

Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018
Bartholomew Building - Heppner, Oregon

Present

Commissioner Jim Doherty
Chair Dean Robinson
Paul Hisler
Bob Mahoney
Al Scott

Steve Cherry, ODFW
Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Audience

Miles Binger

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

Open Agenda: Add an update from ODFW to the agenda

Election of Secretary

Ms. Lutcher will continue as Secretary, given the meetings are infrequent. Chair Robinson and Commissioner Doherty offered to fill-in in the event of her absence.

Minutes

Mr. Mahoney moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018. Mr. Scott seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review 2018 Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Depredation Grant Award

The award amount was \$3,650. Conversation took place about efforts to enlist livestock producers in the program that have been largely unsuccessful. Steve Cherry talked about the most important message his agency tells every producer – to keep things clean in order to prevent dispersing wolves from coming in. He said as wolves move in, funds can be used to clean-up long-established bone piles.

Update from ODFW

Mr. Cherry discussed the upcoming workshop at Bar M Ranch and provided background information on the presenters.

Locally – things have been quiet on the wolf sighting front. There was one sighting during archery season north of Madison Butte, which is an area where there have been previous sightings and photos.

Statewide – still no Wolf Plan. A mediator was hired to bring consensus between the two stakeholders to get the plan through the committee to be adopted. Still working under the existing Plan. There are rumors Congress might remove protections, however, this is an election year.

ODFW's March report showed the number of wolves increased from 117 to 132.

The Area of Known Wolf Activity (AWKA) around Gurdane was removed as there was no documented breeding pair or pups. He noted claims for missing livestock can only be made if there is an AWKA designation.

Next Meeting: February 19, 2019

Adjourned: 7:48 p.m.