

**MEETING NOTES**  
**WDFW Master Hunter Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Number 11**  
February 25, 2010  
Ellensburg

The meeting was called to order by Dustin Albright, Chair, at 9:00 a.m. The attached agenda was presented and followed.

In attendance:

James Zimmerman	Jim Koopmann
Bill Vincent	Michael Ward
Ron C. Poppe	Bill Madison
Mike Estes	Richard G. Mathisen
George Coulbourn	Harold Costa
Tani Iwashita	Mike Britton
Brian Davern	Mike Parris
Kent Keller	Ray Boone
Bob Cromwell	Dustin Albright
Jim Reinbold	

Absent:

Bob Holtfreter

WDFW Staff:

Eric Anderson  
Mike Sprecher

**1. Call to order, welcome and introductory remarks.**

MHAG Chair Dustin Albright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The agenda was adjusted to include WFDW Sgt. Mike Sprecher's presentation on ELK Area 3911.

**2. Introduce new MHAG members. Introductions.**

Chair Albright introduced the newest members of the group with those being Kent Keller, Tani Iwashita, Jim Koopmann, Jim Zimmerman, and Mike Ward.

Self introductions commenced with each member describing his interest in MHAG and some background information about himself.

WDFW Sgt. Eric Anderson presented new members with letters of appointment and name badges.

Sgt. Anderson presented plaques for dedicated services to past Chair Bill Vincent, Past Vice-Chair Dustin Albright and Past Secretary George Coulbourn.

### **3. Liaison Update.**

Sgt. Anderson reported that the Master Hunter Application time frame for 2010 is over. Eight hundred four (804) applied and there was a problem with getting enough books (Posewitz) to service all the applicants. Books and materials are on back order. Several of the MHAG members suggested that there may be books out in other areas. Sgt. Anderson reported out that the Master Hunter license designator is having problems in the licensing division. He has been working with the division to get the problem resolved. Most of the problem deals with the contractor. It is anticipated that the problem will be resolved by the end of March 2010. It was noted by Sgt. Anderson that a policy will be devised to enable enforcement personnel to confiscate permits upon violations of game laws with fishing included.

### **4. Meeting #10 notes reviewed.**

Mike Estes moved for approval and Bill Vincent seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business.**

#### Meeting #10 Action Items

1. *Policy Manual Update: Action item no. 1: A policy Working Group is formed with Mr. Cromwell as leader, Messers Reinbold, Albright, Estes and Madison, members and Mr. Mathisen, of counsel.*

Mr. Cromwell stated the first item for consideration was the Master Hunter Permit Program Applicant Testing Policy and Master Hunter Permit Program Official Test Proctor Policy. Sgt. Anderson handed out draft policies and went through them by line with the testing policy being discussed first. Discussion centered on item #8 which addresses the number of days for retesting. After much discussion, Sgt. Anderson committed to review the timelines for sending in the test, grading and reporting and come back with a recommended time frame.

Action Item 11-1 Testing Policy – Sgt Anderson will revamp the Testing Policy and offer it to the Policy Working Group before giving to MHAG.

Under the Test Proctor policy review, the time frame issue (#17) was discussed. Many felt 30 days was too much and some members felt 15 days was too short. A motion was made by Bob Cromwell and seconded by Mike Estes to a compromise of 21 days. Motion failed. Richard Mathisen asked for the reason behind the time frame. Mike Britton suggested there be no limit. Discussion was then focused on the test answer sheets and language stating that the test answer sheets should be sent to WDFW within two business days. The question under item #8 was whether the copying was allowed for answer sheets or must only originals be used. The clarification was made that test answer sheets could be copied at scale but the original completed test sheet would be sent in with the proctor making copies for duplication in the event the originals were lost. Questions were raised as to whether a proctor needed

to be a Master Hunter although the proctor is currently permitted by the WDFW. A question came up as to whether a proctor who is not a MH could take the test to become a MH. Name badges were handed out to the proctors in the group. Sgt. Anderson did explain the policy format provided by the department.

