

Livestock Loss Board Members Present:

Doreen Gillespie – Chairperson
Elaine Allestad
Dave McEwen
Joe Kipp
Raina Blackman

Staff: George Edwards – Executive Director

Guests: Butch Gillespie – State Senator, District 9
Lenore McEwen – Rancher
Kathy Kipp – Rancher
Kevin Halverson - Rancher
Kara Maplethorpe - Centennial Valley Association
Yvonne Martinell - Centennial Valley Association
Linda Owens – Madison Valley Ranchlands
Doug Ekbert – USDA Wildlife Services
Dalin Tidwell – USDA Wildlife Services
Peter Bradley – Rancher
Trina Bradley – Rocky Mountain Ranchlands Group
Audra Bell – Ruby Valley Conservation District
Kyren Kunkel – Conservation Science Collaborative

Call to Order and Administrative Items

Introductions

- Each board member and board staff introduced themselves.

Board Minutes

Ms. Gillespie welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked if the board members had reviewed the January 13th meeting minutes and asked for a motion to approve them.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to approve the January minutes. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Reports: Mr. Edwards began by saying the report in the board books show 2023 claim numbers were almost equal to last year however the payouts are substantially higher. He said this is due to several claims for registered cattle as well as calf values increasing dramatically. On the report, Pondera County values are due to several livestock owners losing registered stock. He went on to explain a law change during this past legislature which takes effect October 1st and will limit registered stock to twice the value of a commercial animal. Additionally, he explained that the legislature codified confidentiality of names which the board had already been advised to do by a state attorney. This is similar to laws regulating confidentiality of names by USDA Wildlife Services. Mr. Edwards said he is still recuperating from a major surgery but has been able to keep all board activities up to date including loss claims. Last fall we had a little bit of controversy over posting claims on Facebook. Kristen Juras asked that we change our process so that a livestock owner's privacy is better protected when a large loss occurs. Because of this Mr. Edwards said he will combine many months of data and only post claims a few times a year. The board's website is still being updated as claims come in.

Dalin Tidwell, USDA Wildlife Services state director began by praising the partnership his agency has with the board. He said he has also seen the trend of this year closely matching last year. There are at 66 grizzly investigation requests with 63 of them confirmed as caused by grizzlies. He gave some statistics from the federal fiscal year. Grizzlies caused 39 confirmed and nine probable calf losses. Additionally, 12 confirmed and six probable adult cattle loss. Mountain lion loss is primarily sheep. 44 wolf investigations resulted in 15 confirmed and four probable calf loss. Six cows were confirmed and four were probable losses. Currently a large number of investigations are coming into Mr. Tidwell's office at this time.

Mr. McEwen asked Mr. Tidwell how is the relationship with FWP in regard to sharing collar frequencies. Mr. Tidwell said it is good and last fall they added MOU language about GPS data. The relationship framework is solid.

Mr. Gillespie asked how they are doing keeping up with the demand for coyote work. Mr. Tidwell said funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for grizzly work has allowed for the hiring of two additional personnel which frees up other specialists to do coyote work.

Mr. Gillespie spoke about the grizzly bills he has carried in the past three legislative sessions. One of the bills would allow a livestock owner to kill a grizzly bear harassing or killing livestock. He said while this is Montana law, federal law still trumps state law because the bears are listed. Currently a rancher cannot legally kill a bear. Ms. Allestad said she was on the original grizzly bear committee that came up with the original management plan in the late 1980's. She was also part of the Yellowstone ecosystem committee back in 1997. Population goals have been met and think about it, it's 2023 and still the bears are listed. Mr. Gillespie said we're in the 48th year and over half that time they could have been delisted. Mr. McEwen said we cannot let the federal government give up on their obligation financially on bear management because that isn't going to go away. The agencies that manage bears after delisting need that funding to stay in place. Money used to pay claims comes from the Montana taxpayer and the feds should be helping out.

Ms. Gillespie said she is presenting Mr. Edwards with the bills by Senator Gillespie and Representative Fitzgerald signed by the governor and the pen he used. Mr. Edwards thanked Ms. Gillespie for the honor.

