



**Livestock Loss Board**  
**September 28, 2017**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Helena MT**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Livestock Loss Board Members Present:**

Elaine Allestad – Chairperson  
Jim Cross  
Doreen Gillespie

**Staff:** George Edwards – Executive Director

**Guests:** Kraig Glazier – USDA Wildlife Services  
Kara Maplethorpe – Centennial Valley Association  
Kyren Kunkle – MTCSC  
Nick Gevock – Montana Wildlife Federation

Chair Elaine Allestad called the meeting to order.

**Introductions:**

- Each board member and board staff introduced themselves.

**Board Minutes:**

Board members reviewed the August 1, 2017 minutes. Ms. Allestad asked if there were any corrections or additions. None were offered.

**Motion:** Jim Cross made a motion to approve the minutes. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

**George Edwards, Executive Director** – Mr. Edwards had asked grant applicants to resubmit their proposals keeping in mind the board had limited state funds. The Centennial Valley Association and Tom Miner Basin Association did

not need to resubmit as they had followed the directions originally given to the applicants. Many of the applicants did resubmit their grant applications while a few did not.

Mr. Edwards attended the legislative Environmental Quality Council meeting earlier in the day. While listening to the testimony, he learned that the USFWS had provided \$750,000 to Montana FWP for work that this board is charged with doing.

**Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services** – Mr. Glazier said they have not finalized loss numbers. Antidotally this appears to be the worst year yet for their agency. Madison County is being hit hard. There are so many grizzlies together which makes it hard to determine which one is causing the problems. In 2005 swabs for DNA were attempted but it was not a feasible solution. USFWS is trying to find additional management solutions.

**FWP** – They did not send anyone to this meeting.

#### **Grant Applications:**

A general discussion covering all the applications began with Ms. Allestad stating for the ones who didn't resubmit I say no. Mr. Edwards stated he did not ask the Wildlife Federation, Centennial Valley Association and the Tom Miner Basin Association to resubmit because they applied correctly the first time.

Ms. Allestad asked about the Ruby Valley Conservation District's application. Mr. Edwards responded that the board has already provided approximately \$35,000 towards the project and they still have not got the project up and running. They are now looking at the Twin Bridges site again. Ms. Allestad said let's eliminate the applicants one by one. Mr. Cross said there are some to eliminate. Ms. Allestad said eliminate the Ruby Valley Conservation Districts application. Mr. Edwards will write a letter to Ruby Valley Conservation District asking where the money was used and letting them know this will be required before issuing any future grants.

Ms. Allestad asked Mr. Kunkel about Mountain Thinking Conservation Science Collaborative application and references to Mountain Prairie Holdings and Wild Sky Beef. Mr. Kunkel said these organizations work with ranchers to market grass fed wildlife friendly beef. The beef is sold for a high amount which increases the profits back to the ranchers. Beef is sold at Rosauers grocery stores and online. Ranchers on the front covered by this grant application are not members of Wild Sky Beef. Mr. Edwards asked Mr. Kunkel if any of the money asked for in this grant application could be used in 2017 as state funds are extremely limited. Mr. Kunkel said yes and will provide a total for the 2017 funds. Ms. Allestad questioned the range rider portion of the grant for the Shields Valley. She asked the number of livestock owners covered. Mr. Kunkel said three



producers on 30,000 acres as a pilot study. He would like to add another rider on the front and wanted to start a project in the Shields Valley. Ms. Gillespie asked how is the current range rider protected. Mr. Kunkel said the rider does not like bear spray and relies on dogs with her. Ms. Gillespie asked how libel would the board be by providing grant money. Mr. Kunkel said that the liability falls on him. Ms. Allestad stated maybe we should require applicants to show they have liability insurance. Mr. Edwards said he will get a legal opinion from the state's attorney for the board. Ms. Allestad asked Mr. Kunkel to provide receipts form 2017 and the board will reimburse fifty percent for those expenses using only federal funds. Mr. Cross said the \$19,800 can be adjusted for MTCSC's grant application for 2017 expenses.

Board members asked to have grant processes on the next agenda to set dollar amounts per hour for in-kind work.