Action Item #11-2 – Proctor Policy - Sgt. Anderson will take the input received and adapt the policy and pass by the Policy Working Group to bring back before the MHAG for recommendation of approval.

Action Item #11-3 – Procedures for selection of new candidates. Mr. Estes suggested that the Policy Working Group develop the protocols and procedures for selecting new MHAG members.

Action Items #2 through #6 for meeting 10 have been completed.

Action Item #7 – *Chair Albright and Sgt. Anderson will re-evaluate the I&O meeting concept and report back to the MHAG at our next meeting.* (ON hold)

Action Item #8 – *Meeting #7 Continuing Action Item No. 2 (7-2): Mr. Estes will lead an activity to evaluate the effectiveness of these meeting as they relate to candidate success. Specifically, does attendance at the Orientation meeting enhance the likelihood of the candidate actually becoming a Master Hunter?* Discussion items included whether the time spent on this program could be better used for other programs or projects, audience types, required attendance, filtering device, sign in sheets, enforcement officers' presence, value, and power point review, updating and revisions. Sgt. Anderson will work on the power point. *This item to be brought up as a future agenda item.*

Break – 10:40 AM to 10:55 AM

Action Item #9 – *Meeting #10 Continuing Action Item No. 5 (10-5): Mr. Holtfreter will look into CWU support for an MOU and for the follow-on study.* Mr. Estes gave a briefing in the absence of Mr. Holtfreter that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was still in draft form with CWU. Mr. Zimmerman inquired as to what this MOU was about. Mr. Estes and Mr. Vincent gave a brief description on the study being conducted on hunters and Master Hunters and the concerns MHAG has with the study. The study will be monitored and a request for a follow-up study be conducted at some future time as well. *This item is continuing.*

Action Item #10 - *Meeting #10 Continuing Action Item No. 6 (10-6): Sgt. Anderson will develop a model for the website “Wall of Shame” posting.* Mr. Keller discussed an article in Wildlife Magazine that described Master Hunters that were caught violating wildlife laws and were penalized. Sgt. Anderson stated he was continuing working on this for the website. *This is a continuing action item.*

Action Item #11 – *Trademark or copyright “Stewards of the Hunt” discussion. Market items such as badges, t-shirts, hunting vests, jackets, hats, etc.* Mr. Mathisen gave an explanation of the copyright law and the rationale of investing and protection. The theme must be used in order to be protected. There was a question as to whether it should be incorporated within the MHAG program. It must also be kept outside the WDFW and possibly with WHEIA. Mr. Mathisen suggested the group think about the direction first. More discussion can be done via e-mail. Continuing Action Item 10-11.

Action Item #12 – *Final Draft of ALEA grant.* Mr. Britton explained that the Aquatics Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA) grant request was due March 1 and gave a brief description of the program and intent. The project being suggested was for a recorded Information and Outreach (I&O) program to share with Master Hunters periodically to bring forward updated materials and issues. The time period for this grant was July 2010 to June 2011. Mr. Britton also noted that it should be for actual costs and that volunteer hours by MHAG were very important. Sgt. Anderson stated he was on the review board but probably could not vote on this project but could answer any questions anyone on the board may have. New volunteer and expense sheets were handed out to the new members with an explanation on how to fill them out. E-mail correspondence counts for volunteer hours as long as they business related. Travel to and from meetings also counts as volunteer hours. Lunches are paid for by the present grant as well as mileage for the vehicle driver/owner. Mr. Britton asked for any other comments before sending the application in. No further action required.

Chair Albright suggested that someone be prepared to take over the ALEA grant program when Mr. Britton’s term expires with the MHAG. He asked for volunteers and for everyone to think about it and contact Mr. Britton with questions about the program.

Action Item #13 – *Quinalt Sign Project.* Mr. Harold Costa gave the group a description of the signs and asked which groups should be on the sign. He stated that Eyes In The Woods (EITW) have put no money towards the signs. Mr. Ron Poppe stated that the hotline number was not working and the EITW was filling that spot. Both the phone number and EITW should be on the sign. Action Item 11-4 Sgt. Anderson to review design of sign and then send out to MHAG. Elk Area 6064 boundaries were discussed and posting needed in the area as much of the area is under private ownership and control. Also discussed was protection of the signs that are posted. There is no map of the area that is open for the MH hunt. Cost of the signs was discussed with the thought that the sign program should be added to the ALEA grant. The amount of \$1500 should be added for signs. The signs should be somewhat generic to be used in other areas when necessary. Action Item 11-5 to add sign program to ALEA Grant.

