

## WY-WSF Membership Meeting Minutes May 31, 2014

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by President Mike Porter; Mike welcomed the entire Board of Directors, as well as the 26 members who were in attendance, to our 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting.

### Review of Minutes from Winter Meeting in Wheatland, December 2013-

Minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Cole Benton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gray Thornton; approved. In the near future, draft membership meeting minutes will be posted in advance of the next meeting on our website.

Financial Report- Treasurer Joni Miller reviewed our financial position and the report was approved on a motion by Gray Thornton with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Hockett.

New Board Members- Mike introduced our newest board member, Kurt Eisenach, who gave us his background in wild sheep and conservation efforts.

Website- Kurt Eisenach has led the charge on this; Kurt explained that we have had issues with securing a Merchant Account to our liking. He does expect to have the site fully operational in the near future.

### 3% credit card convenience fee-

President Porter explained the Board's decision to charge 3% on all credit card transactions effective June 1, 2014. Member Bob Joslin asked if the 3% covers all credit card charges and was told that 3% is the average, with some cards being higher and some lower.

Board of Director Reappointments- Mike Porter, Joni Miller, Dan Hinz, and Meade Dominick have all applied for another term on the board. Steve Kilpatrick has decided not to run for another term. New board member James Rinehart, will replace Steve. James was introduced by the President and gave a brief rundown of his wild sheep and conservation experience. A motion to approve these directorships was made by Cole Benton with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rusty Gooch and the motion was approved.

Officer Positions- Mike Porter will remain President, Jerry Galles will become Vice President, Joni Miller will remain Treasurer, and Dirk Montgomery will remain Secretary.

The Rampage- Dean DiJenno and Kevin Hurley are working on reducing production and mailing costs with a probable change in printer for the Fall 2014 edition. Kevin asked the membership to help out with the Kids Corner by sending in pictures; he also stated that a digital version will go on the web page, and in the future we will stop sending printed copies to members who ask for a digital version. Copy deadline for the Fall 2014 issue will be October 1, 2014, with the magazine in homes around October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Renewal of Executive Director's Contract for 2014/2015-

WY-WSF and the Wild Sheep Foundation will continue to coordinate on Kevin Hurley's workload. Gray Thornton stated that Kevin is a key component at the Wild Sheep Foundation HQ, and efforts are underway to bring on some WSF contract assistance for Kevin.

Website- It was decided at the December 2013 meeting to move forward and pay for makeover of our website. We contracted with the webmaster who developed the Utah FNAWS website, to give us a full, complete website to service our members and interested browsers. Dan Clifton asked if all of our financial information would be shared on the site and was told that we would only post summaries of the financial information, as required by disclosure rules.

Address Labels- The Board followed up on last year's suggestion by Rusty Gooch and explored the idea of sending return address labels to our members with WY-WSF logo on them. It was decided that the idea was too costly, and will be tabled at present.

Endowment- We have not received any endowment donations, to date. The Board is considering trying some sort of evening get-together with members who may be interested, so we can go over the concept in detail.

Ron Ball Award- Kevin stated that we have given this award for 12 years, with 50% of the awards going to volunteers and 50% going to people who work for local, state, or federal agencies in support of Wyoming's BHS resource. Kevin explained that the Board would like to stay with only one award of the highest honor but will possibly give separate awards or recognition to deserving individuals on a case-by-case basis. Fritz Meyer stated that he was proud to be a recipient and acknowledged that Ron was a big man with a big heart; Ron donated all of his time and efforts to WY-FNAWS, and he felt Ron would want the award to go to volunteers. After some discussion, it was decided that the award would stay status quo, but that both former award winners and the sitting Board of Directors would have an opportunity to offer nominations each year, with the winner selected by past winners.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner's License Raffle- Kevin stated that 244 tickets were already sold out of the total of 300. The membership recommended that we continue this raffle as long as we can receive commissioner's licenses to work with. Mack Miller suggested that we should come up with an incentive prize for the individual who sells the most raffle tickets each year. Kurt Eisenach noted that the web site will simplify the raffle ticket selling process.

Governor's License MOU- There have been 4 WY Governor's BHS licenses sold so far this year, at an average of \$77,750. We are hoping to raise that average tonight, and have at least 6 out-of-state phone bidders lined up.

Big Game License Coalition- Gov. Mead has committed to continuing the process if he is reelected. We will attempt to meet personally with all candidates to work on securing their support for the existing WGBGLC process; Kevin suggested that we bring it up at political events and rallies. Bob Joslin asked for information to be posted on the website that would suggest how we should message this process. Kevin stated that new information would be available around July 1, 2014 and 2015 sellers need to be tentatively identified by the end of July 2014, pending results of the November gubernatorial election.

2015 Wild Sheep Show- January 8-10, 2015 in Reno, NV. Gray stated it will be a fantastic event, the crowds are back and there is something for everybody; Gray explained that the dates were earlier next year, to avoid any potential conflict with the BCS college football playoffs. The 2014 Sheep Show set a record in the 37 history of the event, and 2015 will beat that.

WSF Chapter & Affiliate Summit Meeting VII- Will be held June 27-28, 2014 in Phoenix, AZ. James Rinehart will attend for WY-WSF, and Kevin of course will also be present. WY-WSF has committed \$1000 to help sponsor this summit. There will be a paddlewheel boat cruise to view Desert Sheep at Canyon Lake on Friday.

