

**ADMB Meeting  
January 19, 2021  
Zoom Teleconference**

**Members Present:** Brian Nesvik (Co-Chair), Kevin Kisicki, Mike Foster, Ron Cunningham, Bob Harlan, Sandy Underhill, Bob Phillips

**Board Members Absent:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Jeff Boner, Tyler Abbot, Garrett Falkenburg, Lori Armstrong, Gay Lynn Byrd, Shaun Sims

**WDA Staff:** Jerald Johnson, Ryleigh Vaughn, J.D. Sater

**Public in Attendance:** Mike Barker, Mark Davis, Sheldon Nicolle, Meredith Wood, Martin Geleynse, Trevor Walch, Rene Liber, Donal O'Toole, Kristin Combs, Suzanne, Lisa Robertson, Steve Behrg, Nate Bickford

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am

Brian entertained a motion to approve December 1 minutes. Kevin moved. Ron seconded. Motion carries.

**Update on Landowner Coupon and Implementation Grey Wolf Depredation  
Compensation Program Regulations**

Regarding the ongoing issue of landowner coupon designations, Meredith stated that, after her research, there is nothing in the statute that allowed for the previous coupons' "county designation" language. She also clarified that there is no record of the funds received being distributed to the counties over the last 20 years as indicated. To correct the issue going forward, the previous language on the coupon has been removed and restricted to allow the ADMB to distribute the funds received "accordingly". Jerry stated that a decision will need to be made on what to do with the previous funds collected for this purpose.

Brian recommended that the board implement a standing policy that allows funds provided to the ADMB from landowner coupons be allocated back to the same Predator Management District (PMD) as the address indicated on the form, and that all coupons without an address designation be added to the ADMB general fund. Bob Harlan moved. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Mike Foster moved to allocate the funds previously submitted for the landowner coupons to the various PMD counties for operations. Ron seconded the motion. Meredith clarified that records to do so only go back to 2013, and do not span over the 20+ years the coupons have been collected.

Mike Foster amended his motion to distribute the county funds back to 2013 per available document retention and to leave the remainder of the funds in the general fund. Ron seconded the amendment to the motion. Motion carries.

Finally, Jerry confirmed that the regular rules for the Grey Wolf Depredation Compensation have passed and that program is up and running according to the promulgated rules.

### **Falconers' Update on Eagle Trapping During 2020 Lambing Season**

Mike Barker provided a presentation on the North American Falconer's Association (NAFA). He shared the proceedings of the Pacific Flyway Council (PFC) report and some various issues that the NAFA found. For example, one eagle, in "rough" condition, was trapped in SW Wyoming was trapped and taken to a rehabilitation center. While it was in the center, it lived for 10 days and died from confirmed lead poisoning. Per the PFC's guidelines, the death of this eagle would count towards the 6 allowable eagles taken for the State of Wyoming. The NAFA considered this unfair because the death of a lead poisoned eagle was not due to NAFA negligence. Another issue found with the PFC report dealt with the State of Wyoming splitting their eagle permits into two, 45-day permits rather than one 90-day permit to allow accommodation to the ranchers' request of trapping eagles before lambing season. PFC questioned these proceedings. The NAFA/IEAA/WWGA drafted and sent a letter to the PFC addressing these concerns and answered questions about communication, proper authority, and operating procedures. USFWS responded to this letter confirming the consecutive 90-day permit rule and the lead-poisoned eagle counting against their 6 allotted. NAFA responded to USFWS with a letter bringing up concerns regarding mortalities conflicting with regulations and science-raised questions and with consulting with ranchers on the best time for ranchers to trap these eagles, which would ideally be in the spring.

Mike also suggested that the Central Flyway Council would be better suited for the State of Wyoming and even suggested that Wyoming handle this lottery. Wyoming has more Golden Eagles than any other state and has done a great job in the managing of these animals.

Mike provided an update on 2020/2021 Depredation efforts of the NAFA in Wyoming. There was confirmed eagle depredation by USDA on 6 ranches; 3 eagle permits were issued by USFWS allowing the removal of two eagles per permit. Falconers removed 5 Golden Eagles and relocated 11 others. To date, 4 ranchers have applied for these permits for 2021. At least one of these permittees is set to allow falconer removal of 2 Golden Eagles.

Nate Bickford shared the NAFA efforts and stated that transmitters for birds will be coming into Wyoming at the end of February. They will be conducting surveys of prey and densities at potential relocation points to help improve the likelihood of relocated birds staying. After relocation, they will track the movement of birds and analyze this data.

### **ADMB Strategic Plan Update for 2021-2026**

Jerry provided recommendations for changes to the existing strategic plan. Brian asked for any board comments or additions to Jerry's recommendations. With no comments, Brian entertained a motion to approve the strategic plan with Jerry's recommended updates. Bob Harlan moved. Bob Phillips seconded. Motion carries.

### **Board Comment**

No additional board comments.

### **Public Comments**

Donal inquired about the current status of jackrabbits--he pointed out that they are listed as predators and often used as target practice. He wondered if it was appropriate, given the declining populations of jackrabbits, to list them as small game species rather than predators. Brian responded, stating that the ADMB has no statutory authority over these designations.

Donal inquired with Mike Foster if he had researched further about using rabies control vaccines in skunks as well as raccoons. Mike stated that, after his research, there are currently no rabies vaccine baits for skunks, however, he did not have a formal presentation prepared at this time.

Donal asked Mike Barker how the confirmation of lead poisoning was made on their eagle, and if the carcass was submitted for postmortem confirmation of lead poisoning. Martin answered on behalf of Mike and stated that the blood was tested by an accredited lab and confirmed having high lead levels.

Rene Liber inquired if the Gray Wolf regulations were ever addressed. Jerry confirmed that the regular rules have passed and that program is up and running according to the promulgated rules. She asked about the budget cuts and how much was now available. Jerry confirmed that \$36,000 was allocated to this program.

Kristin Combs questioned Mike Foster on how many sheep were confirmed depredations from Golden Eagles each year. Mike did not have those numbers on hand but would follow up with her at a later time. She also asked if there were any preventative measures taken to prevent sheep depredation from Eagles. Mike answered that ranchers take their own preventative measures but that there is not an official program for this purpose.

No further business.

Ron moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Harlan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am .