication on this issue and report back to the Board.
- Request for Funding by South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Group: We have been contacted by a group of South Dakota sportsmen/sheep hunter enthusiasts request funding and support as they are trying to work with the South Dakota Fish and Game in developing a bighorn sheep program. **Motion: That we send a letter of support to the working group and fund \$1,000.00 for a one year, one time support for their project. Motion Passed.**
- Chapter & Affiliate Annual Summit Meeting, June 21-24, 2012- This year's Summit Meeting will be hosted by the Tri-State Chapters. S. Kline is already going as he is involved in the meeting. He said he will pay his own way and represent MT WSF. Two other MT WSF Directors might be going but will check their schedules.

**Motion: That if attendees go, we will pay for their gas, motel and registration.**

**Motion Passed**

**Motion: That we fund a \$500.00 Sponsorship for the Summit Meeting. Motion Passed**

- U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Annual Donation **Motion: It was moved and seconded to donate \$1,000.00 to them. Motion Passed.**
- Upcoming MT WSF Board Members Elections: J. Chambers, T. Grimes, and B. Sterling terms are up. B. Sterling has termed out and can't run again. T. Grimes indicated that he is not running for a position. We will attempt to get some new people interested in running for nominations.
- 2013 Annual Banquet/ Fundraiser: It will be held at the Copper King in Butte, MT, March 8&9, 2013.  
M.Menke will chair the Custom rifle raffle this year and has several ideas.  
Local Butte members are working on the Fundraiser.
- **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is set for Thursday, July 19, 2012, at the Copper King Motel, Butte, MT, at 11:00 AM.

**Adjourned: Motion: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:47PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dreeszen, Secretary  
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation