



Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board

June 4, 2010
Scott Hart Building
Helena MT

Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes

Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board Members Present:

Elaine Allestad – Chairperson
Larry Trexler
Whitney Wankel
John Herman
Michael Leahy
James Cross

Staff:

George Edwards – Livestock Loss Mitigation Coordinator

Guests:

Kraig Glazier – USDA, WS
Carolyn Sime – FWP
Matt Turner

Call to Order and Administrative Items:

Chairperson Elaine Allestad called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Introductions:

- Each board member and board staff introduced themselves.
- Chairperson Allestad asked the audience members to introduce themselves and encouraged public comment.

Board Minutes:

Board members reviewed the April 9, 2010 minutes. A name needed to be corrected: **Motion:** Larry Trexler made a motion to approve the amended minutes. John Herman seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

ASI Guard Animal Survey:

Michael Marlow, USDA WS supplied the board with ASI guard dog values from a nationwide survey. The survey results were not very comprehensive but they did give average puppy prices and first year costs. Larry Trexler discussed the possibility of using the puppy cost and the first year average cost to each specific dog breed. Elaine Allestad said some producers

raise and train their own dogs. Training is usually done at lambing time by penning the dog with the sheep. Another way is using the mother dog with her pup to train the pup. Matt Turner said he believes it takes about a year to train a herding dog and the dog should be at least a year old before training begins. A lot of time is needed to train a herding dog. Mike Leahy asked if the board was setting a policy now. He added that a herding dog becomes very valuable and agreed that a value should be puppy value plus first year costs. Elaine Allestad asked the board to get back to policy setting. All board members expressed a desire to establish a set value. Whitney Wankel stated a flat fee is fine unless the owner can supply a receipt. Mike Leahy stated his concern that someone could go out of state to buy a \$10,000 trained dog. Board members agreed to look at unusual dog claims. **Motion:** Larry Trexler made a motion to pay \$1,500 for a herding dog and \$1,030 for guard dogs. John Herman seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mike Leahy said he would like the board to continue to think through this. It is one of the most challenging areas for the board to look at. The board could revisit guard animal values in the future. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Guard Animal Claims:

Matt Turner participated in the meeting via telephone. Mr. Turner faxed in additional documents for the board to review on his herding dog claim. Based upon the board's motion and discussion on guard/herding dog values, Mr. Turner will be paid \$1500 for his herding dog.

Sieben Ranch Company had submitted claims for two guard dogs that the board had reviewed during a January 5, 2010 teleconference meeting. At that time the board decided to pay \$700 each for the two guard dogs and to increase the payment once the ASI results were available. Based upon the board's motion to pay \$1,030 for guard dogs, Sieben Ranch Company will receive an additional \$660 payment to finalize the prior loss claims.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment 2:00 pm

Motion: John Herman made a motion to adjourn. Mike Leahy seconded the motion.
Vote: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

DATED this 18 day of October, 2010

Elaine K. Allestad

Elaine K. Allestad, Chair

Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board