



MASTER HUNTER ADVISORY GROUP
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, W 98501-1091

Notes for MHAG Meeting #42
April 13, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests
Region 1	Marji Bobiak	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Conklin Conflict Specialist Jeff Bernatowicz District 8 Biologist Steve Wetzel Conflict Specialist	
	Shawn Woodard (excused)		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary		
	Jim Hope		
Region 3	Kyle Smith		
	Tom Conrads (excused)		
Region 4	David Floyd		
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair (excused)		
	Ian Stewart (excused)		
Region 5	George Dennis, Chair		
	Keith Pfeifer		
Region 6	Scott Vousboukis		
	James Zimmerman		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
 - WDFW thanked the WCA for their generous use of the boardroom for MHAG and IAC meetings.
- Introduction of members and guests
 - Guests present are Dean Thornberry and Justin Cross.
- Approval of Meeting #41 notes from January 19, 2018
 - Approved via email
- Introduction of New MHAG Members (*David Whipple and George Dennis*)
 - George briefed the MHAG on the new addition of Ian Stewart.
 - Dave gave a brief introduction of Keith Pfeifer and had Keith give his background and information.

Old Business

- **Social Media Discussion with Records Officer (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris introduced the guest speakers Anne Masias and Carissa Bourdon and gave a brief background of the past discussions.
 - Anne and Carissa gave a presentation on the Public Records Act and what constitutes a public record.
 - MHAG Member Carissa C. moved that we drop the notion of having a social media presence based on the information presented.
 - Seconded by Jim Z. and Scott V.
 - Approved unanimously.
- **Proposed MHPP Materials (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris went through the comments on the proposed materials.
 - Some small changes were suggested from the comments previously proposed.
 - There was a motion to approve the proposed materials with the discussed changes added.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- **Proposed MH Test (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris went through the comments that were made on the proposed test document.
 - He detailed the changes that were made in regards to the comments.
 - He also asked for the members input on several comments that were good comments but Kris was unsure that the change needed to be made.
 - There was a motion to approve the proposed test with the discussed changes added.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
 - There has also been a request to have two tests to allow more applicants to take the test in a concentrated area in region 4.
 - MHAG agreed that two tests may solve the issue.

New Business

- **Master Hunter Orientations Questions (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris gave out the handout and asked if there were any questions on the MHPP Orientation information.
 - Question: Can a general Master Hunter or MHAG member do these orientations?
 - Currently no, but that could be a future direction.
 - Question: Could we require the orientation?
 - That could be something that may be required in the future.
 - Dave asked if the information being presented might be too directed on expectations and if the department was presenting the information negative tone.
 - General thoughts were no.
- **Discussion of Ray Boone Letter (*George Dennis*)**
 - George summarized the letter sent to MHAG from MH Boone.
 - Carissa said that she felt that Master Hunters didn't necessarily need to be stage 4 or 5 to be a Master Hunter.
 - Kris asked if it was necessary to try to move Master Hunters to stages 4 or 5?
 - Keith talked about possibly adding a qualification to have hunted big game for a specific time of hunting.
 - Dave asked what traits are you looking for in a stage 4 or 5 hunter? They are always going to be doing the most ethical and safe method.
 - George mentioned that we might put the stages into the orientations.
 - Shane made the comment that original AHE had levels of proficiency and feels that adding those levels might help to increase the quality of Master Hunters.
 - Shane also suggested that the MHPP allow for not penalizing Master Hunters when doing the right thing even when someone isn't looking such as self-reporting.
 - George is going to work with Carissa on drafting a response to Ray.
- **Master Hunter Compliance Issues (*George Dennis, Tammy Conklin*)**
 - Tammy has had several MHs doing unethical and possibly illegal things when hunting in Region 5 during damage permits and youth permits.
 - Tammy is starting to document when she is seeing Master Hunter issues that are not rising to RCW 77.15 violations.
 - She has seen Master Hunters not be cited because the burden of proof from a prosecutor would be very high.
 - She would like to see the ability to remove Master Hunter due to issues that are not RCW 77.15 violations.
 - The MHPP previously had discussions about invoking more penalties for Master Hunter issues.
 - The MHPP recently held a meeting with the rules staff to determine the legality and feasibility of creating a rule that would remove a privilege and not rise to the suspension level.

