

**A&H Board Meeting
Prineville, OR
October 15, 2013**

Attendees

Board:

Chair DelCurto, Robert Jaeger, Ron Borisch, Alan Christensen, Dave Stiefvater, Jim Morrell, Doug Baily

ODFW Staff:

Matthew Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator; Keith Kohl, Acting A&H Program Coordinator

Regional Coordinators:

Meg Eden, Vince Oredson, David Stroppel, Jon Paustian (via phone), Tom Segal (via phone), Dave Nuzum (via phone)

Chair DelCurto called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Review of July 2013 Meeting Minutes

Dave moved to approve the July meeting minutes as written; Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Member Reports

Dave Stiefvater:

Dave has a conflict in January and will not be able to attend the board meeting. He had the opportunity to visit some A&H projects since the last meeting. Ontario Recreational Access Area has been having a lot of success with people coming out during dove season. They have an agreement with Treasure Valley Community College to work with their natural resource class and Pheasants Forever on the goat head weed problem they're having by doing a bug release. Next week they're doing some more habitat projects on the access area.

Doug Baily:

Doug pheasant hunted last Saturday on the Klamath Wildlife Area.

Alan Christensen:

Alan participated in dedication of Cottonwood Canyon State Park.

Jim Morrell:

Jim hunted in the Ochocos this year as he has done for the past 5 years. He saw a lot of doe's and out of the four people in his party, three of them harvested deer.

Ron Borisch:

Ron let everyone know that Longview Timber is now Weyerhaeuser Timberlands. He said OHA stepped up to open and close gates on Abiqua Basin Access Area this year and although a couple of people got locked behind gates it's going smooth.

Robert Jaeger:

Robert has deer showing up on his property which hasn't happened in many years.

Barry DelCurto:

Barry had nothing to report.

Coordinator Report

- This is Robert's last board meeting; he has served two consecutive four year terms.
- September Commission Meeting Update:
 - Abiqua Basin Access Area Project was approved as recommended by the board.
- Regional Coordinators met to discuss project priorities.
- Attended the NCTMA Law Enforcement Meeting, a draft of a NCTMA map has been created and the final version should be ready just after hunting season.
- There hasn't been a lot of progress on the farm bill, been on a few AFWA conference calls, one major step was that conferees were appointed.
- Grant awarded for Oregon Hunting Map.
- Keith Kohl will be the acting Access & Habitat Coordinator until January 1st, 2014 while Matt is on a job rotation.
- Gun Giveaway:
 - There will be one entry per hunter.
 - Info from the permits needs to be entered into a spreadsheet.

Discussion

- Alan asked if there was any hesitation on Weyerhaeuser's part in continuing the Abiqua Access Area Project.
- Ron answered no; Weyerhaeuser is involved with other A&H projects as well.
- Dave asked how the gun giveaway was going to be advertised.
- Matt replied that since they were almost already through hunting season they were going to wait to advertise until spring and then ramp it up in the fall.
- Dave asked Keith to forward info regarding the drawing to him.

Budget Report

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

Discussion

- Alan suggested they push hard for PR funds and stay on top of the farm bill, he feels their main task should be to find money.

- Matt said Sarah Reif the Wildlife Restoration Coordinator who handles the PR funds should be back from maternity leave soon and Keith will work with regarding PR funding and what the limitations are.
- Jim would like to see information on resident hunters, non-resident hunters, and total hunters to see if the numbers are going up or down since the A&H budget is a large part of license dollars.
- Matt said he would add that info into the budget for January's board meeting.
- Jim asked how hard it would be to get the numbers for youth hunters.
- Matt replied that he wasn't sure but would look into it. He said he would try to have someone from I&E at January's meeting to discuss that.
- Jim suggested having info on hunter numbers at January's meeting every year.
- Matt replied that they could have a report on hunter recruitment and retention every January.
- Alan asked if the department was starting to think of a fee increase.
- Eric said they're in the process of building a budget package for the next biennium. The leadership team met to see what it was going to take to fill a big budget hole and they're looking at three general areas one of which will be a fee increase. They're looking at what can be done to trim administration costs such as possible program reductions. He hopes to have a more complete picture in February when the Budget Advisory Committee starts to meet. The A&H surcharge has not yet come up.
- Alan feels as a hunter a fee increase to A&H is direct feedback as far as access but is hard to see it go to admin costs.

