

**ADMB Meeting
November 4, 2021
Zoom Teleconference**

Members Present: Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Brian Nesvik (Co-Chair), Amanda Hulet, Mike Foster, Ron Cunningham, Bob Harlan, Gay Lynn Byrd, Brett Belden

Board Members Absent: Valorie Armstrong, Garrett Falkenburg, Bob Phillips, Jeff Boner, Russ Bacon, Tyler Abbott

WDA Staff: Jerry Johnson

Public in Attendance: Myrna Miller, Amy Hendrickson, Kat Urbigit, Alex Hargrave

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Brian Nesvik

Ron moved to approve June 2021 minutes as provided, Gay Lynn second, Motion carries

Rabies Testing Update

Dr. Myrna Miller shared the progress of recent rabies cases across the state for 2021, there were 403 animals tested with 11 positive results. Positive results in Sheridan and Johnson common occurrences and again in 2021 most cases were in the northern part of the State. There was a positive case for a horse in Sheridan County in 2021 and this was genetically traced to the northern skunk variant of rabies. The Department of Health was notified for the contact tracing for human exposure. Rabies cases had increased in Goshen and Laramie County in 2018 and 2019 and 2020 but there have been no cases this year. The rabies variant in Southern Wyoming is a different strain than that in Northern Wyoming and tends to be short lived. While only 2 to 5% of bats tested have a positive result, human exposure is always a concern. The only positive case of Human Rabies in 2015 was because of bat exposure. Testing funded by the ADMB allows peace of mind and can alert the public as needed.

Wolf Management Update

Mike Foster reported during fiscal year 2021, 14 wolves were taken—7 of which were caught in the “predator zone” and 7 of which were in the “trophy game area”. Losses reported to WS in trophy zone were 11 cows 38 calves 12 sheep 1 cat 10 chickens. Losses verified in predator zone by WS were 1 cow, 1 calf, 4 sheep, and 23 lambs. An additional 12 sheep were reported but not verified in the predator zone. The total spent on wolf control in 2020 was \$14,240 in TZ and \$34,873 in PZ. The total to date in this fiscal year is 6,039 with 2 additional flights yet to be invoiced.

They are in the process of hiring a new pilot and the plane will be moved from Rock Springs area to Riverton. There was discussion on the lethal control of wolves and that WS is back to a

normal operating procedure with wolf work with a new weekly requirement on reporting wolf work.

Mike let the board know that the USDA gave a two year waiver on the administrative fees through 2024.

Doug mentioned to Mike that he had drafted a letter in response to the stop work of lethal wolf control but due to the response of the regional director to continue the lethal control he had not yet sent a letter.

Brett Belden let the board know that he received a thank you letter from USDA/WS regional director Janet Bucknall thanking him for the warm welcome she received on her trip to Wyoming.

Program Updates

Landowner Coupon County Designation Discussion

Jerry Johnson shared that the Game & Fish Land Owner Coupon form has been updated and the county designation portion has been removed from the form. The county distribution of funds for the years 2013-2020 will begin and the distribution total is \$11,936 and that all counties except Teton will be reimbursed.

Wolf Compensation Update: Jerry Johnson shared that the compensation program had not received any request thru June 30 2021, and he then sent out a letter to the County Predator boards reminding them of the program. There have now been a few inquiries and he answered questions on filling out the application. He answered the question of how much funding the program received; the total funds available are \$40,500.

Set meeting dates for 2022:

Jan 18th 2022 10am Zoom

May 17th 9am - 18th 8am 2022 Casper live and Zoom

June 16th 2022 9am Casper live and Zoom

Nov 9th 2022 10am Zoom

Public Comments

Cat Urbigit voiced concern over the recent stop work by USDA/WS on lethal wolf control and was happy to hear that it was resolved and wondered if the ADMB could write a letter in support of the decision to continue and the importance of wolf control continuing.

Amy Hendrickson agreed with Cat and also asked if the board could write a letter, and gave an update on the eagle project. An eagle was banded and relocated and has not returned to the area as of early October.

Doug and Brian agreed that a letter could be written and stated they would work on a draft letter.

No further business

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 by Brian Nesvik