



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 16-17, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Blue Mountain Conference Center
404 12th Street
La Grande, Oregon 97850

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4 *Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes are considered draft until approved by the*
5 *Board.*
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7 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and
8 ODFW Website. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>,
9 <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>
10

11 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Craig Ely, Board Chair	Isaac Sanders, ODFW
Alan Christensen, Board Member	Jo Morato, ODFW
Dave Stiefvater, Board Member	Leonard Erickson, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Tom Segal, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Tom Thornton, ODFW	Dave Stroppel, ODFW
Jennifer Bakke, Hancock Forest Management	Jake Thiemens, Hancock Forest Management
Jerry Anderson, Hancock Forest Management	

12 13 **MEETING**

14
15 On Monday, October 16, 2017 at 8:00a.m., the Board and ODFW staff went on a field tour of
16 A&H "Welcome to Hunt" properties, A&H Small Grant Project, Hancock Forest Management
17 TMA's and Owsley Canyon Habitat Restoration (Future Project Proposal)
18

19 On Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., Chair Craig Ely called the Access & Habitat
20 Board meeting to order.
21

22 Chair Craig Ely welcomed John Breese as the new A&H Board member.
23

24 **Action:**

25 **Meeting Minutes Review**

26 Alan mentioned that he would like to see more details to the A&H meeting minutes specifically
27 on the important discussions that happens during the meetings. Craig agreed that the
28 discussion should be included particularly when it resulted to a decision but he also agrees
29 that a word by word discussion is too much to put in there especially if it's being recorded
30 already. Jo said that the Director's Office would like to see consistency between the
31 Commission and the A&H Board meeting minutes and said that she will inform the Director's
32 office of the Board's desires to add more contents to the minutes and sees no problems with
33 that as long as the format is somewhat the same.

1 Willie moved to approve the July 17, 2017 minutes. Dave seconded the motion and motion
2 was carried unanimously 6.0.
3

4 **Board Member Reports**

5 Candy Yow:

6 Candy went to four hunts so far. Went hunting in Utah and saw lots of animals. She is working
7 on a video clip that A&H can use for the website and other social media. It is not complete but
8 she would show what she had done so far to the Board to get input.
9

10 Willie Bronson:

11 Spend few days deer hunting in the Sledsprings Unit. Checked the Noregaard TMA and looks
12 like it's being used by hunters. But noticed that this year he did not hear a rifle shot in two
13 days. There were not many deer in the area. Loggers and construction workers in the area
14 also noted less deer. It appears that the deer were in the valley fringe areas where the food
15 is abundant. He also noted the absence of maps in the access mail box. Improvement can be
16 done in Hancock access entry areas. Went to Snake River Unit where deer numbers were
17 down but a few more bucks were killed there. There is one section of private land in the middle
18 of Forest Service inholdings in that area where a landowner spend a lot of dollars fencing and
19 hauling gravel but the ATV users continues to use and damage the land. The landowner likes
20 and welcome hunters but would like the ATV use to stop. Willie will get the landowner contact
21 information so Jon Paustian can check with the landowner and see if he can assist with
22 stopping the ATV use in their property.
23

24 Dave Stiefvater:

25 Dave had an opportunity to do bow hunting this year in Sled Springs. They did a very good
26 job posting signs on the property. They found a shotgun in the Ontario Access property leaning
27 against the gate. There is a bill in renewing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funding in
28 the 2018 Farm Bill. They are looking for support and Oregon can take advantage of some of
29 these CRP money.
30

31 Alan Christensen:

32 Alan went to the Commission meeting in Welches for the Desolation Creek and Thirtymile
33 Grant Project vote. It went smoothly. Allan sat through the morning presentations and found
34 a lot of good information and a few people that he networked with. Allan suggested again that
35 when the A&H Board have these away meetings, we should invite the local ODFW
36 Commissioner to sit in these meetings even just in the first morning so they can understand
37 what A&H is all about.
38

39 Craig Ely:

40 Went on a number of back country packed trips. Getting ready to go elk hunting.
41

42 **State Coordinator Report**

43 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

44 Isaac reported the Commission's approval of both A&H project applications, the Thirtymile
45 Creek Grassland Restoration and the Desolation Creek Shaded Fuel Break. The Commission
46 also approved the Board's recommendation of changing all auction and raffle tags start of
47 season dates to August 1st and end date of November 30th.

1 The Commission also adopted the new Access Area rule 635-065-0760 (11) regulating
2 hunter's use through restrictions printed on map produced by ODFW. Specific regulations for
3 each Access Area can be found through the Oregon Hunting Map at oregonhuntingmap.com.
4 This new rule will be in the 2018 Big Game Regulations and will be effective January 1.
5 Coordinators will need to codify the area use rules for the Access Areas in their Regions.
6 Isaac also will add the kiosk/permit boxes on the map.

7 Due to busy agenda, the Commission moved the A&H project approvals from December to
8 January. We need one Board member to attend in the January 19th meeting.

9 There was a conversation with the Director's office staff about Board communications. Group
10 emails can quickly become public meetings. DOJ recommends group communications with
11 the Board use the blind copy feature and include a statement at the top of the email similar
12 to: "This email has been sent Bcc to all Access and Habitat Board Members and only contains
13 informational content". Advised the Board member to work with Chair to distribute information
14 and Regional coordinators to work with A&H Coordinator.

15 Forty TRAFx vehicle counters were ordered for replacements for northeast and additional
16 units and accessories for mid-coast.

17 Next Board meeting will be on January 9th in Salem. Part of the agenda will cover archeology
18 and tribal matters related to habitat projects, new ODFW Archeologist Danny Pettit will be
19 invited to present; the Oregon Wildlife Foundation is interested in partnering with A&H; new
20 project applications vote; Council appointments and Regional funding Priorities.

21
22 Isaac Sanders provided an update on the current A&H Program Budget (refer to packet and
23 A&H website <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2017/October/index.asp>).
24

25 **National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Voluntary Public Access-Habitat**
26 **Incentive Program Report**

27 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

28 Isaac submitted a six-month progress report to NRCS (refer to packet). [NRCS VPA-HIP](#)
29 [Farm Bill Report](#)
30

31 **Project Applications Review**

32 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
33 links provided: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2017/October/index.asp>
34

35 [Cinder Butte Fire - Peila Ranch](#)

36 **Action:**

37 Willie Bronson moved not to approve the project as proposed.

38 Alan Christensen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 6.0.

39 Discussion that led to the vote: The success rate of aerial seeding at those elevation is not
40 high. If we have another drought it will be a waste of money. This proposal is a high risk
41 overall. Emergency seeding must directly benefit wildlife.
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[Hancock Forest Management Access](#)

Action:

Alan Christensen motion to approve the proposal for \$190,000 annually but for only 3 years instead of 5 years. Willie Bronson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 6.0.

Discussion that led to the vote: Having the opportunity to open more hunting grounds to public is one of the A&H goals. This project will add another 190,000 acres

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS

Craig asked Alan to come back in the January 9th, 2018 meeting in Salem before completing his last term in the A&H Board. Alan agreed.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) covers an ORS that protects significant archaeological sites on all non-federal public and private lands. Craig is concern of the difficulties SHIPO requirements will make when A&H has habitat work. Willie is concern on the time and budget constraints. There will be a longer discussion in the January 9th meeting in Salem when ODFW Archaeologist Danny Petit presents to the Board SHIPO requirements on projects in private lands and how it will affects A&H projects.

Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.