

**Approved Meeting Minutes
Jonah Interagency Mitigation and Reclamation Office
Managers Committee Meeting
December 4, 2015**

**Estimated start time is 10:15 am and estimated adjourn time is 11:30 am
Wyoming Game & Fish Department (5400 Bishop Blvd.) in the Elk Room
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Attending: Scott Talbott, Todd Parfitt, Doug Miyamoto, Joel Bousman, Mary Jo Rugwell, Adam George, Chris Wichmann, Darla Potter, Matthew Brown, Caleb Hiner, Tim Novotny, Sheila Keating, Eric Decker Cindi Etcheverry, Shayla Shell, Christian Venhuizen, Debbie Stanberry, Kelly Bott and Angus M. Thuermer (via teleconference)

Welcome, introductions and approval of agenda (Chairman Scott Talbott, Director of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department). Chairman Scott Talbott welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made and there were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of 05/21/15 meeting minutes (action item, Chairman Scott Talbott)

There was a motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Parfitt; then a 2nd by Mr. Miyamoto that was approved unanimously by the Board.

Department of Environmental Quality (update by Cindi Etcheverry)

Compliance activities in the Jonah Infill during 2015 included 57 well site inspections, three Title V inspections and four Notices of Violation.

Cindi explained that she covered PAPO inspections until Shayla Shell began her duties starting 3/15/2015. Since Shayla has been on board, the focus has been on wellsite inspections and developing good relations with operators.

For 2016, the DEQ plan for the inspectors is to increase the amount of well site inspections. Additionally, Title V facility inspections will include one facility in the Jonah Field.

JIO proposed spending plan for CY 2016 (action item, Sheila Keating)

Sheila made reference to the JIO spending handout that included a proposed spending plan for 2016.

Sheila went on to explain that total revenue including interest payments to date is 27.1 million. JIO commitments through December 2015 are 24.3 million which breaks down to the following categories:

- 80% for projects
- 20% for salaries and all administrative costs

Per a prior budget decision by the JIO Board, the JIO sunset is 2020 with additional commitments of 2.9 million (also previously approved by the Board) to cover salaries and administrative costs from 2016 through 2020.

Estimated dollars available to date (beginning in January 2016 after deducting all commitments through 2020 and all expenditures recorded to date), is \$246K available going into 2016.

Sheila went on to say the JIO Board decided a few years back not to fund any new projects except from dollars from project savings. So out of the \$246K that is available, there is \$22K for potential new projects.

At the conclusion of Sheila's report with no further questions there was a motion by Mr. Miyamoto to approve Sheila's budget report information, seconded by Ms. Rugwell that was unanimously approved by the Board.

JIO Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation actions (update by Eric Decker)

Eric referred to the JIO sage-grouse handout that had the following three categories of JIO funded projects to benefit sage-grouse:

- Flushing bars – the project consists of building flushing bars mounted to the front of haying equipment in order to minimize sage-grouse mortality during haying operations. This is a pilot project and relative success should be determined in the next couple years.
- Cheatgrass treatment – Eric explained that 500 acres of cheatgrass were treated via aerial application of herbicide in cooperation with Sublette County Weed & Pest.
- Fence marking – Eric further reported that four miles of priority fence segments were marked and one mile of priority fence was converted to pole top to increase visibility to sage-grouse. The pole top segment was used in an area that had high wildlife use and significant sage-grouse activity.

Eric also mentioned that all sage-grouse projects have been reviewed and endorsed by the local Sublette County sage-grouse working group.

Funded projects summary (update by Eric Decker)

Eric made reference to the project summary component of the Board handout that summarized both JIO and PAPO projects from 2009-2015. JIO projects mentioned included the aforementioned sage-grouse projects, Boulder Lake Campground maintenance, New Fork Fisheries and river access improvement project, Muleshoe Bend Water Enhancement project and the Chalk Buttes Water Improvement project that is scheduled for drilling in 2016.

Eric also explained the project summary is available to the public on the JIO/PAPO website.

JIO/PAPO Operating Plan (action item, Eric Decker)

Eric made reference to the Operating Plan handout in the Board packet that included more specific operating procedures on almost every aspect of what the JIO and PAPO is responsible for relating to budget administration, project management, inter-agency coordination and numerous other topics.

The JIO Board acknowledged the Operating Plan was formally approved at the PAPO Board meeting (with one edit relating to allowing the public a 30 day public comment period on reports and similar information that needed public review), and mentioned again the good work by staff that went into the current draft dated August 19, 2015.

The Board went ahead and formally signed the Operating Plan signatory sheet provided by Eric.

Public Comment (Chairman Scott Talbott)

Chairman Scott Talbott requested if any members of the public had a comment.

Angus M. Thuermer who was participating via teleconference appreciated the phone access to the meeting and suggested that future meetings be “live-streamed” to provide the public additional opportunity to participate in the meetings. Mr. Thuermer also suggested that agenda topic information be provided in advance to the degree possible. Chairman Scott Talbott responded that the Board will visit with JIO staff to determine the feasibility of the suggestions.

With no further public comments, Chairman Scott Talbott moved on to the next agenda item.

Proposed next JIO/PAPO Board meetings in Pinedale May 24/25, 2016 (action item, Chairman Scott Talbott)

Chairman Scott Talbott suggested the next JIO/PAPO Board meetings be held in Pinedale on the suggested dates of May 24 and 25, 2016. The Board unanimously agreed on the meeting dates and location.

Adjourn (Chairman Scott Talbott)

With no further business by the JIO Board, Chairman Scott Talbott adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.