

FINAL – approved April 13, 2019
MINUTES
Waterfowl Advisory Group Meeting
April 8, 2017
Rodeo City BBQ
Ellensburg, WA

1. Call to Order – John Arrabito (Chair): 0915am

2. Welcome and introductions – John Arrabito (Chair):

Members present included: John Arrabito, Ted Blade, Abel Cortina, Roy Christopherson, Michael Crowder, Chris Dorow, Dave Drewry, Ralph Engle, Scott Fink, Bob Jorgenson, Art Kendall, Michael Miller, Mike Nilsen, Thor Ostrom, Dick Price, Dave Sievers, Fred Slyfield, and Rodney Vandersypen. Guests included Steve Shanewise. WDFW staff included Sean Dougherty, Matt Wilson, and Kyle Spragens.

3. Recognition of the passing of Ben Welton

Members were given the opportunity to reflect on Mr. Welton's contributions to the group and waterfowl conservation in Washington state.

4. Migratory bird stamp and print program Update – Kyle Spragens and Matt Wilson (WDFW)

-Review of DSP 2015-17 highlights

-Review of DSP 2017-19 all projects

Comments not recorded, saving for after lunch.

Lunch Break 12:15

1300 reconvene

Wilson/Spragens CS trapping and GSM/GPS transmitters

Spragens – PDR and budget/revenue of DS, DU contract and amendments

Dorow – is there internal accounting/how often. Spragens – every month or 2. Dorow – how is it funded (Spragens – through DS). Dorow – to WAG/constituents it's either paper or dirt. Price – art committee

used to oversee the DS audit, now WAG but legislature wants to push another audit. Spragens – first round DS increase struck, legislature currently looking at 7.5% ^ in total. Fink – Q about # DS sold in past.

Crowder – motion to accept as written, entertain motion to accept amendments – second Dorow. Fink – any amendments

Kendall - amend to delete bow road from further consideration. Price – second. Miller ask for clarification – WAG does not want to see non-habitat projects nor the Boe Road project submitted for DSP in the future. Dorow – background and discussion that it was to keep snows around and provide opportunity and reduce crop depredation. Kendall and Dorow express concern of need. Jorgenson – is there way to lower or is it important to retain for future. Engle – Terrell nest box is a habitat project, others up for elimination by Price are ok to remove (ADAs and Whatcom Blind Repairs). Fink – any further discussion? Remove? Oppose: Dorow, Engle, Crowder, Jorgenson, (motion passed – removed from package)

Fink – discussion about purpose of DS program and how it's moving from producing ducks and habitat to growing food plots and hunting. Spragens read plan allocation of revenue from DS website – increase recruitment eastern WA, access, wintering habitat. Dorow – through discussions a lot of these lands do provide better hunting opportunity, while also providing better nesting/production habitat. Engle – agrees.

Arrabito – stopping discussion 7-7 tie. Miller would like non-habitat projects removed. Vanderspyen would like to see all remain as a nod to constituents. Dorow – like to see DSP that promote duck hunting not just habitat. Sievers – agrees with Dorow to support projects that help duck hunters hunt ducks.

Kendall – remove the last 4 DSP as currently ranked. Discussion. Cortina – do not remove any access or opportunity. Jorgenson – spend time on bigger project.

Kendal – motion to remove bottom 4 projects. 4-10, motion defeated.

Arrabito- any further discussion? To accept as proposed? All support to accept as written with amendment to remove Boe Road.

1400 – **Spragens on Migratory Bird Hunting regulations.**

Question about expanding brant seasons and counties and what the threshold is (>1,000 3yr avg)? where does this come from (Flyway plan or state plan?)

1500 – **other waterfowl topics**

BLBR card – can hunter record the type brant. Questions as to why brant can not be a total # card over a multiple day season like turkey tags?

Mergansers – separate bag limits

Motion to accept regulations as presented by Spragens – carried by all.

Other topics - around the horn: 15:00 – Members were given the opportunity to bring up topics of interest, but time did not allow discussion.

General comments:

Nielson: No comment

Ostrom: electronic decoys and swan hunting on west side

Cortina: Goose limits, good up on white geese and white front. Robo duck

Jorgensen: possibility of creating private Facebook group that discusses WAG issues. Northwest youth outdoors activity, will send links to activities/youth and hold harmless

Arrabito: would like ppt for WAG section of refuge forums

Kendall: provided a short present on NOPI trends in WA winter and Alaska/NW Canada and how PF does not reflect national trends – investigation into NOPI

Miller: CA NOPI banding more NOPI in WA through WWA in the image of CWA to tease out distribution and population harvest rates

Dorow: WAG previous proposals for increased Duck Stamp fee. Had significant opposition from hunting groups to any fee increase including duck stamp – Spragens showed an informal poll, with low response, from the refuge forums 65.9% NO

Price: WDFW does not promote duck stamp enough to show that the \$\$ is spent well

Drewry: Comment on Brant Ok

Vanderspyen: No Comment

Fink: No comment.

Ostrom: also considers lack of information about Duck Stamp revenue and how it is represented through the state

Engle: No comment.

Sievers: No comment.

Slyfield: No comment.

Crowder: Merganser separate bag limit.

Nielson: No comment.

Christopherson: swans, robo-duck, need to increase grass roots efforts to change mind of commissioners

Housekeeping items

Chair and vice-chair: Arrabito: Final order of business for vice chair. Dave is next chair. Crowder nominates honorary chair Ben Welton. Unanimous decision. Price motion to make permanent honorary chair – second crowder. Passed all. Van nominate Abel, seconded Crowder. Accepted by all.

Meeting Adjourned – John Arrabito (Chair): 16:06