**Agenda Change** – Sgt. Sprecher presented information about proposed adjustments for road management in Elk Area 3911 adjustments for road management. Sgt. Sprecher presented a Power Point that showed the Green Dot road system area within Elk Area 3911. The purpose was to move problem elk away from damage areas yet allow access for hunter to remove elk with some ease. Several options were presented. Mr. Bill Vincent moved and Mr. Ray Boone seconded a motion that MHAG prepare a letter that supports a road management plan that is appropriate for all users groups. Public process will be followed as well. Vote was unanimous. Action Item 11-6 Letter be written to support MHAG motion by Chairman Albright.

Action Item #14 – *New Test Development.* Chair Dustin Albright suggested that either a program be developed to shuffle the test questions on the present test or develop another test. It was also suggested that the curriculum be reviewed in light of a new test. Sgt. Anderson stated that there is a contractor available and being reviewed that does this type of testing and possibly “on line”. Test questions would still be needed. There was a brief discussion on limiting the number of MH and having registration and testing every two years with one year being a mentoring year and the possibility of the MH teaching in Hunter Education Classes. It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to review the test and form a new test and possibly a second test. Volunteers for this committee were: Tani Iwashita (Chair), Bill Vincent, Jim Koopmann, Bob Cromwell. Action Item 11-7 Report on Test Design Committee at future meetings.

**NOTE:** It was decided that the retiring members be kept on the e-mailing list to gather information and experience from them on issues.

Action Item #15 – *Hunt Master Discussion: Report on Albrights’s and Cromwell’s visit with Jerry Angiuli, the Dungeness Hunt Master. 2010 Rules for Dungeness.* Mr. Cromwell told the group that Mr. Angiuli wanted experienced and competent hunters that followed the rules. Mr. Angiuli will call, meet and when possible may have the hunter shoot before the hunt. Heightened requirements were discussed as well as the possibility of a contract with the hunters. There was some concern about the legality of the contract. The term Hunt Master will be changed to Hunt Coordinator. There should also be the ability of the Hunt Coordinator to send a hunter home if protocols are not followed or if an unsafe condition exists.

Other discussion on the second tag usage issue took place with no decisions being made or recommendation offered. Thoughts were offered that permits should be within the county or access area of the hunter or lottery system or response time or MH volunteering for certain areas even if not within their home areas.

## **New Business:**

Item #1 *MHAG Representation at public meetings to help repair damaged landowner relations i.e.: Skagit, Boistfort, North Bend, Packwood, Peshastin (Albright-Ware).* Chair Albright discussed the e-mail from Dave Ware about future hunts by MH in the Skagit area and that MH will be called and modern firearms may be used. It was suggested that if district representatives are used for meetings or presentations then there should be a standardized script, assurances and credibility. Mr. Estes moved and Mr. Coulbourn seconded that the MHAG role be reviewed by the MHAG Policy Group. It was also suggested that orientation be required and invite landowners as well as Hunt Coordinators. Motion passed unanimously. Action Item #8 MHAG Policy Group review the MHAG Role and report to group.

Item #2 *Test Proctor Applicants.* Discussion took place earlier in the meeting. Sgt. Anderson stated that Ernest Hansen desires to be a proctor. Mr. Hansen is a MH so he qualifies. It is up to WDFW to appoint proctors.

Item #3 *Orientation Meeting Power-Point Charts (need someone to take on oversight of this).* Action Item # 9 - Sgt. Anderson will review and send it out to the group.

Item #4 *Get someone up to speed working on ALEA with Mike Britton.* Chair Albright suggested that someone become familiar with the ALEA grant process. Mr. Mathisen was suggested as both he and Mr. Britton are from Spokane. Mr. Britton may also stay on.

