



Montana Wild Sheep Foundation

Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

1. Call to Order – 8:03 pm

2. Roll Call

Brian Solan (Volunteer Executive Director) – yes

Kurt Alt (Conservation director) – no

DJ Berg (President) – yes

Don Patterson (Vice President) – yes

Max Bauer (Treasurer) – yes

Jeff Mortensen (Co-Treasurer) – yes

Grant Winn II (Secretary) – yes

Alex Russell – yes

Ray Vinkey – yes

Levi Bowler- yes

Justin Spring- yes

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – Ray made a motion to approve. Jeff Seconded the motion.

4. Treasurers Report

a. Cash on hand - \$327,994.25

b. Grant in Aid and Outstanding

(i) Quarterly payment to WSF for Kurt Alt (\$5,000)

(ii) Desert Sheep hunt raffle (\$25,000)

(iii) Life Member Hunt raffle (\$9,500)

(iv) We may owe for the Aoudad Hunt. Brian said that the outfitter will be paid when the hunt is conducted. This is the hunt for the Desert Sheep Raffle.

5. Secretary's Report

a. Regular members (90) Life members (471) Total members (561)

6. Informational

a. May coordination call with WSF. DJ & Brian from MTWSF attended. Kurt and Gray represented WSF. Kurt had a meeting w/FWP about the Little Belts Herd. They are disappointed with the BS mortality due to the mountain lion predation and M.ovi. Kurt wants to put together a letter to FWP from MTWSF, WSF and the woolgrowers reinstating our continue support of the Little Belts transplant project and we are excited about moving forward. DJ will work on the letter and send it out to the board for review.

- b.** C & A Summit: DJ attended in San Antonio, TX. WSF is reorganizing its grant in aid program. They will focus on legacy projects of \$150,000+. There will be media, promotion, video, and other requirements attached to the grants. The growing Aoudad population is becoming a concern as they are detrimental to wild sheep habitat. Texas has 1200 wild sheep and would like to get to 3000. They are working with landowners to promote BS & Aoudad's as the landowners make a good income from Aoudad hunting.
- c.** BC WSF showed a video of testing sheep for M.oivi and euthanizing any sheep who tested positive.
- d.** WSU hired Dr. Kate Huyvaert. Kurt said she will be a great asset and has an ecology background. WSF plans to help fund equipment to study M.oivi.
- e.** DJ said there was a good presentation on endowment funds and recommends looking into this strategy for long term projects.
- f.** The C&A fundraising project was for a Nebraska bighorn sheep transplant. A \$2000 contribution was approved by the board before DJ left. The donation request was for \$5000. Ray made a motion to donate the full \$5000. Grant seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- g.** Coming long project and adaptive management project. \$6.5 Million will be invested over the next 5 years. Significant research work will be done on bighorn sheep. Quentin at FWP is very supportive and is helping to shepherd the project through.
- h.** Working Dogs for conservation: Project through Montana State University. They used infected and clean sheep to train the dogs to sniff out the M.oivi virus. The dogs have been over 90% accurate in identifying infected sheep. Will be very valuable for the captures.
- i.** FWP Trailer: Brian and Tom Grimes are working on this project. Brian will give an update when he returns.
- j.** FWP Proposals: Ray said that FWP is looking at opening WMAs in the Anaconda area for mountain lion hunting. FWP would like to reduce sheep predation and having lions in town. No one felt strongly about commenting on any of the proposals.
- k.** Greenhorn Update: Good information on status. No discussion by board.
- l.** Teller Wildlife donation: Received a thank you letter for the donation. Don volunteered and said over 450 kids and parents went through the program. It was well received.

7. Open/Old Business

- a.** Desert Sheep Hunt Raffle – We still have 140 tickets to sell, and drawing is in July.
- b.** Update on Hwy 135: Levi's contact has become unresponsive. DJ & Levi will look for another contact

8. New Business

- a.** Mail: Jeff is taking over for Max and we need to figure out where to send the mail. Board decided to ask Traci Ulberg to pick up the mail and forward it to Jeff for the time being.

- b.** Life Member Raffle: Contract is up with Ovis for our three hunts that we purchased. Grant will contact them and investigate other options for the 2023 - 2025 hunts.
- c.** Executive Director Position: Many of our needs are not being met because board members cannot handle the workload on a volunteer basis. A paid ED could look for new income streams that could come from grant writing and large donations. Our organization has grown to the point of needing a paid ED if we are to move on to the next level. The board discussed the pros and cons including the financial commitment. Kurt offered to phase out of his position over the next 6 months and use the funds for an ED. He also volunteered to sit on the conservation committee. Kurt believes the ED could cover many of the tasks he was doing. DJ will send out a job description and give the board an opportunity to redline and provide comments on the job description. The redlined document will then be sent to the Executive Committee for a final decision. Justin made a motion to hire an ED. Ray seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Schedule Next Meeting

- a.** Meeting will be held July 6, 2022 at 8 pm

10. Adjournment

- a.** Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 pm. Ray seconded the motion.