

Montana Wild Sheep Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2020 7:00 Pm
Location: Conference Call

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Directors Present: Shane Clouse, DJ Berg, Max Bauer, Grant Winn II, Don Patterson, Levi Bowler, Cory Piersol, Ray Vinkey, Justin Spring and Executive Director Brian Solan

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Don made a motion to approve and Grant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report: (a) We have \$152,160 in cash on hand and are owed \$96,987 by Givesmart for a total of +/- \$249,147. DJ does not think the Billings Hotel comped what was promised. Brian will have a look at the contract to confirm what was to be comped.

(b) Grant in Aid and Outstanding – Life member sheep hunt \$9,500. Max brought up another \$5000 we had approved for the East Fork of the Bitterroot burn project that was not on the list. The October minutes were reviewed and there was a motion approved for the project. Total upcoming expenses are \$14,500.

Secretary's Report: 212 regular members and 362 life members. 574 total members. This is an increase of almost 100 new members over last year.

Informational: (A) WSF & MTWSF coordination calls are being held the second Wednesday of the month at 7 am. WSF has committed to some forensic accounting regarding our membership and funds owed to us. The current amount is in excess of \$20,000. Brian will send out a summary of the meeting.

(b) Bridger Mountains Transplant. FWP director Martha Williams wrote a response letter to the joint letter sent by MTWSF and MW. In general, she feels that the disease issues need to be addressed but supports a transplant the Winter of 2021. She also feels the Tendoy transplant is a higher priority. Brian has had two meetings with FWP personnel regarding the transplant. This project is being presented more like a research project than a transplant, with an opportunity to study disease, interactions and separation strategies. Region 3 managers are not fond of the project because of the domestic sheep and wild goats in the area. Shane feels FWP are unhappy because they feel pushed into the project by the governor. Brian will forward the minutes the meeting.

Open and Old Business: (a) Petty Creek Land – Max thinks the 5 Valley Land Trust will try to purchase the property with open space bond money. They will need some matching funds but nothing is imminent. Shane mentioned that we have funded several projects in this area including a recent burn.

(b) Bill, Renita and Westin Brown – No change in status. MOGA reinstated them and DJ thinks they did it to try to open lines of communication with them regarding the DS issue.

© Banquet Wrap up- Max and Brian will do a final reconciliation of banquet income and expenses.

New Business: (a) Membership Management – WSF has not been living up to their commitments and expectations in our contract. Renewals, welcome letters and certificates were not going out. They also failed to pay close to \$25,000 in membership fees to us. Brian, Grant, Levi and DJ had a call with Gray and Sydney at WSF regarding these issues. WSF promised to correct all the issues and balance the books. DJ, Brian and Levi have been vetting other membership management programs and Brian created a spreadsheet of the 5 top contenders. The program that WSF uses has limited capabilities in comparison to what’s available. It was the board consensus that we should handle our own membership. Levi suggested we let WSF have the ability to sell a joint WSF/MTWSF membership and nothing else. This would be easy to track and we would still maintain a relationship with WSF. Levi also pointed out that our membership experience has been lacking and we could easily set up automated emails to stay in front of our members. DJ made a motion to create a committee to make a recommendation to the board on a membership software purchase. Max seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Brian, DJ, Levi, Cory and Grant will compose the committee.

(b) Raffle for 2021 Banquet – Brian put together a hunt for Fannin Sheep with Blackstone Outfitters for \$24,000. This is typically a \$30,000 hunt. We would sell 500 tickets at \$100 each. There was discussion around whether or not we could sell that many tickets but everyone thought we could sell at least 240 and break even. We may save 50 for the banquet itself. Most of the tickets would be sold outside of the banquet so it does not affect money spent at the banquet. Grant made a motion to buy the Blackstone Outfitters Fannin Sheep Hunt for \$24,000. Don seconded the motion. Motion passes Unanimously. Brian also proposed to add an Aoudad Sheep hunt as a second prize. This hunt is a bargain at \$4000. It was decided not to use this hunt as a second prize but to auction or raffle it individually. Justin made a motion to allow Brian to vet the hunt and purchase the Auoudad Sheep hunt for \$4000 or less. DJ seconded the motion. Motion passes Unanimously.

© Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Collaborative Research Project Funding – WSF is asking all chapters and affiliates to donate a \$1000 to this project. Ray moved to approve this funding, Max seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

(d) Master Hunter Program Project Funding – Asking for \$1000. Participants go through the program and get lessons in hunting protocol, ethics and landowner relations. Grant made a motion to fund the project for \$1000. Max seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Next Meeting – The next MTWSF board meeting will be Wednesday, May 6 at 8:00 PM.

Adjournment – Ray made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Max seconded the motion. Passes unanimously at 9:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Grant Winn II
Secretary MTWSF

