



Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board

January 5, 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
Brad Radtke
Michael Leahy
James Cross

Staff:

George Edwards – Livestock Loss Mitigation Coordinator
Christian Mackay – DOL- Executive Officer
George Harris – DOL – Centralized Services Administrator

Guests:

Kraig Glazier – USDA, WS
John Baucus – Sieben Ranch Company

Call to Order and Administrative Items:

Chairperson Elaine Allestad called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 October 23, 2009 minutes. **Motion:** Larry Trexler made a motion to approve the minutes. Whitney Wankel seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Joint Meeting LLRMB/BOL/FWP:

George Edwards explained that a joint meeting originated during the Board of Livestock's November 2009 board meeting. The emphasis of the meeting is to be

about funding issues. Upon making arrangements for the joint meeting, Christian Mackay advised that a meeting of two boards and a commission was too large for a single meeting. The option was to have Elaine Allestad represent LLRMB with the board authorizing her to speak on behalf of the entire board. **Motion:** John Herman made a motion to authorize Elaine Allestad to represent the board's position at the January 14, 2010 joint meeting. James Cross seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad asked board members to discuss their opinions. Larry Trexler stated the board needs to have Elaine in a position to speak on behalf of the board. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Christian Mackay said he is still working with FWP to get a formal agenda worked out. About 20 minutes of the joint meeting will be on brucellosis. The rest of the meeting will be about wolves. The emphasis will be on funding and the need to ensure the funding from Senator Testers bill is protected for Montana.

Larry Trexler is concerned about funding and hopes the Board of Livestock and the Department takes a position to help LLRMB. We appreciate Defenders of Wildlife for what they have done for LLRMB. Most ranchers have many more losses than what the board is able to pay for. Funding is needed to expand what this board can do and the multiplier is needed. Ranchers are having an increasing number of open cows. Death losses are greater than what is confirmed but it is hard to prove.

Mike Leahy stated wolves are a native species, not a federal species. He is encouraged that the Board of Livestock and the Department intend to help with funding. Mike asked if LLRMB operates as a sub-board to the Board of Livestock or do we operate as a separate entity? George Edwards responded that this board is a separate entity. Christian Mackay added the department does provide budgeting and bookkeeping functions. The Board of Livestock and the FWP Commission just recommend board member appointments. **Motion:** James Cross made a motion to authorize Elaine Allestad answer questions on behalf of the entire board. Larry Trexler seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Environmental Quality Council Meeting:

George Edwards stated that the EQC is meeting on January 7th and 8th. A portion of this meeting is devoted to HJR15 which is looking at the same funding sources this board has identified as funding sources including license registration fees and tourism taxes. He asked if a board member or he would be authorized to express the board's position during public comment on this subject. Elaine Allestad said she intended to be there but with road and weather conditions she would entertain a motion for George Edwards to speak on the board's behalf. **Motion:** Brad Radtke made a motion to authorize George Edwards to speak on behalf of the board. Larry Trexler seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Mike Leahy

supports this as well. George Edwards stated he will ask the EQC to take our program into consideration during their actions. Board members discussed license registration fees, tourism taxes and excise taxes on recreational items. Christian Mackay advised the board not to get crosswise with other state agencies and not to get into specifics. Elaine Allestad said we need to get this message forward. She suggested we address this issue as a dual purpose for the funds. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion: Larry Trexler made a motion to authorize George Edwards to answer or ask questions from the ECQ Committee on behalf of the board. John Herman seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad requested George Edwards to email a prepared statement to the board. Board members expressed that they do not promote raising any taxes. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

Guard Dog Claim:

Currently the board has a claim for a Maremma guard dog in the materials for this meeting. An additional guard dog claim has been received for the same breed of dog and the same owner as the first loss claim. George Edwards attempted to get survey results on a survey of guard dog animals being conducted by the American Sheep Industry. Due to an overwhelming response to their survey, the results were not available for the board meeting. An email response from a Maremma dog breeder placed a value of at least \$1,000 for trained dogs in the age group for these claims. John Baucus said they are willing to wait for the results of the survey which should be available by the April 9th board meeting. The board's rules committee will work on a policy or guideline for guard animal claims. George Edwards asked the board if they would be willing to pay \$700 now and to have the board consider values from the survey at the next board meeting. **Motion:** Larry Trexler made a motion to pay \$700 per dog now. Brad Radtke seconded the motion. **Discussion:** Elaine Allestad said we could pay this now and if the value is determined to be greater, we could pay more later. **Vote:** All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

General Discussion:

As of this board meeting date the loss claim head count is 361 in 21 separate counties. Since the first payment made in May 2009, \$233,800 has been paid in claims. Elaine Allestad thanked George Edwards for setting up the Facebook page for the program and frequently checks the website for program updates.

George Harris spoke to the board about upcoming EPP budgeting. He stated this will be the board's opportunity to make requests for the Governor's budget. The other way to get things budgeted is via specific bills through a legislator. As soon

as budgeting directions are received he will get them to George Edwards to distribute to the board. Elaine Allestad advised the board there may be the need for another teleconference board meeting on the budget.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment 3:00 pm

Motion: Larry Trexler made a motion to adjourn. Whitney Wankel seconded the motion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

DATED this 9 day of April, 2010

Elaine K. Allestad
Elaine K. Allestad, Chair
Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board