Budget Status – Rollover Funds: Mr. Edwards handed the board the latest figures from accounting. He said we ended up \$12,000 under budget for the past state fiscal year. Part of the reason for this was the long gap between board meetings while the new grant guidelines were under review. Normally we would have had at least one more board meeting which would have reduced the budget surplus. We typically come close to zero by the end of a budget year. In the claims account there was \$25,857 in excess funding which is the rollover fund. Half of this goes into the state grant fund. The remaining half is allowed to be divided between the board and Wildlife Services. The board may retain up to ten percent (\$1,923) for board operations and forty percent (\$11,635) may be sent to Wildlife Services for the work they do for the board. Traditionally the board has always done this except for one year about four years ago. To do this Mr. Edwards said the board would need to make a motion to retain the ten percent and to provide the forty percent to Wildlife Services. Ms. Gillespie asked for a motion to do this.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve Mr. Edwards request. Raina Blackman seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Edwards said the current balance in the loss prevention fund is \$174,000. We have less than \$100,000 in grant requests so he asked if the board would be willing to do a second round of grant applications for early next year. This makes it easier for people to plan their loss prevention efforts. Additionally, the board will be receiving another \$100,000 next July which could prompt a grant meeting after that as well. The other piece to this is the board's license plate fund. Currently there is \$57,322 in that account. This has mostly been used as the

board's savings account if the board goes over budget in operations and can also be used for grants. He said budgetarily the board is in good shape. Livestock values are higher this year so the board may see payments nearing the \$300K mark. Most claims come in between now and the end of the year.

Late Claims: Mr. Edwards said the board has informally talked about placing a date on when claims may be submitted but an administrative rule should be done for this to occur. He said just a week ago he received a claim from eleven months ago. It should have been paid out of the prior budget year. This could be a problem if the following budget year's claim fund nears depletion. Already this year the board has received a number of claims from 2022. Every year there are a four or five but this year the board has already exceeded that. Mr. Edwards suggestion is to state a time period that begins when the claim form and investigation report are mailed to the livestock owner by USDA Wildlife Services. He said about four months would be a reasonable amount of time for a cutoff point. Everybody has monthly bills they have to do, and our form takes less than five minutes to complete. Mr. Kipp said he thought the board already agreed to six months. Mr. Edwards said six months is fine too. Mr. Tidwell said his office strives to get the forms out within a week after his specialist sends him the investigations.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to start the administrative rules process with a six-month time limit from when the investigation is done by USDA Wildlife Services. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** A member of the audience asked what would happen if the claim was not submitted in time. Mr. Edwards said if the claim was not submitted within the six-month time, they would not get paid. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Guard Dog Values: Mr. Edwards reminded the board of Mr. Quigley's appeal for his guard dog payment. He didn't seek additional money but wanted the board to update the value set back in 2012. Mr. Edwards said we have been paying \$1,030 for guard dog loss. He said the board has received requests for grants to purchase guard dogs but the value of them is quite a bit lower than the board's \$1,030. He asked Mr. McEwen to speak to his knowledge of guard dog prices. Mr. McEwen said some of them aren't worth having but a good one is priceless. However, when you do go to buy them, they go anywhere from \$300 to \$500 and he has seen them as high as \$1,500 but he doesn't buy the \$1,500 dog. Price doesn't mean it will work. Kipp's sell a different kind of protection dog. It's more for homestead type protection rather than for livestock protection. Mr. Kipp said he paid \$1,000 to his daughter for an excellent dog. Mr. McEwen said the first guy, Teddy Thompson, ran those Karelian bear dogs and he bought dogs from him. The value was \$50, and he bought him a jug one day and it didn't cost him anything for that dog. They were good dogs. He thinks when we are paying compensation for these dogs it's just like when you turn in your car that you just wrecked with the insurance company. It's the value of the car, it's not the money you have into them. There is always a cost of doing business and we can't replace that because it's different for everyone. He said if you want a dog and

