

## AGENDA

**Jonah Interagency Mitigation and Reclamation Office (JIO)  
Managers Committee Meeting  
May 2, 2011  
4:45 pm  
Sublette County Library  
155 S. Tyler St  
Pinedale**

### JIO Session

BOARD: Chairman John Corra (WDEQ Director), Scott Talbott (WGFD Director), Don Simpson (BLM Director); absent: Jason Fearneyhough (WDA Director)

STAFF: Shane DeForest (Field Manager, Pinedale Field Office), John MacDonald (JIO PAPO Coordinator), Sheila Keating (Management Analyst HDD), Windy Kelley (WDA/JIO/PAPO), Theresa Gulbrandson (BLM/JIO/PAPO), Duane Bays (BLM/JIO/PAPO) Therese Hartman (WGFD/PAPO), Dan Stroud (WGFD/JIO), Jennifer Frazier (DEQ/JIO); absent: John Ruhs (District Manager, Wyoming BLM High Desert District),

PUBLIC: John Emmerich (WGFD), Scott Smith (WGFD), Ann Dowd (ArchaeLOGIC USA, Art Reese (USQ), Linda Baker (UGRA), Darby Davis (WLT), Luke Lynch (TCF), Kaitlyn McAvoy (Pinedale Roundup), Mike Smith and Pete Guernsey (QEP), Alexis Berg and Aimee Davison (Shell), Eric August (Intermountain Aquatics), Jeffrey Soltis and Robert Field (UW), Dari Quirk (Rural Health Foundation of Sublette County), John Linn, Chad Espenscheid, Joel Bousman (Sublette County Commissioner)

- 4:45 **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**, JIO Board Meeting of December 9, 2010: electronic approval given prior to meeting after being circulated via email  
Motion: Don Simpson  
Second: Chairman  
Board approved unanimously  
John MacDonald: minutes are and have been posted on the web

### JIO Budget Update (an updated spreadsheet was provided)

- John MacDonald: \$7.8M in escrow account
- JIO salaries are less than what they are for PAPO, i.e., \$462,500 vs. \$600,000
- the long-term nature of JIO projects requires setting aside considerable amounts of earmarked funds
- \$3.2M is the remaining available for new project spending, with the assumption that most JIO funded salaries will be discontinued after 2015
- there is more sitting in the bank for JIO than for PAPO, i.e., \$7.8M vs. \$4.6M

### JIO Transition Options (staff memo)

- a staff generated briefing paper was presented to begin the Board's discussion and thought process on decreasing and weaning staff salary costs in anticipation of declining JIO funds;
- this will need to be concluded during the fall 2011 meeting; no decisions are to be made during this meeting;
- It's not feasible to transfer staff salary costs to the PAPO
- Board will need to decide how their agencies will pick up JIO staff salaries if the staff positions are to be maintained on the JIO team
- Chairman: Board is to use the exercise provided in the memo to discuss and identify how to move forward from 2015

## **Recommended Project Proposals (staff memo/recommendations)**

### Espenscheid Ranches Conservation Easement

- + this is an \$8M project in total: proponents providing \$2M, NRCS is maxing out at \$4M, state government is picking up part of the cost and there are private donations
- + JIO will be picking up a small portion of the total project costs, which is \$575K (not the \$375K noted in the memo)
- + there will be a conservation plan as part of the proposal as required by JIO/PAPO guidelines
- Motion: Scott Talbott to fund at \$575K per the proposal and incorporate the staff comments in the requirements;
- Second: Don Simpson
- Chairman: discussion?
  - + Linda Baker, UGRA: asked for details how conservation easement would benefit pronghorn and sage grouse habitat
  - + Game and Fish Staff: conservation plans are essentially stewardship plans; improving range conditions improves the habitat; specific projects within the plan have yet to be identified
  - + Luke Lynch, TCF: area is located in prime habitat for sage grouse where there is a high percentage of leks; 15 plus miles of riparian habitat will be protected; prevents subdivision of lands and habitat fragmentation; provides improved forage on BLM allotments
  - + Shane DeForest: they've just received new data which proves this is in a large winter concentration area; the link between the core area and the bench corral area has been established
  - + John Emmerich: plan will definitely maintain existing populations and coupled with other measures can improve ability of populations to increase; however, don't know by what percentage; the answer to that will be provided in the on-going monitoring of these projects and will guide future actions/projects; they do know there will be improvements, just not how much; these are long term projects and the Board must make sure the improvement efforts are made; it is often 20-30 years before true/final benefits are known
  - + Linda Baker: remains concerned about the accountability of conservation easements; wants public to be able to see the proof
  - + Chairman: at some point the Board plans to and must evaluate all these efforts to see if the investment has paid off
  - + John MacDonald: currently no money is released to proponents until staff approves the conservation plan; if the Board desired, approval for payment could be made after the Board reviewed the staff approved plan
  - + Don Simpson: the Board not equipped to evaluate details, that is what the staff/experts are for; the motion as it stands recognizes that
- Chairman called the question;
- Board unanimous approval with staff stipulations

### New Fork River Restoration

- Motion: Scott Talbott to fund at the staff recommended \$60K;
- Second: Don Simpson;
- Chairman: DEQ likes anything which protects/improves riparian areas
- Chairman: called the question
- Board unanimous approval

### Fish Creek Flying W Ranches Conservation Easement and Green River Fishing Access

- project is adjacent to and expands what is already in existence as a State/Game and Fish operation
- Discussion to clarify that the project is about the easement to enhance habitat and that if it comes with public access that is a bonus
- Luke Lynch: easement is primarily to address high moose use of area; believes project will happen regardless of Board funding as it is a high Game and Fish priority
- Don Simpson: the actual question is whether JIO want to be a part of this project

- Motion: Scott Talbott to fund at \$ 65K;
- Second: Chairman;
- Board unanimous decision with staff stipulations

#### Other than Wildlife Projects

- Wood Stove Change-out Program 2011
  - + 3<sup>rd</sup> year of very popular Pinedale program; giving away certificates for stoves creating local appeal
  - + there is some quantification of emissions reductions
- Motion: Don Simpson to fund \$132,000 as recommended;
- Second: Scott Talbott;
- Board unanimous decision
  
- ***Diesel Emission Reduction***
  - + Chairman: noted this project does have a bearing on ozone
  - + Motion: Scott Talbott;
  - + Second: Chairman;
  - + Discussion:
    - it was noted Senator Barrasso is holding public hearings on this topic
    - John MacDonald: the recommended amount was reduced only in an effort to reduce costs overall
  - + Amended Motion: Scott Talbott to fund at the full requested amount of \$150K;
  - + Second: Don Simpson;
  - + Board unanimous approval

**Public Comment** none

Chairman: call for motion to adjourn  
 Motion: Scott Talbott;  
 Second: Don Simpson;  
 Board unanimous approval

**5:45 Adjourn**