Project Priorities

Project Renewal Guidelines

Discussion

- Jim feels the word "required" should be taken out of #2. He asked Jon Paustian if he was ok with that and Jon responded that he was fine with it.
- Matt reminded the board that this is long term and suggested using "data for access".
- Alan didn't think softening it was a good idea, he suggested "data will be an expectation".
- Matt said he would continue to work on it.
- Jim would like a copy of the A&H Renewal Guidelines sent to him.

Project Map

Discussion

- Robert suggested adding Open Fields projects to the map to help in determining where to fund projects.

Project Priorities Spreadsheet

Discussion

- The board would like a region column added to the spreadsheet.
- Matt said he would add regions to the spreadsheet.
- Robert asked if there was hunter use data on New River Aleutian Goose project.
- Vince replied yes.
- Alan asked if buying the property might be an option.
- Vince said he wasn't sure if the landowners were interested in selling.

Motion

Dave moved to approve the priorities spreadsheet as a guideline and suggested they find a way to fund the New River Aleutian Goose Project. Robert seconded the motion.

Discussion

- Matt asked if the board wanted to do something about the New River Aleutian Goose project before approving the priorities spreadsheet.
- Robert said yes.
- Ron asked if a motion was needed for the priorities spreadsheet.
- Matt replied no.
- Ron didn't think a motion was a good idea because they'd have to vote on every adjustment they wanted to make in the future.
- Alan feels that they should motion to accept the document as a tool but leave the New River project to be dealt with later as it shouldn't be a part of the motion.

Motion did not pass, 4:3.

Motion

Jim moved to accept the priorities spreadsheet as a tool; Doug seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously 6:0.

Public Comment

No public comment at 10:52 a.m.

Ron had to excuse himself from the meeting for a work emergency at 10:52 a.m.

2014 Board Meeting Schedule

- January 13 & 14 – Salem
 - These dates work better for Dave as he will be out of town on the original proposed dates (22nd & 23rd)
 - Dave would like to tour the new headquarters building
- April 28 & 29 – Klamath Falls
- July 21 & 22 – Salem
- October 20 & 21 - Burns

Discussion

- Dave suggested having the October 2015 meeting in Ontario.

Auction Event Sign Up

2014 AUCTION EVENT SCHEDULE

2014 Auction Tag	Organization	Date & Location	A&H/ODFW Representative(s) to attend	
Elk	Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter	Forest Grove, OR February 1, 2014	1. Ron Borisch	2. Alan Christensen
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation, National Convention	Salt Lake City, UT February 14, 2014	1. Dave Stiefvater	2. ODFW
Deer	Unlimited Pheasants	Klamath Falls, OR February 15, 2014	1. Barry DelCurto	2. Doug Baily
Elk	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, Three Rivers Chapter	Grants Pass, OR February 15, 2014	1. Jim Morrell	2. New Board Member
Deer	Oregon Bow Hunters	Bend, OR February 22, 2014	1. Jim Morrell	2. Doug Baily
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, Clatsop County Chapter	Astoria, OR March 15, 2014	1. Alan Christensen	2. New Board Member
Deer	National Wild Turkey Federation, Oregon Chapter	Bend, OR March 29, 2014	1. Dave Stiefvater	2. Jim Morrell
Combo	Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter	Vancouver, WA April 19, 2014	1. Ron Borisch	2. Alan Christensen
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, State Convention	Canyonville, OR May 17, 2014	1. Barry DelCurto	2. New Board Member

Regional Council Appointments

North Willamette Regional Advisory Council

The North Willamette Regional Advisory Council has a Landowner Representative position vacancy. The council voted to re-appoint Mary Beaver for a second term.