- George suggested adding an affidavit that the Master Hunter would have to sign to give up their MHPP if they violate ethical or legal items.
- He also suggested that the Master Hunter could voluntarily remove their ability to put in for permit hunts.
- Carissa suggested having an agreement that Master Hunter have to sign on and if not abide by then they would be removed.
- Kris raised the question about there is no definitive Master Hunter Ethical Guidelines.
- Scott suggested that the Master Hunter that has been selected for the permit hunt they have to meet with the conflict specialist or hunt coordinator before there are allowed to be deployed.
- Keith proposed the idea to have each Master Hunter send a report to the WCS to give to the future Master Hunter for each hunt.
- Jim suggested having an Attorney General look into the Director's authority on what could be done to enforce the issues.
- Keith brought up the expectations on the Master Hunter hunts in the Master Hunter Handbook could be used pretty quickly for George's idea of a signature of expectations.
- George suggested to form a subcommittee to figure out what the best option to address this issue and report back to the MHAG in July.
- Sub-committee members are –
 - Keith Pfeifer
 - George Dennis
 - Tammy Conklin
 - Kris Thorson
 - Dave Whipple
- **3911 Changes and Update (*Jeff Bernatowicz, Steve Wetzel*)**
 - Bernie gave a background on 3911.
 - He detailed the changes that are in front of the commission today.
 - There was a miscommunication on changes so WDFW didn't get a chance to talk to MHAG on the issue.
 - There was no input from the MHAG on the proposed changes.
- **WDFW Reports and Updates Questions (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - There were no questions on the reports and updates.
- **Legislative Update Questions (*David Whipple*)**
 - There were no questions on the update.
- **NHFD Update Questions (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - There were no questions on the update.
- **CORT update (*Shane Briel*)**
 - No big updates.
 - The website is still having issues.
 - Matheney Habitat volunteer opportunities are going on.

- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - Scott
 - Scott had a hunter education class recently.
 - He also wants to hold a pheasant clinic this year.
 - Kyle
 - Kyle worked at the Tri-cities sportsman show.
 - He was able to hunt on a Master Hunter Damage permit.
 - He also received a deer tag from a landowner tag because he assisted other Master Hunters on the landowners land.
 - Marjori
 - Marjori worked at the Bighorn show in Spokane.
 - She is also working on getting trained in salvaging animals from INWC to donate the meat to local food banks.
 - Jeff
 - Jeff is working on becoming a test proctor for the MHPP.
 - Jim Z.
 - Jim was in Scottsdale for winter.
 - David
 - David went to the MHPP Orientation in Mill Creek.
 - He also has had one proctor exam date.
 - Carissa
 - Carissa attended the MHPP Orientation in Moses Lake.
 - She has held one traditional hunter education class and one online field skills evaluation so far this year.
 - Shane
 - Shane was deployed on a Master Hunter Damage permit this winter.
 - George
 - George worked at the sportsman show in Portland.
 - He also was part of the MHAG selection committee this winter.
 - He filled a kill permit for a landowner in region 5.
 - Keith
 - Keith is participating in mudflow mortality survey next week.
 - He is also looking forward to participating on MHAG.
 - Jim H.
 - Jim helped with the NHFD event in Wenatchee last fall.
- **Officer Elections (*David Whipple*)**
 - Chair nominations
 - Nomination for George from Jim Z.
 - Seconded by Jim H.
 - Motion passed

- Vice-Chair Nominations
 - Nomination for Jeff by David F.
 - Second by George
 - Motion Passed
- Secretary
 - Nomination for Carissa Craghead
 - Seconded by Jeff L.
 - Motion passed

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
 - Sub-committee report on MHPP Compliance issues.
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
 - Sub-committee report on MHPP Compliance issues.
 - Practice test for MHPP
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
 - Thanks to George for his support and help with the MHPP materials and test from Kris.
 - Thanks from Jim Z. to WDFW on recognizing the Washington Cattlemen's Association for their generous support of the MHAG and IAC.
 - Thanks from Dave to all on the input and increasing MHPP.
 - Aaron is looking for turkey mentors.
- **Adjourn**