

MONTANA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes-May 25, 2011

Location -Telephone Conference Call

Board Members Present: Jack Chambers (President), Doug Dreeszen (Secretary), Tom Grimes, Steve Kline, Mike Menke (Treasurer), and Jim Weatherly (Executive Director)

Directors Absent or Excused by the President: Mike Colpo, Glenn Erickson (Vice President), Dan Spicher, and Bruce Sterling

Call to Order: The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Jack Chambers at 6:30 PM, with several directors calling in late due to the call in number malfunction. This was a short meeting to only discuss four items on the agenda.

Informational Items:

Website/Newsletter Issues: A committee consisting of Jack Chambers, Jim Weatherly, Tom Grimes and Steve Kline has been looking into a service to handle our Website and maintain it in the future. This service is Meetings Northwest, LLC, Missoula, MT, and operated by Traci Ulberg. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hire Ms. Ulberg to work on our Website. Jim W will finalize the material cost end of the services that can be provided. The committee will also look further into the possibilities of her publishing our Newsletters in the future, but will get more information on the matter and report back to the Board. The Board thanked Steve Kline for his past work on the Website.

Wolf Funding: Jim Weatherly reported that he received a call from Jack Atcheson Jr. of National WSF, that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Animal Damage Control) was requesting some financial assistance for helicopter fuel as they were authorized to remove three wolves in the Butte area, and that their budget was short for this project. It was the consensus of the Board that we would not fund this and that we will look into these matters in the future case by case. Note: By the time of the Board meeting the wolves in question had already been euthanized by the Feds.

Winifred Domestic Sheep Issue: Jim Weatherly reported that he met with a domestic sheep producer, who operates in H.D. 482, in the Missouri Breaks. There has been some discussion in the past that the Montana FWP might have some funds available to buy out his domestic sheep as they are a danger to the bighorns in the immediate area. However, due to some other concerns and problematic issues on this matter it appears that we (MT WSF) will take the lead on this situation and try and work something out as far as the value of the domestics. At this time, it appears the value of the domestics is out of our budget and that we will look into other sources for funding. It was the consensus of the Board that Jim will contact other WSF Chapters for financial assistance and report back on this matter.

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Mount Carmel Youth Ranch Domestic Sheep: Doug Dreeszen reported that he received a call from Shawn Stewart, FWP Biologist out of Red Lodge, MT, that Doug McWhirter, Wyoming Game and Fish Biologist, Cody, Wyo, found a small herd of domestic sheep in the area of Clark, Wyo, where both Montana and Wyoming bighorns are wintering. The domestics are on property owned by Mount Carmel Youth Ranch, which is located just south of the Montana-Wyoming state line, on Highway 120 to Cody. Shawn Stewart flew the area on his recent spring bighorn survey and did not see any bighorns, but apparently McWhirter observed some bighorn rams in the area of the domestics recently. These domestics could present a danger risk to the native bighorn sheep that traditionally winter close to this area. Doug Dreeszen said that he was in the area on May 15, and also saw domestics on the land in question, will follow-up on this and report back to the board on his findings.

Montana WSF Affinity License Plate: Steve Kline reported that he has put the final touches on the license plate and it is ready to go to the State of Montana for approval. Jim Weatherly will follow-up on some legal requirements before it is submitted to the State. The Board thanked Steve Kline for all of his work he put into this project. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the project.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011. This will be a telephone conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dreeszen, Secretary
Wild Sheep Foundation