

**A&H Board Meeting
Joseph, OR
April 23, 2013**

Attendees

Board: Barry DelCurto; Robert Jaeger; Alan Christensen; Ron Borisch; Jim Morrell;
Dave Stiefvater

ODFW Staff: Matthew Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative
Assistant; Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager; Brian Wolfer, District
Biologist

Regional
Coordinators: Jon Paustian; Tom Segal; David Stroppel

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:58 a.m.

Review of February 1st Meeting Minutes

Ron moved to approve the February 1st meeting minutes as written; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Board Member Reports

Dave Stiefvater:

Dave gave a brief introduction of himself, discussed his previous involvement with A&H, and gave a presentation on the Ontario Recreational Access Area Project. Dave attended Tualatin Valley OHA auction and will be attending the OHA State Convention in Lincoln City in May.

Jim Morrell:

Jim attended the SCI Santiam River Chapter's banquet, the FNAWS banquet where the tag sold for \$11,000, and the DU banquet. DU did a great job - it was a new crowd and their first time auctioning an A&H tag.

Alan Christensen:

Alan enjoyed the field tour of the Zumwalt Prairie the day before and was felt it was a good use of time. He attended the Mule Deer Foundation, Klamath Falls Chapter's banquet (tag sponsored by Unlimited Pheasants) which was a good event. He also attended the RMEF, Hillsboro Chapter's auction which was a pretty good banquet but the phone operators had to stand outside the bay door which he thought was awkward.

Ron Borisch:

Ron attended two auction banquets and will be attending the OHA State Convention in May.

Robert Jaeger:

Robert attended the MDF, Klamath Falls banquet and the RMEF national convention where the combination tag sold for a record high of \$48,000. It was a good event but he has concerns about not being able to sell raffle tickets at the event.

Barry DelCurto:

Barry attended the Ducks Unlimited banquet and felt it was a good event, but had concerns regarding phone service and phone bidders needing to stand outside the doors of the event. He attended the MDF national event in Salt Lake City and the tag sold for \$27,000. He felt it was a good show, better than last time, but the advertising of the A&H tag included only mule deer and they didn't use Matt's presentation.

Comments/Suggestions

- Alan said it would be nice to have some info on where the elk/deer taken with an A&H tag as he is often asked that question at the auction events.
- Jim suggested they require sponsors have land lines available at the events in case there are cell phone reception issues.

Coordinator Report

- Attended the March Commission meeting, all projects that were approved at the last Board meeting were approved by the Commission.
- Met with Oregon Wildlife (previously Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation). They are looking for ways to partner with A&H to do more work together. They have funding for projects that meet their objectives and values, which align very well with A&H from both an access and habitat standpoint. They will likely have someone at the July meeting to present to the Board. In the meantime they (ODFW & Oregon Wildlife) are working on establishing a protocol on which projects they are most interested in funding.
- Met with Hancock and talked about their plan for the upcoming season and what their hunting program is going to look like. Right now they're intending to keep their lands closed to all access during the fire restriction period.
- Met with regional coordinators to continue the discussion on project priorities. This is an ongoing discussion that will require continued feedback from the Board. The topic will be addressed later in this meeting.
- Working on making some advancements to the Oregon Hunting Map and other online tools. It is very likely there is funding available to make significant improvements.
 - Looking into making an Oregon Hunting Map mobile application that would use the GPS function in smart phones, so wireless service would not be required in the field
 - Looking into adding controlled hunt boundaries to the Oregon Hunting Map (including any upcoming mobile applications)
 - Began developing an online A&H access area survey, the first draft is done and they need to continue tweaking it and once they have something that they're comfortable with, Matt will send the Board the link so they can give their feedback
 - Working on an online scheduling system for some of the by-permission access areas, hoping to have that in effect for the next hunting season
- Attended the Ducks Unlimited - Sunset Chapter, RMEF - Hillsboro Chapter, and OHA - Tualatin Valley Chapter auctions.
- Coordinated four other auctions
 - The Combination tag sold for a record \$48,000 at the RMEF national banquet.
 - There were some advertising issues at the MDF national banquet in Salt Lake City.
- Worked on publications and advertising
 - 11-13 Legislative Report
 - Television advertising with Gary Lewis
 - Exhibit booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportmen's Show at the Portland Expo Center
 - OHA Magazine Ad
 - Northwest Sportsman Ad
 - Western Shooting Journal ad
 - ODFW's I&E Division doing a great job advertising on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter
 - Planning on making the auction/raffle webpage mobile friendly so QR codes can be incorporated in advertisements to help track success of ads
- Helped local wildlife districts with elk & deer surveys
- Worked with Active Outdoors to create a report of raffle ticket sales sorted by hunt choice which gets posted online weekly – providing raffle participants with more information than previously available

