

## Membership Meeting

June 4, 2022

Attendees: Katie, Dean, Zach, Scott B., Pat, Joni, Mack, Kurt, Matt, Jimmy, JW, Greg, Bruce, Scott S.

Zach: Meeting called to order 10:00 a.m.

- 1) Zach: Attendance sheet going around. Please make sure to sign.
- 2) Review and approval of December 2021 meeting minutes from Laramie.  
Motion to approve: Cole Benton    Second: Freddy Goetz    Approved: Unanimously
- 3) Update of website- Congrats to Dean for all the work put in to get it up and running. Every Rampage ever printed is available online in the vault. Board meeting minutes, photos from each year.
- 4) Discussion regarding membership wanting to see Dean's name in the Rampage. Members voiced this needing to happen as there is a lot of work that goes in to putting it together.
- 5) Joni: Financial and Treasurer report- Discussion over Balance Sheet and overall outlook of all accounts. Wells Fargo Business Account (main checking account) Assets, 3 Investment accounts (General Fund, Life Member, and Conservation), and one main banking account \$977,410. Current Liabilities are funds that have been set aside to be paid once an invoice is received (\$20,000 is always set aside for convention for the next year). Cheyenne wanted money down. Endurance Fund (Grant received of \$214,000 \$10,333.82 has been spent so far but there are funds earmarked for projects coming up). Outstanding GIAs that we have approved, and we still have to pay out once we get invoiced. Life Member account. Reward fund was set aside at \$5000 years ago and it hasn't been tapped by the Game and Fish for poaching rewards. Endowment permanent restricted assets (Conservation fund) changes daily. Investments have not done well currently. Rusty Gooch had concerns regarding the conservation fund and spending a money out of it for the kids. Scott addressed concerns that Rusty Gooch had regarding \$66,000 that is set aside after the \$250,000 was crested. Scott Butler offered to set up a special meeting with Rusty after the meeting to explain it to him. Profit & Loss- fiscal year which starts December 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> when the report was printed (losses on all investments, convention income by raffle/game, interest income from general, life, conservation, dues is kept separate). P & L does not include banquet income coming in. Rusty Gooch opposes "putting kids on the mountain" program, feels it is a waste of money. Feels there are other organizations that could involve kids, but the WY-WSF is for keeping sheep on the mountain. Joni addresses youth expenses and there were no expenses for 2022. GIA for NBSC for \$3,250.00. Can offer a more specific break down, but it is not 20%. Jim Collins agrees with Rusty and agrees with Rusty and feels the youth education should come from a GIA. Only projects for kids in the past have been done through GIAs. The only other kids' items are from the Conservation fund and that is the life memberships and we do two a year. Youth items are donated and are not paid for by WY-WSF. Steve Kilpatrick addressed the membership and feels that we need to invest something in future.

After looking at finances it is about 5 %, we spend on youth. Dean did a survey and people were pleased with the youth being on stage. WY-WSF does more to invest in the future than any other foundation. The Butler Family Foundation emphasizes the future and emphasizes youth and long-term conservation, easements, habitat, and seedings. The Butler family did want it to focus on the future, so in twenty years when some are dead there are others to continue the program. Governor's tag, WY-WSF keeps 10% of the funds from selling the tag, and with the Commissioner's tag WY-WSF keeps 100% of the tags, but it's not broke down in the Income Statement. Members want to see what the profit from the tag is. P&L will include the prior year expenses and income.

Motion to approve: Jim Collins      Second: Larry McDermott      Approved: Unanimously

- 6) Behind the Scenes- Website, Board is taking the charge to rebrand. Advertising. Best magazine of all foundations. Want people to recognize Wyoming. New logo and remove the "smiling sheep". Logo is everywhere. Mission statement will encompass who we are and our vision moving forward as well as putting together our conservation vision. We are looking into the future. Committee has taken the ball and ran with it.

RFP process- Wells Fargo in the past has been management group. Need to address again. Four investment firms were interviewed: Wells Fargo, Eliason Financial, Merrill Lynch, & Ashton Thomas. Narrowed to two: Eliason and Ashton Thomas. Wyoming based companies. Interactive for who we are as a board and membership. Want to be able to provided education to membership and options moving forward. Options for members to donate 401K plans to WY-WSF.

11 Board Members with 2 paid positions. Congrats from membership on a job well done and for working so hard.

- 7) Katie- Conservation Vision, Strategic Plan:  
We want a strategic plan to show what our vision is and how we intend to achieve our plan. Scott Smith had a big role in the Game and Fish strategic plan and will be helping build up the plan. Last year did not have enough projects to help spend the money at your fingertips. We need some large projects to get our sheep back on public lands.
- 8) GIAs-  
GIA were looked at for face value of the GIA and not the money we had to spend. Scrutinize each project for what it was and not how much money we had to spend. A variety of projects came in costing a total of \$90, 250 in funds requested. The Board of Directors met on May 10<sup>th</sup> to review and vote. The GIAs are all available on the website to provide more information if anyone wants to read more about them. All GIAs were voted to fully fund at 100%. For this this cycle, the Board suggests funding:

Laramie Peak disease surveillance from Keith Webber: Laramie Peak Herd capture and sampling. In February, they had an emergency fund to capture 10 sheep. Currently

requesting the rest of the funds to finish the capture and do disease sampling. The total for the project is \$22,250. Requested \$8,000 and in December we funded \$6830 for emergency request. Board recommended full funding.

