Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes are considered draft until approved by the Board.

Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and ODFW Website. [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp), [http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx)

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

MEETING

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

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

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

Action:
Meeting Minutes Review
Alan mentioned that he would like to see more details to the A&H meeting minutes specifically on the important discussions that happens during the meetings. Craig agreed that the discussion should be included particularly when it resulted to a decision but he also agrees that a word by word discussion is too much to put in there especially if it’s being recorded already. Jo said that the Director’s Office would like to see consistency between the Commission and the A&H Board meeting minutes and said that she will inform the Director’s office of the Board’s desires to add more contents to the minutes and sees no problems with that as long as the format is somewhat the same.
Willie moved to approve the July 17, 2017 minutes. Dave seconded the motion and motion was carried unanimously 6.0.

**Board Member Reports**

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

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

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

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

Craig Ely:
Went on a number of back country packed trips. Getting ready to go elk hunting.

**State Coordinator Report**

Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator
Isaac reported the Commission’s approval of both A&H project applications, the Thirtymile Creek Grassland Restoration and the Desolation Creek Shaded Fuel Break. The Commission also approved the Board’s recommendation of changing all auction and raffle tags start of season dates to August 1st and end date of November 30th.
The Commission also adopted the new Access Area rule 635-065-0760 (11) regulating hunter’s use through restrictions printed on map produced by ODFW. Specific regulations for each Access Area can be found through the Oregon Hunting Map at oregonhuntingmap.com. This new rule will be in the 2018 Big Game Regulations and will be effective January 1. Coordinators will need to codify the area use rules for the Access Areas in their Regions. Isaac also will add the kiosk/permit boxes on the map.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

Isaac submitted a six-month progress report to NRCS (refer to packet). NRCS VPA-HIP Farm Bill Report

Project Applications Review

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

Cinder Butte Fire - Peila Ranch

Action:

Willie Bronson moved not to approve the project as proposed. Alan Christensen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 6.0. Discussion that led to the vote: The success rate of aerial seeding at those elevation is not high. If we have another drought it will be a waste of money. This proposal is a high risk overall. Emergency seeding must directly benefit wildlife.
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.

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.