Motion

Alan moved to re-appoint Mary Beaver for a second term as Landowner Representative as recommended by the advisory council; Robert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Northeast Regional Advisory Council

The Northeast Regional Advisory Council has two Landowner Representative position vacancies. The council voted to appoint Joseph Patnode and re-appoint Larry Snyder for a second term.

Motion

Jim moved to appoint Larry Snyder to a second term as Landowner Representative as recommended by the advisory council; Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0, Robert Jaeger abstained from voting due to conflict of interest (Larry is Robert's neighbor).

Robert moved to appoint Joseph Patnode to a Landowner Representative position as recommended by the advisory council; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Discussion

- Jim suggested Greg Sibernagel apply for the Landowner Representative position with the board.
- Matt said he would let Greg know that there's a vacancy.

Regional Coordinator Reports

Jon Paustian:

Jon tried to saturate areas with traffic counters, about 70% of them have a check-in/out kiosk; McGinnis Project had their youth antelope hunt for the second year, they had a 100% success, the kids were extremely pleased and the landowners are great to work with.

Dave Nuzum:

Dave did some non A&H improvements on the Tillamook Bay wetlands. This has been the wettest season he's seen in his career over there which led to a great season, there were a lot of great bucks opening weekend; he got traffic counters out in the Scappoose unit and trained Don Vandebergh on how to use them.

Vince Oredson:

Vince is currently taking applications for the C2 Ranch hunts. The announcement just went out last week. He's getting 15-20 apps a day from all over the state. They will pick a winner at the end of October.

David Stoppel:

David has two regional council position vacancies, the news release will be going out next week. He still has a good list of previous applicants. Ron Bramlett is getting ready to set up open field's properties for goose season.

Other Business:

- Alan recommended recognizing outstanding landowners.
- Meg thinks that there is some kind of landowner recognition award as she believes Jon and Lynn Breese received it one year. She suggested recognizing an outstanding landowner per region.
- Meg suggested an appreciation certificate for outgoing council members.
- Matt said they could do awards but the regional coordinators should be left out of it and leave it up to the board.

Project Review

2013-10 Columbia Plateau Cooperative Habitat Initiative

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian, District Biologist Steve Cherry District, and Jake Gileneau with Morrow SWCD 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 project. This project proposes to help address the habitat related decline of mule deer and upland game bird populations in the Heppner, Oregon area. Funds will be used for supplies and

material for the habitat technician to implement habitat improvement projects as well as hire season help as needed for fall and spring planting seasons.

Discussion

- Alan asked if they had talked to Oregon Wildlife lately regarding funding.
- Steve said that Oregon Wildlife has been supportive but have moved on to other projects, they can generally count on them to purchase equipment if needed.
- Alan asked if they could go to Oregon Wildlife and ask for 50% of the funding if the board decides to only fund the project 50%.
- Matt mentioned that Oregon Wildlife has shown some interest in joining with A&H, they will likely be coming to talk at January's meeting.
- Dave asked if they could approve the project for one year instead of three to see if they can get other funding.
- Jim agreed with Dave.
- Barry suggested funding, as recommended by the coordinators, at 50%.

Motion

Jim moved to fund the project for \$45,000.00 for three years; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2013-11 Rogue Meadows Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Vince Oredson 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 project. This is an elk habitat improvement project and proposes to fertilize four elk meadows totaling 102 acres for 4 years, 2014 – 2017.

Discussion

- Jim asked if the Rancheria landowner was open to allowing disabled hunters or youth hunters in to help disperse the elk.
- Vince wasn't sure as it's not a huge property, but he could ask him.

Motion

Doug moved to approve the project as written; Jim seconded motion. Motion passed 4:1. Dave was not in favor due to the cost of the fertilizer.

Meeting adjourned 1:41 p.m.