Winter Meeting- To be held December 5-6, 2014 in Cody, WY; Holiday Inn will be the venue for the meetings and banquet. On Friday evening there will be a hospitality hour at the WSF headquarters [Footnote: due to pre-convention chaos @ WSF HQ, Dean & Diane DiJenno will pursue an alternate location for Friday evening activities]. On Saturday, we will travel up the South Fork of the Shoshone in vans provided by Meade Dominick to view wintering BHS, deer, and elk.

2015 Convention- To be held June 5-6, 2015 at the Parkway Plaza in Casper, WY. In 2016, we will meet June 3-4 at the Parkway. After 2016, our current agreement with the Parkway ends, and the Board will examine options for 2017 and later banquets.

Burgess Junction WGFD/WY-WSF BHS Summit- June 19-20, 2014 the Board and WGFD reps will meet at Burgess Junction to discuss status of Wyoming BHS.

## Projects & Issues

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance vs. USFS (Medicine Bow-Routt NF) – WY-WSF has approved up to \$5000 to support USFS in this BCA legal challenge. To date, we have spent \$3900, there has been no judge's decision, yet.

Wyoming Sportsman's Alliance (WYSA) - Our chapter and 8-12 other conservation groups are working with the state legislature to get WGFD funding issues addressed and resolved. Gov. Mead has started a blue ribbon task force to focus on long-term issues facing WGFD. Mike Porter and Steve Kilpatrick have been selected to assist in forming the group which is expected to take upwards of a year to present suggestions to the governor.

Wild Sheep transplants - Ryan Amundson reported that 4 separate public meetings had been held regarding **possible** transplant of BHS from the Devils Canyon herd into the Sweetwater Rocks, Ferris Mts., and Bennett Mts. The meetings were sparsely attended, with most comments in favor of such transplants. Most of the landowners and permittees expressed the need to ensure that transplants would not be a reason for BLM to reduce the cattle AUMs on the federal lands that they lease. It is expected to take another year to get a formal proposal put together. Jim Collins commented that our organization needs to keep pushing for this, as the Devils Canyon herd is at/near its agreed upon population objective, and BHS need to be moved out before other conflicts arise there. Jim also volunteered to continue to personally contact concerned landowners to discuss perceived conflicts; Kevin mentioned that he is also available for this task. Doug McWhirter mentioned that the Devils Canyon herd had been sampled for disease status, to make sure they are ready to go; diagnostic results were favorable.

Game and Fish department Super Tag/Tri-Fecta program - Ryan also reported on this new program which by all accounts has been a success. There have been 7559 super tag applications to date for sheep and over 6227 trifecta chances purchased, for a total raised of ~\$500,000, with one month remaining on the sale program.

"Art of the Hunt" display at Wyoming State Museum - Due in part to a donation from the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wyoming State Museum will host a yearlong exhibit of the outdoor hunting items that have been created by Wyoming artisans. (Deceased) Life Member Mike Tonn's WY BHS mount is a focal centerpiece of the yearlong, free exhibit.

Wyoming Governor's Big Game Coalition - This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the WGBGLC of sheep, moose, elk, deer, and other conservation groups which has done so much to enhance wildlife in Wyoming. We are fortunate to have two of our WY-WSF Life Members leading the WGBGLC; Jerry Galles is the incoming president and Ryan Amundson the VP. This year, BHS project requests totaled ~\$320,000; approved total BHS expenditures were \$196,000.

## Grant in Aid requests

Only 3 GIA requests were received this spring:

Sierra Amundson requested funding for rabies shots and some transportation costs in support of her summer internship at WGFD Sybille Wildlife Research Unit. This joint venture has Wyoming Workforce Services center sharing costs with WY-WSF. Sierra will get to know each BHS on the unit personally and document their daily life. She will be able to learn how to handle and disease sample these sheep, as well as transport deceased animals to the Wyoming Vet Lab in Laramie where she will have an opportunity to participate in necropsies. In return for our funds, Sierra has agreed to speak to youth groups and the membership whenever she isn't playing sports. Gray invited Sierra to Reno in January 2015 (paid for by WSF), to speak to youth participating in the WSF Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience (YWCE) 2015 events. \$1172 was requested.

Suzan Moulton was present to request funding for taxidermy work at the National BHS Interpretive Center in Dubois. One of the wild sheep displays currently shows one ewe with two lambs. Taxidermy work by Lynn Steward will place another ewe that was donated by WGFD into the display. \$2500 was requested.

The final GIA request was from the BSA Camp Buffalo Bill to assist in upgrading a multi-weapon shooting range, E of YNP boundary, on the North Fork of the Shoshone River. Many conservation groups are partnering to ensure that Boy Scouts (from Wyoming, and beyond) have an opportunity for hands-on time with firearms and bows and arrows. \$5000 was requested [Footnote: following WY-WSF May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, Mike Porter & Kevin Hurley coordinated w/ Gray Thornton & Ryan Brock, to secure matching \$5K GIA from WSF, via the YWCE MidwayUSA \$ program]

A motion to approve GIA requests was made by Ron Pomeroy, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Dan Clifton; motion approved.

#### Q & A –

Bob Joslin asked for clarification on the Shoshone National Forest forest plan revision which has been challenged by the N. A. Pack Goat Association. If the NAPGA challenge to the plan is approved, it would appear to put our core BHS herds at risk from possible disease transmission from pack goats, specifically in BHS hunt areas 1-5. Kevin Hurley commented that WY-WSF has already submitted notification to SNF that we wish to be party to the discussion regarding this challenge. A follow-up question regarding disease transmission risk from llamas to BHS indicated that llamas do not appear to have the same pathogens and degree of risk.

With no further business, the membership meeting adjourned at 11:15.