Discussion

- Alan offered to call Miles with MDF regarding the advertising and power point issues as this was the third year it's happened or suggested a letter be written.
 - Matt said he would talk to Wildlife Division and see what is recommended and will follow up with the board with a response on how they want to address this.
- Robert asked if the minimum bid for auction tags could be raised
 - Matt said he can talk to Wildlife Division and legal counsel if necessary, he thinks the minimum bid is in statue which means it couldn't be raised without required legislative action
- Jim asked if Matt had information on how the fee increase a few years ago has affected license sales. Tom responded to this question later in the meeting.

Budget/Funding Priorities Discussion

Matt provided an update of the current A&H Program budget (refer to A&H Board packet).

Discussion

- Matt let the board know that Wildlife Division would like ODFW staff and the A&H Board to establish a plan for project renewals by October.
- Alan commented that he feels they need to focus on 13-15 and he's not in favor of just dropping all the "lows", as projects should be looked at individually. Hunter use data will be a big part of how they make their decisions.
- Alan asked about other revenue sources such as PR funds.
- Tom Thornton explained that PR funds increased this year but the increase is unlikely to last more than a few years, so it wouldn't help fund long term projects. However, there may be some short term funding available.
- Alan suggested looking into PR covering administrative costs.

Public Comment

No public comment at 10:53 a.m.

Auction/Raffle Tag Allocation

2014 A&H Auction/Raffle Tag Recommendation

Motion:

Ron moved to have the auction and raffle tag allocation unchanged from 2013; Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Regional Council Appointments

South Willamette Regional Advisory Council

The South Willamette Regional Advisory Council has two Landowner Representative positions vacant. The council voted to appoint Steve Gilbert to a Landowner Representative position and Nels Jensen to a second term as Landowner Representative.

Motion:

Jim moved to appoint Nels Jensen to a second term as a Landowner Representative as recommended by the advisory council; Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Alan moved to appoint Steve Gilbert as Landowner Representative as recommended by the advisory council; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Southwest Regional Advisory Council

The Southwest Regional Advisory Council has a Chair position vacancy. The council voted to appoint Betsy Smith to a second term as Chair.

Motion:

Dave moved to appoint Betsy Smith to a second term as chair as recommended by the advisory council; Robert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Malheur Regional Advisory Council

The Malheur Regional Advisory Council has a total of 6 vacancies, and a total of 6 applicants. Of these applicants, four are applying to serve their second four-year term; two are new applicants. The advisory council voted to appoint Kirk Davies and Wannie Mackenzie as Landowner Representatives, Todd Dinsmore, Jarod Lemos, and Andrew Shields as Hunter Representatives, and Fred Hellbusch as the council chair.

Motion:

Robert moved to approved the recommendations of the council (appoint Kirk Davies and Wannie Mackenzie as Landowner Representatives, Todd Dinsmore, Jarod Lemos, and Andrew Shields as Hunter Representatives, and Fred Hellbusch as the council chair). The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Project Review

2013-06 Wendling Travel Management Area

ODFW District Wildlife Biologist Brian Wolfer and Weyerhaeuser representative Tally Patton presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This is a renewal and an expansion of the Wendling TMA project. The Wendling TMA was operational during the 2011 and 2012 fall hunting seasons. This renewal of the Wendling TMA will expand the project area north to include an additional 50 square miles. This expansion will result in a better defined northern boundary which should decrease trespass problems and increase access. Access would be allowed 7 days per week from the beginning of early archery season through the close of rifle buck season except when closed due to fire danger or for timber management purposes.

Motion:

Jim moved to approve this project as written; Robert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2013-05 Palomino Butte Access Area

Regional Coordinator Tom Segal presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project would renew 7,343 acres of "walk-in only" welcome to hunt access for a period of 5 years in the Juniper Unit. The access area is surrounded by BLM on two sides and is close to the Burns/Hines area. This area has been sought by many big game hunters for its diverse habitat and high concentration of wildlife found in the area during the hunting season.