you have to pay \$1,500 for a dog, I would tell you to shop around. The best dog he has was free. When they have a litter, they have eight in a litter. By the time you get half of them gone, you're tired of the other half. The value has to be for the dog, not for what you have in the dog. Because we all know that we can put a lot of money into these dogs just for maintenance and it doesn't count. Mr. Edwards said Ms. Allestad has sold guard dogs. She said it's been a long time since selling the highest price one and it wasn't a \$1,000. It was already broke and a year old. The rest sold for around \$500. Mr. Edwards asked if the board wanted to stay with the current value. Ms. Blackman asked if \$500 would buy a decent pup. Mr. McEwen said you have to look around and some dogs aren't worth any money. He went on to say a dog is not a silver bullet and can be a management nightmare. Mr. Edwards said the board can stay with the current amount. Ms. Allestad said that is too high. We should say it's toward a replacement dog and set a value of \$500.

Motion: Raina Blackman made a motion to set the value for payment at \$500 for a replacement dog. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Joe Kipp said \$500 is fine but for a Karelian dog. His wife spent \$1,000 for the last one but the one before that cost \$1,800. Most of them have even a greater value. He would rather see a value set at \$750 instead of \$500 but that is fine. Mr. Edwards said the state law revolves around a typical guard dog. Dave McEwen said in the pure sense of the words it's a completely different animal than the kind of guard dogs we have been paying for. It's like the difference between a donkey and a horse. Mr. Edwards said it says livestock guard dogs in the law. Doreen Gillespie said we are going to leave the motion as it stands. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Board Screening Panel Review: Mr. McEwen said he will ask the chair for a motion for each grant then that will open it up for discussion. If the board has questions specifically about why the screening panel said yes or no, we can go over that.

Grant Applications:

1. Big Hole Watershed Committee application. Mr. McEwen said the panel didn't fill out the first page of the review form because of inadequate information. It started out with a carcass system and then a range rider program. They called the individual in charge who wanted the range rider program, but all their matching funds were in equipment for the carcass program. They have a match for the carcass program. They are matching this grant with another grant. Mr. McEwen questioned if they have documented depredations. He questioned that only four people had signed up for the range rider program. He wanted to know if any of the four had a depredation and asked Mr. Tidwell for a simple yes or no answer. Mr. Tidwell said he could not speak to the four but had visited with the specialist from this area and that sheet was provided to the board. Mr. McEwen said of the \$20,420 requested, how much are they eligible for?

The sheet shows there have been some wolf predation and possibly one bear depredation. Ms. Gillespie called for a motion to accept or amend this grant request.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to amend this grant. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Raina Blackman asked if this was for compensation or prevention. Mr. Edwards said grants are for prevention. Mr. McEwen said if this is for a wolf project, we need a 50% match. If it's a bear project, we would require a 30% match. As part of the stipulations of this grant he wants a detailed summary at the end of the year. It must be applicable to the people who signed up. Mr. Edwards said while it's been primarily related to wolves, grizzly bears have been at the edges of this area. This area used to be the highest predation area in the state but is very low now. This could be because their prevention activities are working. Elaine Allestad said individual donations are only \$1,500. Doreen Gillespie said if we are amending this, what is the amount to approve. Elaine Allestad asked what their match is and where it comes from. Mr. Edwards said it's in the application. \$6,000 from the Cinnabar Foundation, \$10,000 from Patagonia and \$4,420 from private donations. Mr. Edwards said the last page is the investigations and depredations. They contacted Wildlife Services because not all claims are submitted to our board. Dave McEwen said they are eligible for a grant, but we need to decide if they are eligible for the entire amount. Joe Kipp asked Mr. Tidwell if there is grizzly predation in this area. He responded there were two confirmed losses. Joe Kipp said in his area he has not had a confirmed or probable loss, but he had several calves go missing and cows with big bags. He said if a man says he has loss we should go fifty fifty. Dorren Gillespie called a point of order to get back to the motion. Elaine Allestad said her motion to amend the amount of \$15,000 and a report by October 20th on their activities including any predation. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Linda Owens commented to the board that looking at just the ranches in a project is not how to look at it as wildlife boundaries are not determined by a fence. Looking at it this way tears away community support. Projects help ranches bordering projects too. Mr. Kipp responded it's a lot of money for the number of cattle being protected, only 170 pairs are signed up. He said numbers count. He wants to see higher numbers to help justify the money.

2. Bill Martinell application: Mr. McEwen said the screening panel approved this grant of \$565 to purchase dog food for his guard dogs. Ms. Gillespie called for a motion.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion approving this grant for \$565. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Raina Blackman asked how many dogs does he have. Mr. Edwards said he has a number of dogs and has losses every year. He is asking for help to pay for dog food. In the past he has been awarded grants to purchase guard dogs. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

3. Blackfeet Stockgrowers Association application: Mr. McEwen said this grant is a continuation from last year's grant. He said if you want to see a report should look like for a range rider, they did a good job. Because this is a government affiliated range rider, we know exactly what was going on up there and what they did to resolve issues. He went on to say there is a lot of scrutiny at the federal level about range riders. They are trying to decide whether they are working or not and whether that money is going to be appropriate for these programs. He asked the chair for a motion. Ms. Gillespie asked for the motion and Joe Kipp abstained because of his involvement with Blackfeet Stockgrowers.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion approving this \$15,400 grant for range riders. Elaine Allestad seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Joe Kipp said he is abstaining. Mr. McEwen said the only thing he would like to note is the grant form showed a higher request, but Blackfeet Stockgrowers asked to reduce it to the \$15,400 amount **Vote:** Raina Blackman, Elaine Allestad, Dave McEwen and Doreen Gillespie in favor. Joe Kipp abstained from the vote.

4. Centennial Valley Association application: Mr. McEwen said this grant is basically for a range rider again. Mr. Edwards said people from the association are present. Mr. McEwen said the screening panel didn't have a problem with that. What we need is a complete description of activities and depredations concerning last year to this year. He stated if we are doing good, what are we doing differently there that we are not doing somewhere else. He asked for a motion on the grant. Mr. Edwards said he would like to add that they do reports constantly and send them out. He said he is on their list to receive them. Ms. Gillespie called for the motion.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion approving this \$18,000 grant for range riders. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

5. Holland Ranch application: Mr. McEwen said the screening committee approved this however it is only for wolf depredation in this area. Under the restraints of grants for wolf depredation, the amount should be \$3,480. The board will need receipts for the dog and dog food. Ms. Gillespie called for the motion.

Motion: Raina Blackman made a motion approving this grant for \$3,480. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

6. Kathy Kipp application: Mr. McEwen said this is a grant for \$1,632. It is to help with dogs used to keep bears out of the calving area and around their home. They have had known depredations and matching dollars. Joe Kipp recused himself from the discussion and the vote. Mr. McEwen asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Gillespie called for the motion.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion approving this grant for \$1,632. Elaine Allestad seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad asked if there are reports on the losses. Mr. Edwards said yes, Wildlife Services has confirmed losses on this ranch. They had a tough one to prove last year as most of a newborn calf had been totally consumed. Wildlife Services made several trips there looking for the needed evidence which they ultimately found. Mr. McEwen said they checked with Wildlife Services and with Mr. Edwards to verify if the area has losses. In this case it's in an area he called a predator meca. **Vote:** Raina Blackman, Elaine Allestad, Dave McEwen and Doreen Gillespie in favor. Joe Kipp abstained from the vote.

7. Marla Martinell application: Mr. McEwen said this \$648 grant is for maintaining a guard dog. All he asks is that they submit receipts for the dog food. Doreen Gillespie called for a motion.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion approving this grant for \$648. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

8. Mike Hoggan application: Mr. McEwen recommends this grant with one caveat. That's the ten percent of the asset (livestock) value. He is requesting \$4,381 and with the ten percent asset value we can only grant him \$3,294. Ms. Gillespie asked for a motion.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion approving \$3,294 for this grant. Raina Blackman seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mr. Edwards said Mr. Hoggan put up an extensive fence with a super-hot charger. He sent a lot of pictures including a grizzly bear running down the fence. He said for the benefit of those attending, the board has a policy of awarding grants up to ten percent of the total value of the livestock being covered. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

9. New Miami application: Mr. McEwen said this grant is for a guard dog and dog food. He requested a motion to approve this grant for \$1,120. Ms. Gillespie asked for a motion.

Motion: Raina Blackman made a motion approving \$1,120 for this grant. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

10. Ron Van Dyke application: Mr. McEwen said this \$10,000 request is for range riders. Their matching funds are all in order. We put the same caveats on this one. We want to make sure they hired a range rider. Wildlife Services recommend approval for this program. Mr. Edwards said he will send out a copy of the Wildlife Services report with each grant as an example of what the board wants to see at the end of the grant period. Mr. Kipp asked that Mr. Van Dyke seek a range rider employed by Wildlife Services in the future. The area they are covering is very remote, taking three days to ride in and there is no cell phone service. His two employees

do have satellite phones. Using Wildlife Services gives them more services such as verifying loss while evidence still exists. Ms. Gillespie asked for a motion.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion approving \$10,000 for this grant. Elaine Allestad seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

11. Ruby Valley Conservation District application: Mr. McEwen said the screening panel initially tabled this grant as they needed further information. RVCD did provide the requested information. He said there is just one thing about this grant. They are under a great deal of scrutiny from a lot of different areas. He just advised them to be very careful, very prudent in what they are doing. He said we don't need any disease coming out of their carcass disposal area. He asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Gillespie requested the motion.

Motion: Raina Blackman made a motion approving \$12,000 for this grant. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

12. Ethan Forester application: Mr. McEwen said the screening panel disapproved this grant because of a no need situation. The area where this ranch is located does not have a predation problem with wolves or grizzly bears. He asked for a motion to deny. Ms. Gillespie requested the motion.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to deny this grant application. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Raina Blackman asked where the area is for this grant. Dave McEwen said Martinsdale. Mr. Edwards said Kyren Kunkel was in the room if they had any questions about this application. He said he also had sent Mr. Forester the per-capita form as this ranch had not paid the fees at the time of the submission of this grant. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

13. Kalsta Ranch application: Mr. McEwen said this is similar to the previous grant and there is no need. He asked for a motion to deny. Ms. Gillespie called for the motion.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to deny this grant application. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Joe Kipp said there was no purpose for this grant. When it says what are you going to do with this grant they just said not available. Mr. Edwards added he could not find any record of this ranch paying their per-capita fees. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

14. Quigley Ranch application: Mr. McEwen said the screening panel identified that the application was not filled out properly. He did not sign the application.

Motion: Raina Blackman made a motion to deny this grant application. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad asked if they had paid their per-capita fees. Mr. Edwards responded that they had. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: Ms. Gillespie asked if there is any public comment.

Linda Owens asked how much money went out. Mr. McEwen said there was \$130,338 requested. We denied a \$980 dollar grant, a \$7,320 dollar grant and a \$6,000 dollar grant. We reduced one. Mr. Edwards said he showed around \$89,000 but that was before the reductions the board made today. Mr. Kipp asked how much is left. Mr. Edwards said we started out with \$175,000 so we have a little under \$100,000 left for grants. He said we will open another round for grant applications beginning on October 1st and closing November 15th. The screening panel will review them and then we will hold another board meeting on December 2nd in Billings as suggested by Mr. McEwen.

A member of the public said their projects go beyond October 20th so it would be difficult to get a full picture and send in a report by then. Mr. McEwen said there is a Wildlife Services National advisory meeting and one of the things they are scrutinizing is range riders. Most of them are third party. Currently two range rider programs involve USDA employees so that would make them the managing agency. Mr. Kipp said it is a funding meeting. Mr. McEwen said as a third-party entity what are you allowed to do? So, when you are riding around and come across a grizzly, what power do you have and what is your effectiveness? It gets into all these questions, and these are the questions being asked by in Washington and fundability of it. He said if we have something to take back with us even if it is a partial report it will help. Things like how many predators did you run into and how does a non-participating neighbor affect you. He is in a program for coyotes and said in terms of coyotes it costs him 25% of his lamb crop every year. He has neighbors who don't allow coyotes to be shot. He encouraged getting full participation and acknowledged that is tough. He asked participants to report anything that is positive in their programs.

