



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

Notes for Meeting #16
Washington Cattlemen's Association Office, Ellensburg
June 16th, 2011

Preliminary Activities

Call to Order – At 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Kent Keller.

Members Present – Kent Keller, Mike Estes, Jim Fitzgerald, Jim Zimmerman, Ron Poppe, Mike Ward, Harold Costa, Craig Broadhead, Richard Mathisen, Tani Iwashita, Mike Britton, Jim Reinbold.

Members Excused – Dennis Clay, Ted Wolkenhauer

WDFW Staff – Lt. Eric Anderson (Liaison), Mike Kuttel, Anthony Novack (arrived at noon)

Guest – Walt Christensen, GMAC Chair (arrived at noon)

Agenda Items (Executive session) 9:00 – 12:00 – Matters of Personnel – Evaluation

The group adjourned into executive session at 9:10 a.m. and ended at 12:02 p.m. No actions were taken in executive session.

The public meeting reconvened at 12:27 p.m.

1. Approval of meeting notes from March 3 2011 business meeting.

Mike Estes moved with Harold Costa seconding the approval of the notes with the correction of stating “Notes” in the heading of the notes rather than “Agenda”. Motion passed unanimously. Lt. Anderson said that he would make the correction to the copy posted on the web.

2. Discussion of current happenings within the MHAG

Vice Chair Kent Keller discussed the resignation of Bob Cromwell from the MHAG. Bob was the MHAG Chair, so that creates a vacancy in the position. Kent stated he was uncomfortable with becoming the chair due to his only being with the group for a year. Two members – Harold Costa and Mike Estes were nominated to chair the group. Mike Estes was elected Chair. Kent Keller agreed to continue as Vice Chair.

3. Liaison update – Lt. Eric Anderson

Lt. Anderson reported that there are 1910 Master Hunters in good standing. There were 708 applications for 2011 with 18 fully certified so far and 4 waiting for background checks. So far 13 applicants have been rejected due to background checks. 142 applicants have tested with 39 passing the first time and 30 passing the second test. Four have failed the second attempt. There have been 5 lifetime rejections due to game and fish violations and 3 non-renewals. A question came up about what to do about “no shows” for the test. No answer was given at this point but will be discussed in the future. The issue of leeway on renewals was discussed and it was affirmed that the policy as posted on the website stands. It was suggested that there should also be posting on the website showing permit expiration dates for individuals whose permits expire within the next year or possibly a means of e-mail notification as a reminder.

ACTION ITEM 14-2 Forward recommendations to WDFW Director – appointment letters completed.

Lt. Anderson stated that Crossbows have been accepted for the next session. Lt. Anderson also reported about a pilot program to allow Master Hunters, on a permit basis for regions 4 and 6, to hunt bear for control of commercial damage. Master Hunters are to be considered agents of the state and need no tags to take a bear.

4. Deer and Elk Damage Specialist update – Anthony Novack

ACTION ITEM 14-1 Report back to MHAG results of grant notification for hunt behavior survey - Anthony Novack reported that the grant application was denied. He discussed the trial survey that was conducted at Cabela's in Lacey and asked for input from the group. Seventy-two (72) individuals completed the survey at Cabela's. Input was given and Anthony will take back to the people putting the test together for consideration. Suggested changes and improvements were discussed. Once finalized, the survey will be conducted at several locations throughout the state. Locations for conducting the survey were discussed. Anthony said that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between WDFW, CWU, and MHAG should be ready to sign by the next MHAG meeting.

5. I&O/Education Committee Report

ACTION ITEM 13-6 I&O Meetings – Mike Ward distributed copies of 3 handouts. The handouts were titled Master Hunter Survey, Ethical Dilemmas and Proposed Additions to the Website. Mike explained that the goal is to establish interactive communications with Master Hunters by posting or distributing information and receiving responses. Objectives are to reinforce the purposes of the Master Hunter Permit Program and encourage feedback from Master Hunters. Using Survey Monkey to conduct the survey was discussed. There was some discussion of offering volunteer hours for completing the surveys and requests for information. Lt. Anderson accepted the following action.

ACTION ITEM 16-1 – Lt. Anderson will research MHAG use of Survey Monkey to conduct the Master Hunter survey, will coordinate creation of a WDFW group e-mail address for communication with Master Hunters, and will determine the process for MHAG use of Master Hunter e-mail addresses that have been provided to WDFW.