Whiskey Basin WHM Conifer Removal from Amy Anderson: Project is part of much larger project. Removes conifer encroachment on the WY Game and Fish commission owed lands near Torrey Rim Area. Total project cost is \$200,000. Requested \$25,000. Board recommended full funding. Daryl addressed that this is a partnership with Shoshone National Forest for treatment. Might be cut and pile or prescribed burn. Currently have license to do a prescribed burn in the glacier addition of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Trees have been cut down to get fuel on ground to make burn successful. There have already been sheep in the trees that have been cut down. Have high priority areas documented. Get conifer removed, sheep will come.

Little Red Creek vegetation clearing Amy Anderson: Vegetation is preventing Big Horn Sheep from utilizing the creek as a water source. Looking at clearing a section downstream of vegetation so that the sheep can utilize the creek again. Underpass nearby is also full of vegetation so the sheep are no longer using the underpass and are going over the road and we are losing sheep due to vehicle collisions. Requested \$12,000. Board recommended full funding. Daryl addressed the membership regarding in the future there will be a high fence project to keep these sheep off the roadways and the first step is clearing the underpass. Mostly willow. On Wind River Reservation but bridge is on State Land. Working with the two tribes. Past few years, 6 sheep have been killed with vehicle collisions, and one ewe dead under the bridge. Tribes are eager to work with WGFD. Partners on project: Many partners

Chronic Carriers from Kevin Monteith: Project has been ongoing for 6 years looking at nutrition and disease within these herds. Research is at a point of informing how we are going to manage this. Daryl touched on this pathogen map in this herd and Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae which is one of primary culprit in pneumonia in sheep. 7 chronic carriers were removed, 6 chronic carriers, 5 with sinus tumors, one appeared healthy, but still carried Movi. Requested: \$30,000. Board recommended full funding. Governor's Big Game License Coalition donated \$200,000 this year to this project.

NBSC Camp Bighorn, Sarah Bridge: Asked for \$1500 to support Camp Bighorn in WY to teach kids about Bighorn Sheep, WY Youth Programs, and Webinar Series for Adult Outreach. Total project cost of \$10,000. Requested \$3250. Board recommended full funding. Have asked for funds from other chapters. Eastern Chapter funded \$5000.

Elk Creek Bighorn Sheep disease on GPS collaring: Domestic sheep are within the area with some of our Bighorn Sheep Herds and further spread disease into the Absaroka Herd which could be tragic. Project is to capture and place GPS collars that are enabled with Geo fencing technology so when a Bighorn sheep steps in to an allotment with domestic sheep the Bighorn sheep managers are notified. Keeping domestic sheep and domestic sheep apart.

Situation with domestic sheep producer is volatile. It is difficult. Request \$12,000. Board recommends to fund fully. Have met with tribes of Wind River Reservation at tribal meeting and they seem excited, but haven't used the political power they have yet.

Motion to Approve to fully fund: Mark Conrad      Second: Steve Kilpatrick

Approve: Unanimously by Membership Attendees

- 9) Current Officers: Zach- President, Scott- Vice President, Secretary- Pat, Treasurer- Joni Treasurer-(Joni to stay on Board until June 2023) but begin to transition. Transition of position of Treasurer position in the next few months with Dean and Joni to decide the best way to transition. Board will step up and will have more involvement from an accounting firm. Dirk has been helped in the past, but no longer has the time so Scott Buckingham will help get our tax return done for the year. Support of board is tremendous. No need to approve officers, decided on by Board of Directors.
- 10) Board of Directors nomination- Mack is not renewing, thank you for all the time he has spent helping. One position open, with one applicant, Matt Hoobler. Matt introduced himself to the members and provided some history of who he is. Lives in Cheyenne, wife, two girls. Used to work at Pathfinder Ranch. Ryan Lance and Matt are the two signatures to reintroduce sheep to Sweetwater Rocks. Vote to induct Matt to Board of Directors. Have fire in gut to continue to see the reintroduction through.

Motion to Approve: Gary Butler      Second: Steve Kilpatrick      Approve: Unanimously

#### 11) Upcoming Events

2022 December Winter Meeting: Cody, WY December 2-3, 2022

2023 Sheep Show: Reno, NV January 12-14, 2023

2023 Annual Banquet: Cheyenne, WY Little America June 2-3, 2023

#### 12) New Business from Members:

Challenge from the board and membership from the Eastern Chapter which is primarily a North Eastern Chapter. Would like to expand to central and southeast. Challenge board to come up with creative ways to become involved in more ways than just hunting sheep and to get people involved in the outdoors.

New Mexico is currently looking to not allow non-resident Bighorn Sheep hunters. This is being led by the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

Since more funds are coming in from Nationals might think of having people involved in bills coming up. Senator Barrasso has two bills coming up for renewal that will affect Bighorn Sheep in WY.

State of WY received COVID funding and the WY-WSF may be able to get some funds and Dean and Joni helped get some funds around \$214,000.

Zach- thanked everyone for coming and the questions and comments.

Motion to Adjourn: Jo Butler

Second: Jim Collins

Approve: Unanimously

Time Ended: 11:36 a.m.