

Pinedale Anticline Project Office---Board of Directors Meeting
May 9, 2019 8:00am
BLM Pinedale Field Office 1625 West Pine Pinedale, Wyoming

Welcome and Introductions

Chair: Doug Miyamoto

Board Members:

At the Meeting:

Approval of agenda

Chair: Doug Miyamoto

Joel Bousman moves to approve the agenda. Nancy V. seconds.
Approved.

Approve 12/12/2018 meeting minutes

Chair: Doug Miyamoto

Nancy V. moves to approve the December 12, 2018 meeting minutes. Joel seconds
Approved.

Agency Update

Darla Potter (DEQ)
John Lund (WGFD)
Chris Wichmann (WDA)
Adam George (BLM)
Joel Bousman (Sublette County)

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): Nancy Vehr: DEQ is working on getting a third inspector by the end of the year. Darla Potter: Darla reported 10 days of elevated ozone levels during March 2019, 9 of those at the Boulder Monitoring Station. DEQ will be conducting a public winter ozone meeting on May 21 at 6 pm. Darla expressed the improvement in the JIO/PAPO team and coordinator. As a result, the Interagency Supervisor Group (ISG) involvement includes periodic participation in JIO/PAPO team meetings.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD): John Lund: Gave update on Mule Deer. Deer surveys are complete and there was a significant loss in fawns over the winter. On average there was a 50% loss. The Mesa complex had a 36% loss and the Wind River Basin complex had a 68% loss. Changes in staffing and in staffing in director's office. Also 2 new habitat positions, one in Green River WY and one in Laramie WY will be opening.

Department of Agriculture: Chris Wichmann: Working with the Forest Service on vacant and closed allotments. A plan has been submitted to administer a hemp program in the state of Wyoming. Legislature won't review until fall.

BLM: Adam George handed it over to Mary Jo Rugwell. Mary Jo announced to the Board that she will be retiring in August. The Acting BLM director is leaving in May, no announcement has been made regarding a successor. Caleb Hiner FM of Pinedale Field Office is leaving in June. Discussed other personnel changes. BLM is abstaining from all voting on expenditures of money per guidance in our Mitigation IM from last summer.

Sublette County: Joel Bousman County Commissioner: County is getting more involved with NEPA and other Agency projects. An EA was completed within 2 weeks with the County and BLM and upheld in a legal challenge. The county is in process of determining projects with the Forest Service and USDA, under a Fuels subgroup, once projects have been decided a meeting with the Governor and the state forestry will occur. The county is also working with the Forest Service on Good Neighbor Authority agreements.

PAPO Budget Update

Sheila Keating

See the tab in the packet. Sheila left off the funding for the Roosevelt fire project, which equals \$200,000. The total available for PAPO is about \$3,100,000.

Budget Analyst for PAPO and JIO

Chair Doug Miyamoto

Chris and Doug drafted a proposal for RFP. It was determined that WDA cannot do this because there is no authority as that money does not sit in the WDA budget. Would like to look at alternatives as a board to make an agreement for a budget analyst to keep good accounting of funds.

Discussion item. No action taken.

Prairie Dog Monitoring

Kellie Roadifer/Mark Thonhoff

Mark Thonhoff gave the update on Prairie Dog Monitoring. Mark stated that there has been an update in the scope of work for a change in the monitoring. It is being completed by WEST Inc. The change would occur with going from boots on the ground strategy to using more GIS and aerial imagery to show changes that are occurring. Currently spending \$100,000 annually to complete monitoring. This change would decrease the price to around \$70,000 the first year and then could decrease to approximately \$30,000/year within a few years after.

PAPO Funded Projects Update/Project Booklet

Kellie Roadifer

A project booklet has been made that summarizes projects that have been funded by PAPO since its beginning. The booklet is also available on the PAPO website.

2019 Projects Summary

Kellie Roadifer

There are 2 project proposals for PAPO. See associated tab in packet.

Jackson Fork Ranch Bison Fence Modifications

Kerry Gold, WGFD

Proposal is to place a series of drop-down structures along 5.5 miles of existing bison fence that maintain a barrier to BTNF cattle, but allow for passage for wild ungulates. The current fence is within a large wildlife corridor mainly Mule Deer and Pronghorn.

Nancy V. moves to approve the project. Joel seconds. No further discussion. Project was voted and approved.

Sublette County Invasive Species

Julie Kraft, SCWP

Project proposes treating thistles in Horse Creek Fire regeneration area, which is in Mesa mule deer migration and summer ranges. Soapstone Pepperweed phase 2: Treating perennial pepperweed in the Soapstone and lower Green River area, which is in Mesa mule deer migration and winter ranges and all seasonal sage grouse habitats. Project also proposes treatment on cheatgrass invaded rangeland in Sublette County, some of which occurs in all seasonal ranges of Mesa mule deer, in addition to migration corridor.

Joel B. moves to approve project. Nancy V. seconds, no further discussion. Project was voted and approved.

Public Comments

Chair Doug Miyamoto

Kelly (Ultra Resources) would like to see monitoring for pygmy rabbits look at similar cost saving measures as those proposed today for prairie dogs. Kelly also stated that Ultra Resources supports on-site and nearby off-site habitat improvements. No other comments made.

Doug Miyamoto asked if the team would like to help with predator control on Sage-grouse and mule deer. No further discussion happened at this time.

Joy Ufford asked about mule deer status and related projects. No other comments made.

Next meeting location and dates

Chair Doug Miyamoto

Doug proposed December 11th as the date for the next meeting in Cheyenne at Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. office.

No other comments

Adjourn

Joel B. moves to adjourn. Doug Seconds. Meeting adjourned about 9 am.