



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a 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.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Craig Ely, Chairman of the Board | David Stroppel, ODFW |
| Dave Stiefvater, Board Member | David Nuzum, ODFW |
| Candy Yow, Board Member | Mary Newcomb, ODFW |
| John Breese, Board Member | Dylan (Jack) Edwards, ODFW |
| Amy Patrick, Board Member | Kevin Blakely, ODFW |
| Tom Thornton, ODFW | Tom Segal, ODFW |
| Travis Schultz, ODFW | Brian Carroll, Linn County Forest Protective Association |
| John Paustian, ODFW | Jim Wood, Landowner |
| Andrew Walch, ODFW | |
| Greg Jackle, ODFW | |

MEETING

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 8:05 a.m. Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review

Action: Dave Stiefvater moved to approve the minutes as presented. John Breese seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

A&H Program and Budget Reports

Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>

Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, enforcement and individual projects.

Agency revenue is anticipated to be effected by COVID-19, but current numbers are showing little impact projected to the A&H program directly as hunters continue to buy licenses.

Discussion on enforcement and patrol followed. Kevin Blakely advised that we are looking to work with the individual counties for enforcement on A&H properties. The Department is trying to gather as much information as possible from other agencies that utilize enforcement on the

1 county level. There are concerns changing from Oregon State Police (OSP) to sheirffs or
2 deputies, and those factors will be considered when making any agreements.

3 4 **Open Fields Update**

5 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

6 The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the A&H program with
7 the full amount request of \$2.8 million. This is an increase of \$900,000 from last award in
8 2017. Grant funds are to maintain the properties we have now, increase hunter access acres
9 by 170,000, and provide up 3,400 acres of habitat enhancement. Additionally, funds will be
10 used for two seasonal employees. As always, NRCS would like for the A&H program to target
11 wetlands reserve program lands as well as underserved landowners.

12 13 **Auction and Raffle Updates**

14 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

15 Three of the scheduled auction events were successfully held, but due to the COVID-19
16 outbreak, the remaining six events have been rescheduled to telephonic auctions. At this time,
17 one telephonic auction has been held and the tag was sold at a price comparable to years
18 past.

19
20 Due to the Oregon Hunters Association postponing their annual banquet, the raffle drawing
21 will be done at ODFW's Salem Headquarters on the scheduled date and time. Due to COVID-
22 19 safety concerns, it will be live streamed for members of the public to view. Raffle sales are
23 continuing to grow, and the logistics for the event are being laid out.

24 25 **Recommended 2021 Auction and Raffle Tags**

26 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

27 The suggested 2021 auction and raffle tags are identical to last year's, as there are no
28 proposed changes from the Department or the board.

29
30 **Motion:** David Stiefvater moved to approve the proposed auction and raffle tags as
31 presented. Candy Yow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

32 33 **Regional Council Appointment**

34 Dylan Edwards, SW Regional Coordinator

35
36 The Southwest Regional Council has three vacancies, and three applicants before the Board
37 today. Applications include: Richard Rawson for Chairman, who served his first term as a
38 Landowner Representative. Suzi Armstrong for Landowner Representative. James Hanscom
39 for Landowner Representative, renewal for second term.

40
41 **Motion:** John Breese moved to approve all three applicants for the SW Regional Council.
42 Dave Stiefvater seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

43 44 **Public Comment**

45 Brian Cook from Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) addressed the changes to the auction
46 schedule and hopes to address all concerns from the public. For the 2021 auction tags, OHA
47 plans to apply in hopes to auction the tag at the Northwest Sportsman Show. Brian believes
48 that the event would generate a higher revenue for an auctioned tag than in years past.

1
2 **Project Applications Review**

3 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the
4 link provided:

5 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>

6
7 North Coast TMA

8 Presented by David Nuzum

9 This project started in the mid-1990's and has been widely accepted by the public. This
10 proposal before the board is for 5 years of enforcement with a welcome to hunt agreement
11 on approximately 1.2 million acres. There is a mixture of public and private land, with public
12 land accessibility being greatly increased by this project.

13
14 With OSP no longer allowing for the use of retired officers to patrol after the 2020 hunting
15 season, contact has been made with the counties included within the boundaries of this
16 project. While no contracts are in place, it appears to be a potential solution for the
17 additional 4 years of enforcement requested by the project. The project is being proposed for
18 5 years for landowner involvement, and to show the A&H program's commitment to finding
19 an alternative means of law enforcement for our participating landowners.

20
21 Discussion continued on the high amount of public use on these lands, the changes with
22 enforcement, and the length of the agreement.

23
24 **Action:** William Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed with the understanding
25 that the enforcement aspect will need to be revisited in a year. Dave Stiefvater seconded the
26 motion. The motion was carried unanimously 5-0.

27
28 Linn County Forest Deputy

29 Presented by David Stoppel

30
31 This is an enforcement agreement for 5 years on 380,000 acres of private land access, and
32 51,800 public. The project has been going on for over 20 years and is considered a great
33 success. The request is for \$24,000/year from the A&H program to continue their assistance
34 in this \$849,324/year project.

35
36 Brian Carroll of the Linn County Forest Protection Association (LCFPA) addressed the board
37 and expressed support from the Linn County Sheriffs office and the LCFPA.

38
39 **Action:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed. Willie Bronson seconded
40 the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 5-0.

41
42 Aspen Valley Ranch

43 Presented by Andrew Walch

44
45 This project is a renewal habitat project. Under this proposal, Openfields funds would be
46 used to cut juniper, spray weeds, and execute prescribed burns. Previous funding for this
47 project has included these same aspects, though due to many factors, only 300/3000 acres

1 were able to be burned. This property is important for Mule deer habitat in this unit and does
2 include a limited hunting access component.

3
4 Discussion continued on hunter access and success, the cost of habitat work per acre, and
5 the overall value to the district and Mule deer populations.

6
7 **Action:** Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed, contingent on Open Fields
8 funding finalizing. Amy Patrick seconded the motion. The motion was carried 4-1. William
9 Bronson voted no as he would like more information on the total amount of funding that has
10 been spent on this land over the last 8 years, and views the overall cost of the project as
11 high.

12
13 **ADJOURNMENT:**

14 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

DRAFT