Mr. Cross questioned applications used in different local situations appears to be duplicated. The point is sending the money directly to organizations rather than sending it through umbrella groups. Mr. Edwards said the Centennial Valley Association has applied for funding and the Montana Wildlife Federation applied for a grant to use in the Centennial Valley. Mr. Cross stated wouldn't it be better to give the money directly to the Centennial Valley Association. Mr. Gevock said he didn't disagree with that. MWF's original intention was trying to jumpstart a carcass pickup program on the Rocky Mountain Front without success. They decided to try to help the Centennial Valley Association get something on the ground for carcass removal. Ms. Maplethorpe said nobody calves in the Centennial because of the presence of wolves and bears. The valley is used in the summer for grazing purposes. She said the Big Hole Watershed Committee has sent their person to pick up dead calves. The Wildlife Federation stepped in when money wasn't available in the spring. The primary focus was on range riders but 68 calves were picked up. Mr. Cross asked if the board is in favor of moving the money requested by MWF to the Centennial Valley Association. Mr. Edwards said this would be \$3,000 dollars. Ms. Allestad explained to Ms. Maplethorpe that grazing fees cannot be used towards a match. Ms. Maplethorpe said they listed everything in the grant application but did not count grazing fees as a match. Mr. Gevock asked the board to transfer MWF's requested money directly to the Centennial Valley Association. Mr. Cross suggested full funding for the Centennial Valley Association grant.

Mr. Edwards said on the CSKT tribal grant application he had spoken with Dale Becker three times in the past week about resubmitting their grant. Mr. Becker was out of state at the time and was going to try to resubmit via his telephone. Mr. Edwards also asked Mr. Becker for a letter on how federal funds could now be called tribal funds to avoid any confusion on this issue. He went on to say there is a clause in federal law which allows this and he had sent a copy of the letter to board members prior to this meeting. The problem with this grant application was that they were asking for all state funds for use in 2018. Mr.



Becker was not able to resubmit the CSKT application. Ms. Allestad stated the application was not in compliance with the resubmission. Ms. Gillespie and Mr. Cross agreed.

Mr. Edwards said the Wildlife Conservation Society grant application was going towards helping USDA Wildlife Services to match funding from the Natural Resource Defense Council's match requirement to hire a person to install fladry and a range rider in 2018. Mr. Edwards told Wildlife Services state director this probably would not work as the board had already provided fund to Wildlife Services per state law. Ms. Allestad stated this didn't appear to fit within the board's criteria. Mr. Edwards said the resubmission only split the range rider from the fencer and still request all 2018 funding.

Mr. Edwards said the Rockport Colony grant application was their purchase of two additional guard dogs. They had paid \$1,000 per dog and are asking for \$1,000. Board members agreed with this application.

At this point the board decided not to fund the CSKT proposal, to fund MTCSC pending receipts for the applicant, move the MWF funding to the Centennial, not to fund the WCS proposal and to approve the Rockport Colony grant.

Mr. Edwards said Granite Conservation District did resubmit their application for funding their carcass pickup program. This used to be a high predation area but since beginning their program the number of claims has been greatly reduced. Board members agreed to fund their amended application.

Ms. Allestad directed the board to start back at the beginning of the applicant list. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has a match pending another grant they have applied for with the Vital Ground Foundation. Board members decided to approve this application pending proof of their match.

Ms. Allestad suggested reducing the Tom Miner Basin Association request on the state side to \$3,700 and the federal side would be \$10,200. Board members agreed.

Mr. Edwards said the Swan Valley Bear Resources grant application does not cover many livestock. Mr. Cross said the Swan Valley has a lot of hobby farms. Board members agreed to fund the application.

Mr. Cross asked if there were additional uses of the federal funds. Ms. Allestad asked if there was any way to provide for materials and maybe even gasoline for Wildlife Services to install loss prevention tools. Mr. Edwards said he will ask Wildlife Services state director for a list of materials for the remaining federal funds. Mr. Cross asked if the board needed a motion on this. Ms. Allestad said it will be covered in the general motion at the end of the grant discussion.

Ms. Allestad said the Blackfoot Challenge is getting funding from ranches to help keep the carcass pick up program going. Mr. Cross suggested to fully fund their application. Ms. Allestad said approval of the 2018 portion will depend on them providing proof of a match.

Mr. Edwards said he will place range rider salaries and administrative salaries allowed on the next board agenda. He will try to get the state attorney for the board to attend for a section on board liability.

**Motion:** Doreen Gillespie made a motion to approve and deny grant application per the general discussion. Jim Cross seconded the motion. **Discussion:** This area is covered by the general discussion. **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Board Meeting Date** – A date for the next board meeting will be in the spring of 2018.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion:** Jim Cross made a motion to adjourn. Doreen Gillespie seconded the motion. **Adjourned**

DATED this 14 day of December, 2018

Elaine K. Allestad

Elaine Allestad, Chairman  
Montana Livestock Loss Board