

MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes – December 19, 2018
Location – Conference Call

Board Members present: Shane Clouse (President), D.J. Berg (Vice President), Ray Vinkey, Grant Winn II, Levi Bowler, Justin Spring, Cory Piersol, and Don Patterson. Also present was Brian Solan, Montana Wild Sheep Foundation Volunteer Executive Director, Kurt Alt, and Jeff Mortensen. Directors absent: Grant Winn II.

Call to Order: The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Brian Solan at 7:35 p.m. (Shane joined shortly thereafter).

Minutes: Approval of November 6, 2018 minutes. **Motion:** It was moved and seconded that the November 6, 2018 minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Cash on hand totals approximately \$178,567.00. Accounts payable consist of the 2019 Life Member Sheep Hunt in the amount of \$14,000 and Wild Horse Island Invoice that Brian will send Max.

Secretary's Report of Membership: Current membership is 432 including 284 Life Members and 148 Regular Members. Membership has been turned over to Wild Sheep Foundation (National). Details still need to be worked out. Cory will meet with WSF in the next few weeks.

Informational:

- Kurt Alt discussed the Gallatin Wildlife Association's petition to FWP at the last Commission meeting. He and Brian Solan penned a letter opposing the petition and also requested the Department create a Big Horn Sheep Coordinator. Both attended the Commission meeting, where the petition did not gain the support of the Commissioners.
- Kurt Alt mentioned that Gray Thornton wrote an article for the Denver Post. Kurt sent a link to all of the Directors.
- Brian Solan reported that discussion with Dave Bergum regarding a potential domestic sheep easement in HD482 are ongoing. A temporary easement has been sent to Mr. Bergum and an application with FWP for a conservation easement has been initiated.
- Brian Solan reported that the Garrity WMA additions should be complete in the next few months.
- Brian Solan noted there has been no movement with the Sheep Shed property and the project may be over.
- Brian Solan was contacted about a property in the Missouri River Breaks that the landowner would like MTWSF to purchase. The property is prime Big Horn Sheep habitat. The chapter does not have funds for the property, but will investigate potential partners for the potential project.
- DJ Berg discussed the Wildlife and Transportation Summit that he and Brian Solan attended. The summit was organized to bring together the Montana Dept. of Transportation, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and non-profits to discuss and find solutions to the wildlife/transportation interface.
- Brian discussed an email that was sent to him questioning the unlimited number of non-resident sheep tags allowed for unlimited areas. The general consensus of the Board was that the

number of tags should not be limited to out of state hunters. There was some concern about how much the tags cost non-resident hunters. Kurt Alt will dig into the non-resident fees and hunting statistics and will report back to the Board.

- Brian Solan discussed the upcoming events and encouraged the Directors to attend. These events include the MOGA Convention – January 11-12, 2019 (Bozeman), MT Sportsmen Caucus Social – January 16, 2019 (Helena), and MT Wildlife Society Event – February 18-22, 2019 (Helena).
- Brian Solan has completed the registration for those attending the Sheep Show – February 6-10, 2019 (Reno).
- Kurt Alt gave a brief report on recent articles and discussions with and about the American Prairie Reserve (APR). Brian Solan recommended the Directors learn more about the organization by visiting their website.

Open/Old Issues:

- Director Bowler has completed a mockup of the new booth. He is waiting on getting permission to use some of the photos. Brian Solan will send the Directors the mockup for review.
- The MT WSF Banquet was discussed at length. Brian Solan advised that all donations need to be pledged by the first week of February so that they can be entered into the new online platform. Banquet Chairman Piersol and Brian Solan went to the Billings to see the Big Horn Resort and meet with the resort coordinator. They reported that we should have 380 dinner seats available, with 10 seated at each table. The board discussed the following considerations:
 - Possible keynote speaker
 - Potential speakers for Saturday morning seminars
 - Table and dinner ticket pricing
 - Membership meeting and Friday night events
 - Auctioneer and Master of Ceremonies
 - Vendor to help with gun raffles
 - Other miscellaneous details.

New Business:

- GIA 18-20 Sportsman's Caucus \$500.00. After discussion, and upon motion and second, the donation was unanimously approved funding for the event.
- GIA 18-21 FWP Collaring Project (Unit 250) \$8,200. After discussion, and upon motion and second, the project was unanimously approved. Another non-profit contributed \$2,000 to the project and directed those funds directly to MT WSF to offset our investment.
- **Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2019. A banquet working group meeting was also scheduled for January 16, 2019 in Helena.

Adjourned: The Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at about 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

D.J. Berg for Grant Winn, II

Recording Secretary
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation