



Livestock Loss Board Members Present:

Doreen Gillespie – Chairperson
Elaine Allestad
Dave McEwen
Joe Kipp
Patti Quisno

Staff: George Edwards – Executive Director

Guests: Butch Gillespie

Dalin Tidwell
Kraig Glazier
Mabel Runningfisher
Jim Runningfisher
Tracie Roeder
Trina Bradley
Ty Smucker
Dan Tompkins
Amber Cornak
Raylee Honeycutt
Steve Primm

Jammie Rammell
Helena Eddelson
Tana Nulph
Wesley Saramento
Kelly Ingalls
Jim Stone
Ericka Nunlist
Alex Few
Trina Bradley
Linda Owens
Marc Cooke

Call to Order and Administrative Items

Introductions

- Each board member and board staff introduced themselves.

Board Minutes

Board members reviewed the October 14, 2021, and December 10, 2021 minutes.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve both set of minutes. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mr. Kipp said page six of the December minutes needs to have a word corrected. Great horse needs to be changed to grade horse. Mr. Edwards said he will make the correction. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Budget Status

Mr. Edwards placed a report from Evan Waters in the board book. It is primarily for informational purposes. We are staying within our budget. Also included in the board book is a message from the governor's office as far as agency goals and objectives for the next biennium. The first page is basically stating goals that the governor has in mind to make things better such as higher paying jobs, reduce regulations and red tape, improve customer service, accountability and efficiency. Board members addressed red tape review this past December. which was addressed during the December meeting.

Loss claims are still being processed within days of receiving them. We are efficiency goals Wildlife services is only able to mail out the investigation reports to ranchers so we cannot improve our claim form process. However, we did meet the goal of making our grant form available online in fillable online.

The next pages are the budget development. This is just a calendar of when things occur, so board members are aware of what is needed to be done. This is part of developing the legislation, we have our concepts done.

2021 Claims Statistics

Mr. Edwards said in 2021, the board exceeded the \$300,000 yearly appropriation. However, this does not mean we are out of money to pay claims. This is on calendar year which is easier for the general public to understand. In 2021 we have hit records in both the number of animals we've paid for, and the dollars paid out. He said he wanted to point out on this is the board has \$300,000 which was accumulated over a decade. This is a basically a reserve fund that if we run of the \$300,000 annual appropriation, we may have to dip into that reserve fund for claims. This could potentially happen in May or June in order to pay all of the claims in the current budget year. All reporting on the stats sheet is on a calendar year. The state budget year is from July 1st to June 30th. Mr. Edwards emphasized he doesn't want anybody to think we don't have money to pay claims. However, reserve fund will only last for so long before we run out of money if predation continues to increase. The reserve should last at least a few more years. The board may need to go to the legislature to request more funding at some point.

Mr. McEwen said he knows Stockgrowers is listening, and he addressed a three-month time limit for claims with Mr. Bodner because they were concerned. One of the board's legislative proposals is to require all claims are submitted within three months for payment. The reason is because we need to make sure our budget is closely monitored. We need to be able to go to the legislature and the taxpayers with current information to pay those claims. If we have stuff sitting out there that hasn't been turned in, it's kind of hard to stay current. Mr. Edwards said Mr. McEwen brought up a good point. Within the past week an October claim was submitted and the week before, a claim from April was turned in. The April claim should have been paid out of our prior year's budget. Money to pay the prior budget year claim rolled over into a restricted loss prevention fund. This money cannot be moved back into the claims fund to pay old claims. This impacts the board's ability to pay claims in a current budget year.

Mr. Edwards stated we are on an uphill trajectory for claims since grizzly bears were added in 2013. 2020 was an anomaly year with lower numbers of claims but 2021 put us right back on that upward trajectory of breaking records every year. If that trend continues, that can place a financial hardship on us.

Mr. McEwen said there is a meeting being set up with Senator Daines in Conrad on April 6th. Details are still being worked out. He would like Mr. Edwards and Mr. Glazier to attend for informational purposes and will send out information to the board in case any of them would like to attend. Note: this is not a board sponsored event.

Grant Applications

Big Hole Watershed Committee – Ms. Gillespie asked if there was any discussion from the board on this? Mr. McEwen requested that Mr. Edwards read the first box and paragraph for each grant as they are introduced. He said he had reviewed each grant and then we could enter into a discussion. Mr. Edwards read the paragraphs for this grant to the board. Six ranches had submitted the grant supplement forms for this grant. A good description of the range rider's work was described and noted regular contact with the livestock producer. While this area is primarily involving wolves, it was noted that a picture of a grizzly bear as captured on a game camera last year. Ms. Nulph was asked if the range rider has seen a grizzly bear. She said the rider had not seen it yet, but the photo was taken on one of the grazing allotments. The requested \$15,000 is what she needs to cover a full year of monitoring. Mr. McEwen asked who pays the wages for riders. Ms. Nulph replied the Big Hole Watershed Committee. Mr. McEwen asked if the rider does any other work for the participants of this group other than predator prevention. Ms. Nulph said the rider will report invasive weeds and downed fences to the ranchers as a courtesy but that is not part of their duties. Mr. McEwen asked for a brief description of what this range rider does. Ms. Nulph described hazing activities, marking scat and cattle behavior. The rider

keeps a diary of what they observed. Mr. McEwen stated there is a lot of controversy concerning range rider effectiveness. If we can't show where there's some effectiveness for prevention of livestock loss, we're just we're just not going to be able to fund these programs. That's our mission is to prevent livestock loss. Mr. Edwards asked Mr. McEwen if he wants a copy of the riders notes to be sent to the board to which he responded absolutely as it is a struggle to evaluate the effectiveness for these programs. Mr. McEwen asked if Wildlife Services was allowed on these ranches because in other areas, he said there are ranches that don't allow them to investigate. Ms. Nulph was not aware of any ranches who do not allow Wildlife Services to investigate in her area. Ms. Gillespie agrees with Mr. McEwen asking this question and would like to see a box added to future board forms asking if Wildlife Services is allowed on their land.

Ms. Nulph said we have detailed records from every season of the range rider program, and we'd be happy to either send them in for 2021, if that's what you want or add you to the distribution list for 2022. Mr. Edwards said it's a question that has been brought up by every board member who have told him there are some concerns with range rider programs.

Mr. McEwen asked about the participating ranches. Are there absentee owners in these ranches or are these actual people that live on the land? Ms. Nulph said they all live there. His next question was how many of them have conservation easements and allow work by wildlife services to help mitigate predation problems. Ms. Nulph responded that is an interesting question. I don't know definitively. I don't think any of them have conservation easements as they are not a very popular thing in the Big Hole. Mr. McEwen said he would like to have this question added to future grant forms. Ms. Gillespie said she had one last question, do any of these landowners allow the relocation of grizzly bears? Ms. Nulph did not know. Ms. Gillespie said if the issue arises that of grizzly bears are relocated on to a ranch and then we are paying a lot of claims on that same ranch, it's counterintuitive and maybe not a good use of taxpayer money. Ms. Gillespie called for a motion.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve the Big Hole Watershed Committee grant \$30,000. Dave McEwen seconded the motion with a friendly amendment that data from this program comes back to us, possibly on a month-to-month basis. We are going to have to justify this stuff down the road. Mr. Kipp accepted this as a friendly amendment. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Note; Ms. Gillespie accepted votes from board members by visually seeing them waive for their votes.

Kim Johnston / Bill Martinell – Mr. Edwards read the boxes from the grant form. It is for dog food, wormer, and vaccinations expenses related to his protection dogs.

Mr. McEwen asked does he already have the dogs and he just wants a little money for food wormer and vaccinations. Ms. Johnston said yes to help pay for guard dog expenses to protect his sheep. Mr. McEwen asked if the board has paid any claims on this ranch. Mr. Edwards responded yes, for sheep claims, typically one or two per year.

Ms. Johnston said she has helped several producers with grant applications. Mr. McEwen asked if she was getting paid by these ranches. She responded no; she works for a nonprofit organization. All the money is going directly to the landowner. Mr. McEwen asked how many guard dogs he has. Ms. Johnston responded five. They are mostly Akbash Anatolian crosses. Mr. McEwen said he runs five guard dogs, and it costs him about \$3.50 per day per dog. Ms. Gillespie called for a motion.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve the Bill Martinell grant for \$1,536. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Vote: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Blackfeet Stockgrowers Association – This is a request for \$28,000 Mr. Edwards read the boxes from the grant form. Mr. Edwards asked Mr. Kipp as the president of this organization to recuse himself. Mr. Kipp recused himself from the vote on this grant. This grant is to hire a range rider for three of the most heavily preyed upon ranches as determined by USDA Wildlife Services Specialist, Glenn Hall. The range rider will communicate regularly with producers. Work will be from June 1st through September 30, 2022, Wildlife Services has agreed to hire, train, and provide all equipment except horses. Wildlife Services estimate a cost of \$27,500 to cover a range rider. Mr. McEwen stated this grant was written the way a range rider grant should be written. I think that the fact that they're under the guidance of USDA is going to be extremely helpful and I want to make sure that all the documentation comes back to us for review on a 30-day basis. Mr. Edwards said he received an email stating this was going to be a Wildlife Services employee funded through Blackfeet Stockgrowers. He said Dalin Tidwell is struggling to get the supplies necessary to get this program started. He asked on a grant like this, you may want to consider doubling the grant amount for the following year. It would be because Wildlife Services need to get all this stuff in place, He said maybe Kraig Glazier or Dalin Tidwell could speak to that. Mr. Edwards spoke about holding out a similar amount for Blackfeet Stockgrowers to apply for next year so that Wildlife Services can plan ahead such as keeping a truck and equipment in place. Mr. McEwen asked Mr. Kipp if this is an ongoing year after year project. Mr. Kipp said if we can see some positive results. This is a great idea because he didn't realize Wildlife Services was going to have such a hard time this year. He said if this will make it easier for them to have the equipment for their new employee, please double our request amount. Mr. Tidwell said the one thing with vehicles, we don't own a big fleet of vehicles. We have to lease them and that takes quite a process to get that type of infrastructure. We could start this process in December to get ready for that next season. That is why we are in a bind right now. Mr. Kipp wanted to

qualify when Ainsley and I were putting this grant together, we wanted to start out with one range rider and we've decided going through Wildlife Services, was the best approach. In the future we may expand the program across the entire reservation. Mr. Edwards said he wanted to bring it to the board's attention that they may want to look at this in terms of reserving money so that Mr. Tidwell knows that he can get that process started in December if needed. They would probably would have to make a request next year. Mr. McEwen asked if the board could hold those funds in our system until all of the working parts are put together and then award the grant. If it's this year, we'll get it out to them. If it isn't then we'll get it out to them in December. Mr. Tidwell stated for this year, we will just be hard pressed to pull it off just because we didn't know if this was a go or not. We have already put out announcements for recruitment. We could get it together, but it may be into June/July later in the season and it could be a delayed effect for this year. If we had the head start that that would be appropriate. Mr. Kipp said he had not thought about the logistics involved and would appreciate it if a block of money was held out for them to apply next year. We may not need to money until Mr. Tidwell can make arrangements to hire and outfit a range rider. Mr. Edwards said his suggestion was only to allow for the possibility of a second grant next year if the Wildlife Services range rider is viable. They would need to resubmit a grant request for next year. It is only to hold a similar amount of current grant funds in order to provide confidence to Wildlife Services to hold supplies needed for a following year. Ms. Gillespie called for a motion.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve Blackfeet Stockgrowers Association grant for \$28,000 with the caveat to hold out the same amount of grant funds contingent on their application next year. Patty Quisno seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** Dave McEwen, Doreen Gillespie, Patty Quisno and Elaine Allestad voted to approve. Joe Kipp recused himself from the Motion carried.

Mr. McEwen made a statement saying I can't emphasize enough how much under the gun this program is and that's statewide on the effectiveness. We need to make sure we dot our "i"s and cross our "t"s and make sure that we're getting something done because that's the bottom line. So, we are going to have to have make sure we get all of that stuff in place and have it available for higher ups.

Ms. Allestad was unable to join the meeting during time allotted for board supplies in the board's trailer. In order to keep it within an hour of time listed on the agenda, it was discussed now. Mr. Edwards said supplies for the board's loss prevention trailer would come from loss prevention grant funds. He spoke about the program jointly ran by the board and Wildlife Services. He did this for the benefit general public to understand it's purpose. He said Ms. Allestad came up with the idea of providing supplies for a loaner program so ranchers could try out loss prevention without having a great expense such as fladry. It was so a rancher could see if it would work on their ranch. The initial idea was for the board to rent a storage shed in Helena and ranchers could come to us for

supplies. Many years ago, board members decided a trailer was more practical and they approached Wildlife Services to see if they could come up with an employee to help install these things on a loaner basis. Wildlife Services State Director, John Steuber hired Adam Baca for this position. A bit of a misunderstanding occurred and some of these supplies have been left on ranches. The purpose was that if a rancher wanted to keep these supplies, they could apply to the board for grant and just basically ask if they could keep whatever Adam had installed. Ranchers were to participate in helping to install things such as electrified fladry. It does wear out and so do chargers. Connectors on post for fladry would stay on the posts. Mr. Edwards asked Mr. Tidwell for a list of supplies needed to restock the trailer. He said a block of money from state grant funds is needed but doesn't mean it has to be spent right away. Mr. Tidwell supplied a list for the board to consider.

Motion: Doreen Gillespie made a motion to approve a block of funding for the board to purchase supplies. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Bradley had a question for the board. She was asking if the board goes through all of the grant applications and suddenly runs out of money. Is there a point where the board goes back to the ones already approved? Ms. Gillespie said we will go ahead to approve all of them we feel were successful and if we are over budget we will go back. Mr. Kipp said some of the applications will not pass. Ms. Bradley asked if it's an option for every single person who applies to be able to be guaranteed that money for next year as well? Mr. Edwards said the request came from Wildlife Service because they are having trouble making things working out and to keep it going for a two-year period. In essence, it is it was singled out and brought up this way. Wildlife Services is our main partner with everything we do. The board doesn't necessarily have to adopt it, although they could on any of these grants and grant them for an additional year and that would come out of the pot of money that's available July 1st.

Blackfoot Challenge – This request is for \$20,000. Mr. Edwards read the boxes from the grant application. They are requesting funding for their carcass removal program and range riders in the Blackfoot watershed. Their carcass removal program has been in operation since 2003. They hire three seasonal range riders. \$2,000 of the request is for administration.

Ms. Gillespie asked if the carcasses animals that were killed by grizzly bears or animals that just died. Mr. Edwards replied it can be any source. The purpose is to remove attractants so that they don't bring in predators to an area. Mr. McEwen asked Mr. Stone about collecting wildlife carcasses. Mr. Stone said they collect them as well as Department of Transportation, but they are composted in separate areas. Mr. McEwen said he didn't think they were allowed to compost them at all. Mr. Stone said they are still doing it in his area. Three staff do the collections. Mr. McEwen asked who they are accountable to. Mr. Stone said Eric Graham is their wildlife coordinator. Mr. McEwen asked how many grizzly bear

relocations sites are there in the valley. Mr. Stone said you would have to ask the Fish & Wildlife Service or FWP for that as he didn't know the number. All of the sites he is aware of were on federal ground. He said there is only on forest permit in the valley. Ms. Gillespie said it appears people on the land are letting it happen. Mr. Stone replied it's all on public land, not on private land. Mr. McEwen said he was looking at a map and there are multiple spots in that area. He thinks that most of them are on Forest Service, but there are a few on private property.

Mr. McEwen's next question was asking how many people have conservation easements. Mr. Stone said he didn't know the exact number but there are a lot of conservation easements. Grizzly bears relocated on federal lands could be on private land the same evening. Bears move through the valley constantly. Mr. McEwen said FWP held a relocation site meeting a month and a half ago and possibly the Blackfoot Challenge didn't have a problem with relocated bears. He said we didn't get any support from your side of the hill on this issue. Mr. Stone said he didn't realize there was an opportunity. Mr. McEwen said we did go in front of the FWP Commission about removing relocation sites.

Mr. Edwards said he has several public comments to read that came in during this discussion. Ms. Cornak with Ruby Valley Conservation district said they are not allowed to compost wildlife with livestock due to brucellosis and CWD contamination. Ms. Owens with Madison Valley Ranchlands Group said this board initially helped to fund their site. It requires separate bunkers for wildlife and livestock. Only wildlife with 35 miles are brought to the site. Mr. Edwards said he was having difficulty in trying to manage monitoring the chats, emails, and the meeting at the same time. People were entering the meeting, exiting, and asking to be re-entered.

Mr. McEwen asked Mr. Edwards how many claims have we had from this area. Are claims increasing in this area or are they going down? Does that show effectiveness of this program? He then stated he thinks it's highly suspect that we are not doing enough, or we are not doing the right thing. Mr. Edwards said Powell County is number three for livestock predation in the state, Only Glacier and Madison Counties have more claims. He noted most the claims come from one ranch, however they also have ranch hands out with the livestock all the time. He said he believes Eric Graham is trying to work with this ranch to do some form of limited range riding towards dark to try to supplement what they are already doing. This ranch already does quite a bit of loss prevention on their own and would be new to the Challenge.

Mr. McEwen said his next question for Mr. Stone is what is the protocol when your range rider comes across a bear that is in the proximity of private property and/or livestock. Mr. Stone said they alert Fish & Wildlife Service, FWP plus all the adjacent landowners and they continue to watch that movement of that grizzly bear. He said he was not sure what else they are supposed to do with the bear. Mr. McEwen said well the can harass the bear by law. He said there wasn't any grant application where anybody was asking for money for rubber bullets. He

is fairly critical of funding people rather than actual prevention. People can legally do it and legislators passed bills on grizzlies. If you call Hilary Cooley, she can line you out on what you can do. It's also available on our website and called deterrence guidelines that Ms. Cooley put out telling you what you are allowed to do.

Mr. McEwen said he has a bit of concern about this grant and since we're concerned that we might be running short of money, maybe we should put this one aside and go onto the rest. If we still have some, we can come back and revisit this is if that is an option. Mr. Edwards said that is the board's option, it's your call. Mr. McEwen, he had visited the carcass composting site years ago. Mr. Stone said it was about ten years ago. Mr. McEwen said by now the carcass removal program has proven itself and if those guys can't buy in to support their program, then I'm not going to. He said I will support the range rider program with conditions about reported effectiveness.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve \$7,000 for the range rider portion of the grant and to exclude administrative fees. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Kim Johnston / Brian Quigley/Quigley Ranch – They are requesting \$4,702 for assistance with guard dogs, dog food, de-wormer, vaccinations, and feeders. They want to build an electrified dog storage system to deter grizzly bears.,

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve this grant request. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mr. Kipp said that is grant is similar to the earlier discussion related to guard dogs. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed

Centennial Valley Association – Mr. Edwards said they submitted their grant application is two pieces which they have done in the past. He said this is very helpful because of the different percentages needed between federal and state funds. Mr. Edwards read the first application. It is for range riders serving six producers. They describe three duties, one being human presence, two identifying sick livestock and three other hazards such as toxic plants or empty water tanks. Range riders help to protect evidence of predation by several means. Further in the application it was noted that the grant is for range riders and carcass pickup in partnership with the Big Hole Watershed Committee. Requested funds are to support their wildlife coordinator salary, rider salaries, carcass pickup, game cameras, fuel and equipment maintenance for available wolf related funding. Mr. Edwards said they are asking for \$10,000 on the grizzly side. I'm just going to take a quick look at their grizzly side. They're asking for \$10,000 on the Grizzly side. We have a total of \$160,000 in state funding and \$75,000 in federal wolf only funding for all grants.

Ericka Nunlist was asked a question by Mr. McEwen on toxic plants and water tanks and how was this prevention. She said they have had two occurrences of

toxic plants where 20 to 40 cattle had died. In the West Fork there were 20 cattle killed about four years ago from larkspur. Over 20 grizzlies were seen in a small area. The Westfork is just a few miles away and saw losses. Mr. McEwen said he has larkspur in his area and a range rider isn't going to solve that. He said carcass removal has proven itself. It's no longer experimental and they should step up and fund that program themselves. I just can't see it equipment maintenance. We have USDA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and FWP, I don't know how many more coordinators we need. If I was to approve this grant, I would approve it for \$6,750, which is for the range rider. He added he wants a 30-day diary from that range rider telling what preventative things he did within that 30 days so that we can justify that. I do have a problem with some of your people will not even allowing Wildlife Services on their place or they may allow them but then they are very vocal about work they do. They do not portray them in a very good light. Ms. Gillespie said you can't ask them to pay for your dead stuff and then spit on them on the way out the door. I'm not very happy with some of the people in that group down there.

Ms. Nunlist stated she wanted to clarify something just about the wildlife coordinator salary. This is my current position, and I am also a range rider and that salary funds me to be able to join in conversations like this and work on our range rider program throughout the season or throughout the year.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve \$6,750 for the range rider portion of the grant. Patty Quisno seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Edwards read the second CVA grant for grizzly bear loss prevention. The wolf related grant comes out of federal funding and the grizzly bear grant comes out of state funding. He said he appreciates the split grant which makes it easier to understand the funding.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve \$4,500 portion of the grant out of the \$10,000 they had requested. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ms. Gillespie was asked to call for a vote. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Dymond Runningcrane – Mr. Edwards stated Mr. Runningcrane provided receipts for the number of cattle he owns. For clarification purposes, Mr. Edwards said a grant cannot exceed 10% of the value of the livestock being covered. He said Mr. Runningcrane is requesting \$1,000 to purchase a Karelian Bear Dog to protect his cattle and horses. Mr. Kipp said Mr. Runningcrane's wife Mariah has had Karelian Bear Dogs for 31 years. The present one she owns is seven and it's time to get another dog on board for her.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve \$1,000 for the dog. Patty Quisno seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Nathan Brown – Mr. Edwards read this grant saying the grant is for fencing to protect an area where they raise pigs and goats. He noted the application references protection from coyotes and potentially mountain lions. Mr. Brown had noted they have had predation from both of these predators in the past.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to deny Mr. Brown's grant request for \$3,750 Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Kim Johnston / Gordon Martinell – Mr. Edwards read the grant application for \$1,721. He said it is for assistance in paying for guard dog, food, wormer, and vaccinations. He also noted that the board has paid loss claims on this ranch. Mr. McEwen asked Ms. Johnston if he has dogs now. She responded he does. He purchased three guard dogs that are out on the property right now. Mr. McEwen said as the owner of guard dogs, it's a nightmare not only for the sheep, but for the dogs it's it'll drag you nuts and one of them usually doesn't make it. Ms. Johnston said he placed them with an older dog, and they are monitoring them with tracking collars. They have active wolves in the area.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve this grant request. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Sevens Livestock Company – Karli Johnson graciously offered to read the paragraphs for her grant request for \$10,889. It is for a fencing project for their calving area and feed storage area. It totals about 14 acres fenced with woven wire and an electric wire on top. They are using this type of fence because it's in a river bottom area with high vegetation and they didn't have to worry about the fence grounding out in the vegetation. Mr. Kipp said this sounds very similar to my own personal situation here in a few years ago. I had Adam come out from Wildlife Services and I requested that we do the exact same thing to install a top wire on it. Adam at that time pointed out to me that it was unacceptable to use woven wire with electrified top wire. (Note: Adam Baca is a Wildlife Service Specialist who installs fencing and his position is dedicated to non-lethal loss prevention) A hot wire is needed on top and hot wire in the bottom because the bears would hit my woven wire and crawl underneath it. Adam pointed out to me that it was not acceptable because an animal theoretically could have could get caught in the woven wire and because we're going to be running high voltage, 10,000-volt pulses through the hot wires, that we could electrocute an animal while it was hooked up. He was told Wildlife Services could not be responsible for installing a practice like that. I just share that with the rest of the board. I think we need to ask the experts on from Wildlife Services if is an acceptable type of fence. Ms. Johnson wanted to clarify one thing. The woven wire is two inch by four inch woven wire. Not the traditional four inch by four inch woven wire in hopes preventing some of that. Mr. McEwen said there's got to be a solution.

There are electric fences that work and work very well. The beekeepers have proven it. Joe Kipp has proven it. I would ask you to put this on hold and I'm not saying I won't fund it. I'll help you out, but we got to get the right kind of fence in there. If you could get Dymond with USDA to come down or Skippy Sims from Wildlife Services and let them look at over and approve it, I would be more than happy to help you out, but I don't want you to put this in there knowing that traditionally it hasn't worked very well. So, let's figure out what you need to put in there and then do it that way. He said he doesn't want to offend you because he understands she has a problem. I think that they just need to look into it. So, let's just set this aside for right now and I'll let you do a little more research and get with some of these other people and figured it out. Mr. Kipp said he followed Wildlife Services recommendations. We tore down a very good substantial fence and put in five wires, three hot and two grounds with a 10,000 volts charger. It's my calving lot and I get little grandkids and I got dogs and the whole bit. But anyway, it's worked. We had a grizzly, two mornings ago. It's four o'clock in the morning, 50 feet away from the fence trying to get in. The Karelian Bear dogs were pushing them out, keeping them away. it is a lot more maintenance, especially with vegetation. But we also bought a big riding lawnmower to cut the grass underneath the fence. In the wintertime snowbanks build up. You can have a quick disconnect on the bottom hot wire. I'm just asking that we take a little bit more time and get some experts advice on what they recommend. If they recommend your program and Wildlife Services will sign off on it, I will gladly approve it the way it is.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve this grant request for \$10,889 pending approval of their fence by Wildlife Services. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Edwards explained that legislator Casey Knutson ran a bill stating the definition of a legal fence to include electric fencing. Those laws are under the Department of Livestock and describe what constitutes a legal electric fence. An electric fence by itself has to meet those requirements in order to be legal.

James Runningfisher – Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$90,000. He is requesting a grant to buy protective dogs, dog food, kennels, range riders, motion lights alarms and to build a better calving pen. Mr. Runningfisher was asked to come online because the description did not add up to the \$90,000 figure. He said his computer had crashed which may have caused some of the discrepancies. He also stated he had misunderstood the 10% value of livestock owned item. Mr. Runningfisher spoke at length about problems he is having with grizzly bears in his livestock for many years. He has also seen wolves. As a prevention method, he parked a running four-wheeler in his calving pen. Another time he put a radio out to make noise until the batteries ran out. He and his sons check their livestock every two to three hours. He has moved his cattle two miles from an area with brush. He then spoke about his cattle losses as well as his grandkids pigs. Mr. Edwards spoke about the most he would be eligible for grants is 10% of the value. Basically, if you figure \$1,000 per head, he could

receive a grant award of up to \$10,000. Mr. Kipp said everything Mr. Runningfisher said is true and we know he is in a very high area for predation.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve \$3,000 for Mr. Runningfisher to buy a couple of dogs and if there is money left over after we are all done, we would entertain calving lot electric fencing. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion.

Discussion: No further discussion. **Vote:** Doreen Gillespie, Joe Kipp, Dave McEwen approve, Elaine Allestad opposed Elaine had sent a message that she was opposed to the fencing portion of that grant.

Grizzly Creek Ranch – Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$15,000. They are looking at replacing existing barbed wire with smooth wire electric fence thereby increasing our livestock safety zone for several hundred acres. Mr. Edwards said this particular ranch doesn't own any cows, but when he contacted them he found that they leased pasture to a ranch out of Sheridan. They run about 190 pairs. Mr. McEwen asked if this ranch is owned by someone out of state. Mr. Tompkins said the owner is a California resident. Mr. McEwen then asked if there was a conservation easement on this ranch. Mr. Tompkins said yes on one of the three sections he manages. Mr. McEwen asked if the ranch is a primary ranching business or summer homes. Mr. Tompkins said the owner spends about two months each summer there and they do open the ranch to overnight accommodations. Mr. McEwen said that is guest rentals and running someone else's cattle on the grass.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to deny this grant request. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Kathleen Kipp – Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$1,300 and suggested Joe Kipp recuse himself for this grant request. Mr. Kipp said he recused himself from the vote and will answer any questions. He said Ms. Kipp had problems with the online application and the actual request is for \$1,000. Mr. Kipp said she is requesting money to buy a dog and dog food. She has owned Karelian Bear Dogs for 34 years. They run about 160 cows.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve this grant request for \$1,000. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Joe Kipp recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Edwards said he wished there was a second person to help him out to keep track of things as the meeting progressed.

Round Grove Ranch Co – Mr. Edwards read Mr. Ingles grant request for \$5,669.33. He runs a sheep operation near Townsend. He is requesting funding to replace two aging guard dogs, dog food and veterinarian and herder expenses for a half hour each day. He runs two bands of sheep in Broadwater, Meagher, and Lewis & Clark counties. Mr. Edwards said there have been wolves in the

area of his ranch for over a decade and grizzly bears just to the north of him in the Big Belt Mountains.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve this grant request. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mr. McEwen said Mr. Ingalls is the most passive individual he knows. He is in line for the highest depredations possible. He has herders and dogs, and people could take notes from Mr. Ingalls on how to run livestock to reduce predation. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Kristy Sinclair – Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$2,500. Ms. Sinclair is requesting funding to place an electric fence around five acres to protect seven horses. Mr. McEwen asked if this is for a border fence as he doesn't think the board is obligated to fence a boundary for someone.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to deny this grant request. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** No further discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Kyren Kunkel / Conservation Science Collaborative – Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$32,000. Mr. Edwards noted this grant request came in after the expected 5:00 p.m. deadline on January 31st. He received it via email at 9:45 p.m. He said this has been a complicated application because supplements were received, and some were retracted. Note: all correspondence was provided to the board prior to this meeting. Mr. Kunkel sent an email explaining he was unavailable to attend, and that Ty Smucker would be speaking for him. Trina Bradley spoke up to say she is speaking on behalf of Mr. Kunkel. Ms. Bradley said so to clarify the messy application, I just want to let you it started out as an application from Kyren for a range rider on the front for four different producers that are west of Dupuyer where there's a lot of grizzly bears and a lot of wolves. She said to make a long story short, people are not happy with Mr. Kunkel, herself included. These people need a range rider up here. So, what she did is she told them she will help them. So that's about ranchers pulling out and coming back in when they didn't want to be involved. She said wait a second, she is involved. She said I am going to make sure that this process is good for the ranchers and not going to get screwed over. We are going to make sure this goes forward. This is no longer a Kyren project. She discussed with the producers that we can do a contract for a range rider through one of the ranches and then the money would just go to whomever is going to write that effect and we could skip Kyren altogether, or you could go ahead and do the original application. She said since it has been refigured, and now that now, she has all the landowners back on board because they trust Ty Smucker and myself. So now we are going to establish this range riding program on the front. Hopefully just like the Blackfeet range rider. She said she wants to expand the program in the future, if at all possible, down the front where it is seriously needed. Ms. Gillespie said we must have rules and regulations and if we allow someone to be late and people are pulling in and pulling out, this could make it a big mess for us. So, my advice and this is going to be my motion is let's wait until next year

and have these ranchers reapply because if we start letting people be in late and then having people pulling in and pulling out the board can only handle so much. She said I would like to see them do it the right way, and then we can certainly consider it for the next time. She said she would deny this this time. Both Mr. Kipp and Mr. McEwen had their hands up to second the motion.

Motion: Doreen Gillespie made a motion to deny this grant request. Dave McEwen seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Ms. Gillespie was reminded to call for the vote. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Ms. Gillespie said we will certainly keep all these people in consideration for next year. So, okay. Mr. Edwards said I would like to add something. I'm not a board member, but I know that a lot of the emphasis has been a desire for ranchers to apply directly. It sounded like Trina is working with one of the ranches and may have figured a workaround on that that may work for in the future. Ms. Gillespie said I just wanted to tell if Trina thank you because we are looking at a possible workaround to make this in line with the board's wishes for the ranchers applying directly. She appreciates all of Ms. Bradley's hard work, there's no doubt about that.

Ms. Gillespie called for a short intermission. During the intermission while Ms. Gillespie was gone, Mr. Kipp said he would recommend that Ms. Bradley and Mr. Smucker to go ahead and fill out an application. Get your signatures even though it's late. If I'm going to throw this out, I would entertain this again before next year. If you guys could get your paperwork in fast enough and we have money left. Mr. Edwards said we will have another \$100,000 starting in July so the board may want to hold a summer grant meeting. It can be used up to a year after it is issued. That would allow them to get everything pulled together. We could possibly hold a meeting after July for the even the following year or the money for the remainder of this year. This may allow Ms. Bradley to allow her to get something going later this year because she is working on getting this fixed. Ms. Gillespie returned during this discussion. She said she wouldn't be opposed to holding a meeting this summer allowing them to be able to get this grant. Ms. Bradley said she didn't even know how many producers were involve because she didn't write it. She only knows about the producers she was working with and there are other people in the grant in need of a range rider. She asked Mr. Smucker if they already have range riders that just need continued funding. Mr. Smucker said he had one from Sun River Horse and Cattle. Apex Angus is the one that was in then out, that's Kirby Swanson. Ms. Gillespie said Kirby Swanson stepped out of it. Ms. Bradley said he is back in again and that is what she is trying to explain to the board. She said she would like to point out that Mr. Swanson pulled out because he got a phone call from a Livestock Loss Board member that convinced them to pull out. She added she has seen a lot of proposals being edited as we go here and other proposals that didn't follow the exact rules and they were fine. There is nothing stipulated that proposals had to be in a 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Mr. Edwards said it's normal for close of business. Mr. Smucker said if you apply for jobs, it's normally midnight. Ms.

Gillespie said we are not the bad guys here and you're acting like you are really angry at us. He said he is no angry at the board. He has been involved in this process for the last decade and seen how it goes. For the most part, it's been really rewarding thing to be a part of. Seeing all the projects that happen around the state, then that are very good projects that need funding. He has been asked about these areas where these proposals are being put in and they had chronic conflicts with wolves and bears. He has been able to give feedback on that. Ms. Gillespie said the board is aware of where depredations happen. She said we still have quite a few grants to go through so we will move on.

Mr. Edwards said he wanted to address having the supplements coming in late was problematic with this grant application and a few others. He is asking the board to require all documents to be submitted by the deadline. He added for the general public's knowledge, he did forward all of the late documents to the board, so they received them through an email for everything being considered.

Mr. Edwards said we have got some negative comments to the board and it says well said Ty, this is going to hit the political shit fan and it should not be, all in caps. Another said I do not see the Livestock Loss Board doing their appointed job. Ms. Allestad says offer a May date or June date for a second round of grant applications so that we can kind of work around the problems we had like with Mr. Kunkel's application. Mr. Edwards said he didn't know if you guys have been reading the comments, but he thought there were worthwhile reading. Mr. Kipp said you are going to get the positive and the negative and it happens everywhere.

Lenore McEwen - Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$800. This is for a guard dog and dog food. They have had sheep losses due to grizzly bears. Mr. McEwen was asked to recuse himself.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve this grant request. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. **Note:** Mr. McEwen recused himself and did not vote.

Montana Sheep Company - Mr. Edwards read this grant request for \$12,000. They are requesting funding for three guard dogs, dog food, veterinary care and money to build kennels. They produced on litter of guard dogs. Last year ten puppies were place on working ranches. They have chosen to produce on litter per year to provide buyers with dogs that are truly bonded to sheep. Their dogs are located at home guarding their personal sheep at home and south of Utica on grazing leases and their grazing partners sheep, Susan, and RT Snyder. They calculate the cost of feeding three guard dogs at \$7.61 per day. Their total costs for feeding, vaccinations and deworming is \$2,957. The second part of their request is for a new kennel for large dog breeding and whelping. They currently do not have a proper whelping facility or outside run areas to house young dogs before they are located or bonded to pastured sheep. Ms. Roeder provided cost

estimates for concrete and chain link fencing at \$11,552. Roeder's have 428 sheep. They said they have lost 14 sheep to either grizzlies or wolves at their home place. They lost two ewes and four lambs to a mountain lion on the Judith River pasture in 2021. Ms. Allestad said she would vote no because the match and value of the sheep seems high, and it is a dog breeding business instead of livestock protection. Ms. Gillespie asked if this was a motion. Mr. Edwards said Ms. Allestad was communicating via the chat box and he didn't see anything from her towards a motion. Ms. Gillespie asked for a motion and noted most of this was for livestock breeding dogs. Ms. Allestad typed she would deny this grant. Ms. Roeder said they were coming at this grant a little differently. Yes, in a sense it is a business. One liter per year isn't that much income. She said last year they made about \$3,500 from dogs. She wanted to call to attention a Billings dog breeder was shut down for animal cruelty charges. She the board should consider people who are being responsible and doing a good job of raising livestock guardian dogs. Not one of these dogs was raised as a pet four of them. Five of them went to really high-risk areas. She would just ask the board to consider supporting the people that are raising, the dogs that are making a difference. Mr. Edwards said he isn't sure under the way the law reads, if this would fit in. It would be a question to ask a state attorney to see if we can fund something like this as it is indirectly protecting livestock when they sell dogs for protection. He said there is a motion to deny this and a second on the table.

Motion: Elaine Allestad made a motion to deny the dog breeding portion of this grant request. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Ms. Gillespie said we could visit with someone and see if we would be able to support something like this, but I think it's better probably to let this die right now because we're not sure if we have ability to do this. Ms. Roeder asked if they could at least get some support of dog food and normal vet care.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve \$2,957 of this grant request for dog food and dog care. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad said this would be considered an amended motion because the prior motion was to deny their application. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

New Miami Colony – Mr. Edwards said they are requesting \$910 dollars for guard dogs and dog food. They have 900 head of sheep.

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

Shanun and Jamie Rammell – Mr. Edwards said they had scratched out the total dollars requested. They have 17 4-H pigs and 17 4-H goats they are requesting money for dog food and for a guard dog. Ms. Rammell turned in receipts for dog food and for a guard dog. Dave McEwen asked Wesley Saramento if he was involved in the electric fencing around the Rammell place.

Mr. Saramento said he worked with Wildlife Services on the electric fence which was funded by the government. Mr. McEwen asked if it was bear tight. He responded it was. Ms. Rammell said they have already purchased the dogs but in July 2020 her husband was attacked by a grizzly bear about a mile from their house. This is why they had the fence put up. Their goats run through the fence all the time. She said they have eight children and asked how can I protect my children plus our livestock. They invested in one dog and then another to protect their property last year. She said they have had seven bears around their place. One dog is in with their goats. Another one is with the pigs and another one patrols the area to keep bears out. She said we have the dogs to protect my children when they're outside. She said they have ten acres and don't feel safe without her dogs out there working.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to deny this grant request. Elaine Allestad seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Ms. Allestad said she feels for their circumstances but it does not fit our standards. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. McEwen said he can sympathize with their problem. If it's personal safety we're looking at here, that's not in our mission statement and suggested calling Hillary Cooley with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rebush Konen Livestock – Mr. Edwards read the grant request for \$6,000 to purchase guard dogs and dog feed. He said he has paid claims for both sheep and guard dogs on this ranch over many years. Their operation runs two bands of sheep of approximately 1200 purebred rambouillet sheep per band. The addition of six more guard dogs would increase their ability to mitigate conflict.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to approve this grant request for \$6,000. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Rockport Colony – Mr. Edwards said this is a two-part grant. The first grant request is for \$3,000. They are guard dogs and dog food. They had two guard dogs die last year as need at least one to replace them. He noted that they had sold guard dogs to other colonies in the past. He said Mr. Hofer told him his female did not come into heat, so he does not have any puppies to sell this year. Mr. Kipp said his question would be, does he need a guard dog to replace the breeder, or does he need a guard dog? Mr. Edwards asked the people with phone numbers on the meeting if one was Mr. Hofer's. He then said he couldn't answer that question because he didn't state it.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to table this grant request pending more information on the need for a guard dog or a breeder. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Edwards said the second grant request is for \$54,000. It is for electric fencing supplies and to expand electric fencing they have already installed. We don't

have really a good description of what is current and what is new. Mr. Hofer wrote out a sheet which kind of is nice because it breaks out what it costs for a mile of electric fence and the amount of time to put in. Mr. Edwards said this could be helpful for evaluating future fencing grants.

Motion: Dave McEwen made a motion to table this grant request pending more information on the type of fence being installed and liability issues. Joe Kipp seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

As a point of clarification, Mr. Edwards stated we did go to a state attorney as far as liabilities of the board. The board would not be liable for any of the any of these projects, The grantee who receives the funding is the one that would be liable for anything involved with a project.

Ruby Valley Conservation District – Mr. Edwards read the grant request for \$12,000 for their carcass management program. Funding will go towards the ongoing operation expenses of this program including compensation for their haul driver time and excavator. Fuel costs and fencing supplies are needed to expand the site at the Sheridan landfill. The person signing the application is a large rancher who does have a large number of livestock.

Mr. McEwen said his position on carcass removal is that it is a viable tool and I think we've proven that. I think that now that it's proven and it's not experimental or anything like that because they've done a good job. It does work. It works on our place. It works on everybody, but I think that these are the counties or the people within the counties who should start making it sustainable and not have to rely on public funding to keep it going. With that said, I sat in on a Western Land Alliance meeting and they were very joyful that they had secured \$885,000 for conservation efforts and mitigation efforts for endangered species. Why hasn't anybody tapped into that instead of tapping into us? Mr. Primm said I'm not sure what money you're talking about there. I was at that same meeting Mr. McEwen attended in Alder. This is the first I've heard of that dollar amount. Ms. Owens said she is irritated because that money is spread across 11 states David and if you were paying attention, you would have known that. She said we got around \$30,000 and that is why Madison Valley Ranchland Group is not sitting here begging you to support our programs here in the Madison. We don't need to go through this bullshit. You guys act like it's the same all across the state when you refuse to put money on some place that doesn't have a local landowner. Ms. Gillespie said I would really prefer a few didn't use nasty language. None of us have done that so far. We don't need to use that kind of language. Ms. Owens said I don't know what I said, I'm irritated. I'm just saying that you guys are trying to compare us down here with our wealthy landowners where we're renting from them and trying to put our practices in place. Using our pickup programs, our range rider programs to make it so we're viable, so ranchers stay viable down here. That's why we're going out for grants. We're not the same as everybody else. We ended up with \$35,000. Yes, and that's why I am not asking money from the Livestock Loss Board to help our ranchers down here. Obviously that

money can't be given to everybody. Obviously, we weren't able to get that funding and that's why we go to other funding sources to help fund this. We try to make it feasible for the ranchers and farmers to make it affordable for them and therefore, we're asking you for that help. We thought this grant program was to try to help keep ranchers and producers viable in Montana when we're facing these conflicts on our landscapes. Mr. Primm said the \$885,000 number is at the sig grant that we're talking about, so it's spread across the west. It's also paying for research to document that these practices are effective. A lot of that's going to researchers. It's not like it's a pot of money sitting there waiting for watershed groups to spend on their carcass management programs. This research is going into finding sustainable ways to keep capacity of these programs viable for years to come. Ms. Bradley said it is a study being done to make the federal government aware that these prevention practices work. Ms. Allestad asked how many counties does this service. Ms. Cornak responded we service Madison County on the Ruby Valley side. So, we're pretty much from Virginia City to Whitehall. We can also take some livestock going towards Dillon as well. Beaverhead County is also included in that. Mr. Edwards said this is the hardest hit area next to Glacier County in the state. Ms. Gillespie asked is there any further discussion? Mr. Kipp said he would like to ask a few questions. First of all we have denied earlier carcass removal projects because they've been in businesses or been funded since 2003 and it looks like Ruby Valley got your first Livestock Loss Board help in 2016 and again in 2020. Ms. Corank responded correct, that money went to establishing the compost site.

Motion: Joe Kipp made a motion to approve this grant request. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed.

Seville Colony – Mr. Edwards read the grant request for \$1,200 for a guard dog and dog food. They included a receipt for the dog with their application. Ms. Allestad said this would be a 30% match requirement for the dog food and to take it off of the dog price unless they can show an additional match. The colony wrote they had had 20 sheep killed but there was never a claim turned in. No one from Wildlife Services was available to confirm this had happened.

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

Mr. Edwards said he doesn't believe all of the wolf only federal money for grants was issued. He has to go back through all of the grants to add them up.

Public Comment

Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies - I just want to say you have a gem in George. We've been involved with the Livestock Loss Board since it was created and I'm sure many of you have too. We have always supported the board and we've always supported George. Whenever he asked for help, we were there to help him. I got to tell you, I'm very disappointed what the Livestock Loss Board

has turned into. Your goal was to help livestock producers and I'm not seeing that. I'm very disappointed in that now. I'm very disappointed that Dr. Wilson wasn't reappointed to the board. He was an incredible asset. I had to say that to get it off my chest, but that's the way I feel. Thank you for the opportunity to speak Linda's written, a comment as well.

Linda Owens – Mr. Edwards read her comment. I'm extremely disappointed in the behavior and conduct of LLB today. Never dreamed I would listen to such a poorly conducted grant review process. Sincerely Linda and don't lose the recording. She said she recorded the meeting on her personal phone.

Mr. Edwards said he does not keep the recordings once he has written the minutes. The recording is just for the purpose to create the written minutes and they are almost verbatim. That's why our minutes are so long because I do include all the discussion items and I do include all the comments.

Eric Graham said he appreciated Mr. Edwards.

Elaine Allestad said she would like to get Mr. Edwards some help during meetings. When grants come in as a reminder, all applications must be complete before sending them in.

Mr. Edwards said that was actually the worst part of the whole process today and said it was his fault allowing the supplements to come in late rather than by the deadline. He said he did that because this was a new process requiring ranchers to sign off with these organizations. We needed to allow some flexibility at least on this first go-around. That's why he thinks we need a deadline of all paperwork. It created a nightmare to keep track of everything and to keep the board fully informed. All board members received the main grant applications by email a month in advance and had all of them were able to review the applications. It wasn't a last-minute thing. As the supplements came in, those were forwarded to the board. Board members did have time to thoroughly vet these. He doesn't want it anybody to think it was a last-minute process.

Motion: Joe Kipp made to adjourn. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion.

Discussion: None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourned

DATED this 18th day of March 2022



Doreen Gillespie, Chairman
Montana Livestock Loss Board