6. ALEA Grants

ACTION ITEM 14-3 - The ALEA grant applications were for informational kiosks in Regions 1 and 4 and for continuation of funding for the Master Hunter Advisory Group. Mike Britton said that neither of the ALEA grant applications was approved. Lt. Anderson said that he was a member of the review committee and provided some suggestions for improving future applications. Mike Estes made a motion, seconded by Mike Britton, to reapply with more detail in the application and proper contacts with involved WDFW staff being made. Motion passed unanimously. Jim Fitzgerald (Region 4) and Richard Mathisen (Region 1) were appointed to assist Mike Britton in collecting and organizing supportive documentation for the kiosk project application.

ACTION ITEM 16-2 – Refine and resubmit the ALEA grant applications during the next application period. – Mike Britton.

Mike Britton stated that there is approximately \$1700 left in the present grant. The deadline for expenditure is June 30, 2011. A request for projects was made and if no projects are identified then the money will be returned. A suggestion was made to possibly send out the survey noted in item 5 but the time frame could not be met.

7. Hunt Management

ACTION ITEM 13-5 Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines – Mike Estes noted that there has been no action or response concerning this program. The former Chair, Bob Cromwell, facilitated preparation of draft Hunt Coordinator guidelines that were transmitted to the Wildlife and Enforcement Program staff in 2009. Dave Ware indicated that the guidelines would be implemented but there is no indication that has occurred. Harold Costa moved and Mike Britton seconded the motion to have newly appointed Chair Estes contact Assistant Wildlife Director Nate Pamplin about the Hunt Coordinator program. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM 14-4 Hunt descriptions – Descriptions have been put in the game pamphlet. Action Item completed. Thanks were given to Kent Keller for leading this effort and to those who assisted Kent.

8. Certification Requirements

Action Item 14-5 CORT Class – Lt. Anderson asked the group whether CORT should continue to be a new applicant certification requirement for the Master Hunter Permit Program due to the difficulty of obtaining a class when a minimum class size of 10 people is required for WDFW Enforcement staff to conduct a class. It was suggested that the course materials be included on the website even if the requirement is removed. After much discussion, Richard Mathisen made a motion, with Mike Ward seconding, to remove CORT from the requirements but give Master Hunters and applicants 3 hours credit for certification or recertification, as an option, for taking the class. The three hours credit for taking the class can be earned/used once every 5 years. Lt. Anderson said this change will be implemented after the current certification period closes (December 31, 2011). Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Next meeting: date and location – Mike Estes will propose possible meeting dates in the mid-September to early October time frame and request feedback from members. The date for the next meeting will be selected before June 30. **Action Item 16-4**

Ron Poppe volunteered to represent MHAG at the GMAC meeting on June 18, 2011 in Cle Elum. Everyone was asked to monitor the MH web site and notify Lt Anderson if updates are needed.

Good of the order –

Possible future items for discussion:

Extending terms of membership on the group to 4 years in order to provide for consistency in the officers of the group.

- Adjournment- 4:02 p.m.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM – 16-1 – Lt Anderson to check about creating a WDFW e-mail address for MHAG.

ACTION ITEM – 16-2 – Lt Anderson to confirm availability of using Survey Monkey for Master Hunter survey.

ACTION ITEM – 16-3 - Mike Britton will chair a subcommittee to prepare ALEA Grant requests for the next application period (2012).

ACTION ITEM – 16-4 – Mike Estes will poll the members regarding the date for the next meeting.

CONTINUED ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM – 14-1 – Report to MHAG on grant notification for hunter behavior – Anthony Novack.

ACTION ITEM – 14-5 – CORT Class requirements – Lt. Anderson to confirm requirement revision.

ACTION ITEM – 13-5 – Hunt Coordinator Program – Mike Estes to follow up with contact with the Department – Nate Pamplin.

ACTION ITEM – 13-6 – I&O Meetings

ACTION ITEM – 13-7 – Master Hunter Application Orientation Meetings – see Action item 16-1.

COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM – 14-2 – Forward applicant recommendations to WDFW Director for appointment to MHAG.

ACTION ITEM – 14-4 – Hunt descriptions.