

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
November 22, 2014**

Meeting Attendees

Instructor Advisory Committee

Richard Mason, Region 1
Jeff Bull (WHEIA President), Region 2
Butch Buffaloe (HERO President), Region 3
Marty Kotzke, Region 4
Steve Mills, Region 5
Richard Rudberg, Region 5
Jim Sevier, Region 5
Mike Iyall, Region 6
Catherine Weed, Region 6

WDFW Staff

David Whipple, Hunter Education Division Mgr.
Mike Whorton, Region 1
Chuck Ray, Regions 2 & 3
Dan Boes, Regions 5 & 6
John Wisner, Warehouse Manager
Sgt. Carl Klein, Enforcement

General Interest Announcements/Discussion

The 2015 sports shows dates, locations & contacts were discussed. Instructor presence at the TIP trailer is encouraged; contact the appropriate WDFW Field Coordinator.

The federal preliminary apportionment of Pittman-Robertson Act (PR) funding is projected to be strong, with a possible leveling-off and decrease in the future.

Hunter Education Instructor shirts: WDFW will be providing new shirts for instructor. The IAC recommended a shirt that gives a nice, professional look, such as button down shirts of possibly polo shirts. IAC also recommended providing a t-shirt for warm/hot range days. Shirts with pockets are preferred, and tan was a preferred color.

Questions were raised relative to :

- Could WDFW analyze hunter ed student data to determine:
 - How many students pass the online test, but don't take Field Skills Evaluation
 - The rate at which people who obtain a hunter education deferral and take a hunter ed class subsequent year
 - Whether WDFW can identify hot-spots where class demand is high
- Could WDFW could get Hunter Ed pamphlets into sporting goods stores, etc.
- Could WDFW have license dealers help inform the public about hunter ed classes

- Relative to outreach efforts:
 - Jan., Feb. March – perhaps conduct public service announcements
 - Develop a Hunter Ed Facebook page
 - Conduct broad email notifications about Hunter Ed requirements & classes
 - Have a booth at Cabela’s, etc., maybe at Christmas time
 - Enhance Hunter Ed info in the Hunting Regulations pamphlet
 - WDFW needs to remind Instructors to post their classes early, but don’t open class registration until about 2 weeks prior to the class
 - Provide the Hunter Ed pamphlets at the sports shows booths & at TIP trailer

- Hunter Education Division staffing announcements
 - Region 2; Chuck Ray is back, & is coordinating Regions 2 and 3 on a part time basis
 - Regions 3 & 6; WDFW is the process of hiring new field coordinator positions. The positions will be 75% Hunter Education Coordinator, 25% Volunteer Coordinator
 - Hunter Education Specialist; still vacant, position is still on-hold.

- Background check updates
 - Discussion centered on ensuring instructor applicants get appropriate credit for classes taught once certified, as well as whether WDFW can provide an instructor number to applicants prior to certification, so they can be entered into Kalkomey.

- Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award
 - The new nomination forms were reviewed & discussed; IAC supports the new form, as it should result in more complete nominations.
 - Firearm award
 - The history of the account was reviewed. As of Nov. 8, there is over \$20,000 in the account, and there have been no donations in the last few years.
 - One suggestion was that it may be possible to get a firearm or other prize donated to WHEIA to award in a raffle at the IST, where the raffle money would go into the fund. A gambling license would likely be needed, which will limit the raffle amount/donations amount.
 - WHEIA will investigate with the Game Warden’s Association the possibility of a banking/investment strategy that would provide growth of the account. If moneys from the fund are invested, guidelines would

need to be developed, in which case WHEIA, ex-Terry Hoffer award winners, the Game Warden's Association, and some Hunter Ed Instructors should be on a committee to develop the guidelines.

- There was discussion around increasing the amount of the firearm award, recognizing firearms are much more expensive now. However, no change will occur until the banking strategy is discussed/finalized.

- Richard Rudberg's Fall Classes – summary
 - Richard Rudberg was on sabbatical from work during the fall, and in addition to quite a bit of hunting, participated in hunter ed classes when possible. Some of his observations:
 - He learned good hunter-landowner relation lessons that may be able to be incorporated into classes.
 - Some differences he noted between Westside & Eastside classes:
 - Communication styles are different
 - Gun handling skills can be very different; Eastside students typically are more knowledgeable & experienced
 - Proximity to houses, etc. very different between East/West
 - Students need to understand shotgun patterns, distances etc. (most understand bullets)
 - HETools.com is good tool: <http://www.huntercourse.com/hetools/>
 - The question was posed as to whether we should focus more time on hunter-landowner relations? Richard will draft a lesson, & share w/ IAC for review/input.

- I-594 Update
 - Voters approved Initiative 594 on November 4, and the initiative will become effective on December 4.
 - WDFW is working closely with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to ensure we are advised on issues specific to the Hunter Education program, and we plan to provide guidance prior to the December 4 effective date.

- Inert Firearms
 - The use of the inert firearms was discussed; WDFW does not have stock on-hand, and more teaching teams are becoming established. Many teaching teams use them, and WDFW wants to pursue purchasing additional sets of inert guns.

- Air Rifles
 - Some teaching teams are not able to conduct live-fire due to not having access to a range. While some city ordinances may not allow the use of air rifles, IAC agreed that being able to conduct live-fire with air rifles is better than not conducting live-fire. National Archery in the Schools Program has found that approximately 40% of target archery participants hunt at some point. The principle likely holds true for air rifles as well. IAC therefore supports WDFW to purchase a few air rifles to test them.

- Instructor firearm survey
 - WDFW is contemplating conducting a survey of Chief Instructors, in order to assess firearms needed for live-fire. Where possible without causing undue coordination issues, WDFW may explore Chief Instructors from different teams sharing department owned firearms via a check-out system, when those teams teach few classes. Additional Hunter Ed trailers may be one way to reduce the number of firearms purchased.

- Hunter Education Instructor Policy Manual – update
 - The Policy Manual revisions are being worked on, and policies may also need revision based on the passage of I-594.

- 2014 Legislative Session
 - WDFW did not pursue the Hunter Education bill from the previous two legislative sessions, where it did not pass.
 - Instructor Bob Brown would like to pursue a legislative bill similar to Arizona, to develop a high school elective course in firearm safety, and possibly broaden the scope to outdoor recreation. IAC did not support moving forward, especially in light of I-594.

- Kalkomey Reports Simplification - update
 - WDFW is interested in simplifying the Kalkomey student reports. Extraneous information would be excluded, and would save considerable time for Chief Instructors. IAC supported this, but favored retaining Knowledge, Attitude & Skills & assess in the future whether there's value in keeping them. See the changes below. There will be no change to the Kalkomey course reports.

Kalkomey Student Reports	
Keep	Remove
Pass / Fail / No-Show	Incomplete
Knowledge	Conservation
Attitude	Safety
Skills	Sportsmanship
	Live Fire
	Field Course – Simulated
	Field Course – Actual

- IAC Operating Procedures
 - Little progress has been made to formalizing the structure of the IAC. No nominations for chair, vice-chair, and secretary were received.

- 2015 Statewide IST Planning
 - An update was provided & IAC discussed a draft list of agenda items.

- Next Meeting Date
 - February 7
 - Hold February 21 as backup