Trina Bradley asked if the main reason Quigley Ranch didn't get their grant is because they didn't sign it. Mr. McEwen said yes if it's not signed you're done. Mr. Edwards said this grant and several of the others were filled out for the ranches by Kim Johnston with People and Carnivores. Last year they were awarded a grant for guard dogs. Mr. Quigley in the past had said his dogs were showing up at the neighbors. Mr. McEwen said before you get granted a dog you should have five testimonials of five neighbors saying let him have a dog. This dog thing is getting crazy. Ms. Bradley said in the grant guidelines it says you need confirmed loss but yet she lives in grizzly bear central. Because they haven't had a recent confirmed loss, would that make her ineligible. Mr. Kipp said it's not necessary that it is on a specific ranch. If you are in a high impact area, you are eligible. He said it's based on points. If we get overwhelmed with grants

they will be ranked on a points system. If you're in Glacier, Pondera or Madison counties you are probably going to get a grant as these are high predation areas. We spent a lot of time with Lieutenant Governor, Kristen Juras exchanging emails as they were being developed. With her help, we developed the grant guidelines. Mr. Edwards added the reason for the signature requirement is that there is a legal disclaimer at the end of the application. If you don't sign the application, you have not acknowledged the disclaimer.

Linda Owens said we are in a difficult situation which the board is very familiar with in the Yellowstone area. We hear you need confirmed or probable loss. Something that has been documented. Then we hear that if there is still a confirmed or probable that we're not solving the problem and it's not that simple. As we all know, food sources vary each year. We walk away from these meetings shaking our head, like we can't guarantee that we're solving the summer trying to reduce conflict. Mr. McEwen said he wants to make it very clear. He knows Mike Hogan and he has never had a certified depredation on his place, but he is in a high impact area. Bears walk by his house every day. If you're in a high impact area and what you've been doing has been saving your butt, you should continue to do that. If a grant application comes in and it's not a high impact area with no kills then it will probably be thrown out. An example is the Martinsdale area that does not have kills. If you're in an area and your program is alleviating your problems, continue to do that. That's why this board is here to help. We will ask Wildlife Services if this producer live in an area where they need help with large predators. It's about risk. The better answer we are seeking is what is the depredation activity in your area and if we don't get a clear answer, we will ask Wildlife Services. Mr. Edwards added he informs the board about claims, but he also acknowledged not everyone turns in claims.

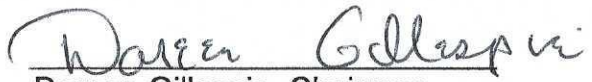
Trina Bradley said it seems you have plenty of funding for grants. What about places that are about to be impacted. Bears are starting to show up near Fort Benton. Can somebody get a prevention grant? Mr. Kipp said is there a reasonable threat and do these people need help to protect that. Mr. Edwards said over all the years the board has been issuing grants, it's always been put in high-risk areas first. It is a board decision whether to hold the money to save it for high-risk areas over areas that may or may not have a problem. Typically, the board had more requests than money. This year because of the delay creating the guidelines grants weren't issued so now there is extra money. In the past some grants were reduced to help get money into high-risk areas. Mr. McEwen said we will prioritize bad areas first. Mr. Edwards said he will send Ms. Bradley the scoring sheet so she can see how points are awarded.

Senator Gillespie said he really wanted to thank the board and especially Mr. Kipp and Mr. McEwen for putting in a tremendous amount of time. The board has answered questions the best they can, so people don't assume the worst. They are here to help and it's only getting better.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to adjourn. Dave McEwen seconded the motion.
Discussion: None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Adjourned

DATED this 2nd day of December 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doreen Gillespie".

Doreen Gillespie, Chairman
Montana Livestock Loss Board