Tom explained that Regional Advisory Council members Ryan Peila and Kirk Davies withheld their votes because they're related to the landowner, so the proposal review sheet should show a 3:0 vote.

Motion:

Dave moved to not fund the Palomino Butte Access project; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Discussion

- Alan voted to not fund the project because little hunter use data was available and the landowner requested more funding than indicated by the A&H access payment calculator
- Jim voted to not fund the project because there is plenty of public land around the area.

- Dave suggested that signs be put up on the property showing that it is no longer an A&H access area as well as putting out a news release.
- Jim suggested that Tom go back to the landowner and talk to him about modifying the project, maybe half the property for half of the funding and bring it back to the board in the future.
- Tom Thornton informed the board that he had talk to the Rod Klus, District Biologist for this area and he said this property does not really offer quality elk habitat and there's plenty of public land around this area. As far as getting the word out about projects no longer being an A&H access project, he'll talk to the Information and Education Division staff to see what they feel is an appropriate way to spread the word.
- Alan suggested listing something on the Oregon Hunting Map about access areas coming up for renewal and the possibility that they won't be renewed.
 - Matt said he will bring Alan's suggestion up as part of the discussion with I&E when talking about PR efforts to get the word out.

Regional Coordinator Reports

Vince Oredson:

Vince received 242 applications for the C2 Ranch youth turkey hunt which offered 10 guided hunts in the spring. Applications came from Idaho, California, Washington, and Oregon. One of his goals for next year is to get more youth hunting opportunities. Lone Rock Timber Company approached him about adding some of their land to the Jackson TMA. They're experiencing damage from off road vehicles and are willing to pay for the law enforcement.

Larry Pecenka:

Nothing to report.

Dave Nuzum:

Dave is continuing to work with a couple of landowners and may have a project proposal for the July meeting; still looking into potential improvements in the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Access Project.

David Stroppel:

David has been working to fill the two council vacancies and compiling Open Fields goose hunting data which he hopes to have available for the July meeting. He also hopes to have car count data from the Lincoln County Forest Protection Project for the next meeting.

Jon Paustian:

John reposted signs for access areas that opened April 1st, making sure gates are closed on the non-motorized vehicle properties. A few landowners are interested in large scale projects but Jon has them on hold until the Board provides direction regarding new projects. He is also in the process of getting a new regional office which he's been coordinating.

Tom Segal:

Tom hired a seasonal technician March 1st to implement/maintain permit boxes and car counters. Some areas are still inaccessible due to snow. He should have a good report at July's board meeting, although the data will likely be incomplete due to timing of personnel hire and data collection system implementation. Tom plans to visit his recent fire seeding project in a couple of weeks to monitor results and will update the board and have some photos at July's board meeting.

Other Business:

Wildlife Division has asked that the A&H Board have a plan in place regarding new projects by October. It was suggested that they might want to establish a moratorium on new projects for the next one or two meetings.

Discussion

- Barry feels they aren't going to solve anything before the next couple of board meetings and to give the regional coordinators more direction it would be good to put a moratorium in place for the next two meetings.
- Dave feels that a moratorium is not the best idea because if the regional coordinators do come up with a great project, they could be missing out.
- Alan agreed with Barry and hopes that by the October meeting they will be able to make some decisions.
- Jim agreed with Dave in that he doesn't want to put an actual moratorium in place just in case there's that one spectacular project that comes up.
- Dave suggested a moratorium with an exception for truly special projects.
- Barry feels that if a project is that good, the landowner isn't going to walk away just because it can't be funded right now, 6 months is not that long for them to wait.

Motion:

Dave motioned to put a moratorium on new projects until the October Board meeting; Ron seconded the motion

Discussion

- Jim suggested having a moratorium until October unless a fantastic project comes up.
- Jon let the Board know that it doesn't sit well with the landowners if you tell them to come back later.
- Alan suggested simply documenting that it's not the Board's intent to review new projects at this time.

Motion was withdrawn by Dave.

Motion:

Alan motioned to document it is not the Board's intent to entertain new projects until after October.

Discussion

- Barry feels that they shouldn't put anything specific in place, the coordinators are aware that the funding is not available right now.

Alan withdrew his motion.

Barry adjourned the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.