Item #4 *Mandatory Orientation Meeting attendance: Should we require attendance?* Reference was made to Mr. Coulbourn's e-mail concerning the Orientation as being mandatory. There was a question posed by Mr. Mike Kuttel at an earlier meeting that if this is made mandatory there may be unforeseen consequences such as expenses being requested. The I&O was also discussed but possibly within the 5 year re-certification time period. Also suggested was a home study possibility. Possibly conservation hours could be awarded for attendance. The video is yet another alternative. Alternate year enrollment was discussed by Sgt. Anderson from a conservation he had with the Chief. The Chief was concerned about the number of applicants. It was noted that there is already a reduced enrollment period. It was suggested that the enrollment period be for only 30 days per year. Mr. Bill Vincent moved that it be mandatory to attend the Orientation. Motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Estes moved to table the discussion to the next meeting. Motion died for lack of a second. A committee of Mr. Albright, Mr. Coulbourn, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Davern, Mr. Ward and Mr. Iwashita be formed to work on curriculum for the I&O re-certification. Action Item # 11-10 Committee for I&O Curriculum report at future meeting.

Item #6 *Require Basic Hunter Education for MH applicants and re-certifications.* Item is to be tabled until next meeting due to some possible changes being made in the HE program with an on line course.

Item #7 *SB 6813 Discussion.* It was suggested that each member contact his appropriate legislators to voice concerns. Mr. Zimmerman gave the group the legislative website [www.Leg.WA.gov](http://www.Leg.WA.gov).

Item #8 *Where the MHAG goes from here: a) Goals for 2010, b) Discussion of item from Mr. Kuttel's list.* Defer and look over list. Suggestions offered were for recruiting females and topics for I&O.

Item #9 *THANKS to retiring members.* Chair Albright and Sgt. Anderson gave plaques to Mr. Ray Boone, Mr. Brian Davern, Mr. Bill Madison and Mr. Mike Parris as retiring members of MHAG for quality service, dedication and devotion to MHAG.

Item #10 *Good of the Order.* Mr. Albright at the reminding of Mr. Boone asked for a volunteer to take over the coordination of special hunt meetings such as the 3911 and 3912 hunts. Mr. Koopmann will work with Mr. Boone on this transition.

Next meeting to be decided via e-mail.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

**SPECIAL NOTE** – Mr. Bill Vincent was born on this date several years earlier and was presented with a cake and rousing serenade of “Happy Birthday” by the group. Sometimes it is good not to be able to hear so well. Happy Birthday Bill.

## **ACTION ITEMS Meeting #11**

Action Item 11-1 Testing Policy – Sgt. Anderson will revamp the Testing Policy and offer it to the Policy Working Group before giving to MHAG.

Action Item 11-2 Proctor Policy – Sgt. Anderson will take the input received and adapt the policy and pass it by the Policy Working Group to bring back before the MHAG for recommendation of approval.

Action Item 11-3 Procedures for selection of new candidates.

Action Item 11-4 Quinault Sign Project (10-13) Sgt. Anderson to review design of sign and then send out to MHAG.

Action Item 11-5 Quinault Sign Project (10-13) Add sign program to ALEA Grant.

Action Item 11-6 GMU 3911 Road Management – Letter to be written to support MHAG motion of support Road Management Program.

Action Item 11-7 New Test Development – Report on Test Design Committee at future meetings.

Action Item 11-8 MHAG Representation at Public Meetings – MHAG Policy Group review the MHAG Role and report to group.

Action Item 11-9 Orientation Meeting Power Point – Sgt. Anderson will review and send out to group.

Action Item 11-10 Mandatory Orientation Meeting Attendance – Committee for I&O Curriculum report at future meeting.

## **Continuing Action Items**

Action Item 10-7 Re-evaluating the I&O meeting concept – *on hold*

Action Item 10-8/7-2 Mr. Estes evaluating Orientation meetings.

Action Item 10-9/10-5 CWU MOU

Action Item 10-10/10-6 Wall of Shame

Action Item 10-11 Stewards of the Hunt

**Final – 04-08-10**

