

# WYOMING WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCE TRUST

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 23 June 2009  
Ramada Plaza Riverside  
Casper, Wyoming

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by Chairman Roberts. All Board members were in attendance, along with Executive Director Bob Budd.

Members of the public in attendance throughout the day included Corey Toyé - Trout Unlimited, Mark Fowden, Jennifer Doering - Wyoming Game and Fish, Rick Pallister - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cheryl Sorenson – PAW, Charlene Murdock – MDU Resources, Lisa Shaw – Niobrara County Conservation District, Anne Mackinnon – WWDC, Leah Burgess – WSGALT, and Brent Lathrop – TNC.

Representative Mike Gilmore, Casper, who is a member of the Select Committee also joined the meeting.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Baker moved, Banister seconded, to approve the minutes of the April 2009 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Budd outlined the status of the Trust Account, Income Account, and Administration Budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Chairman Roberts asked for public comment.

Mark Fowden, WGFD, was asked to discuss current issues surrounding the Pine beetle epidemic. Fowden outlined a variety of management scenarios to deal with the epidemic.

Chairman Roberts asked Bob Budd to relate successes relative to wildlife underpasses and other migratory strategies. Budd said the Nugget Canyon example was leading to many other efforts to reduce or eliminate collisions between wildlife and vehicles.

Corey Toyé, TU, thanked the board for their support of fish passage projects, and said there were many examples of success in that regard.

**PROJECT STATUS:** Budd reviewed projects previously funded, and the status of those projects. Projects are being completed and billed in a timely manner, and the backlog is largely eliminated at this time. Board members asked about specific projects of concern.

**PROJECT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:** Board members presented projects in the order they were ranked, and discussed each until breaking for a presentation on wind energy.

**WIND ENERGY STATUS:** Aaron Clark, Wheatland, briefed the board on the current status of wind energy in Wyoming, including transmission, generation, and associated impacts.

**LUNCH BREAK:** The Board broke for lunch at 12:10 pm.

**RECONVENE:** Chairman Roberts called the meeting back to order at 1:15 pm.

**PRESENTATION:** Chairman Roberts asked Executive Director Budd to stand, and Board member McKee read a letter of support from the Board, and a gift certificate to Svilar's restaurant in Hudson. Budd thanked the Board members for their dedication and commitment to the program.

**PROJECT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:** Board members continued to present projects in the order they were ranked.

**PROJECT APPROVAL:** Anderson moved, Floyd seconded, that the Board approve the recommendations of the site visit teams for the following projects:

- South Tongue River II – FULL FUNDING - \$25,000.00
- Savery Creek IV – FULL FUNDING - \$48,000.00
- Chicken Springs Pipeline – FULL FUNDING - \$6,000.00
- Lower Sage Aspen – FULL FUNDING - \$10,000.00
- SERC Spring Developments – FULL FUNDING - \$28,500.00
- Torrey Lake Ranch Easement – FULL FUNDING - \$300,000.00
- Greys River Invasives II – FULL FUNDING - \$15,000.00
- Little Snake River Aspen II – FULL FUNDING - \$123,500.00
- Gros Ventre Wetland – FULL FUNDING - \$7,500.00
- Lost Creek Winter Range – FULL FUNDING - \$22,500.00
- South Highway Pipeline – FULL FUNDING - \$40,000.00
- Lower Gros Ventre II – FULL FUNDING - \$45,000.00
- Rawhide Riparian Restoration – WITHDRAWN
- Battle Creek Fisheries – FULL FUNDING - \$43,500.00
- Muddy Creek Wetlands III – FULL FUNDING - \$48,000.00
- Dennison Meadow – FULL FUNDING - \$10,000.00
- South Park Wetlands – FULL FUNDING - \$20,000.00
- Johnson Resources Easement – CONDITIONAL - \$190,000.00
- Cottonwood Ranch Easement III – DEFER

SERCD Spring Developments was increased from the original application at the request of reviewers Banister and Budd, based on field reviews and increased sizes of spring and wetland enhancements.

Little Snake River Aspen II is to be funded 50% from matching funds contributed for that purpose.

Johnson Resources Easement is conditional upon guarantees that the mineral estate issue in question is fully resolved. No contract will be issued until the Board is assured in that regard.

Motion carried unanimously, with Baker voting no on South Park Wetlands.

**PROJECT APPROVAL:** Baker moved, Floyd seconded, that the Board approve the recommendations of the site visit teams for the following projects:

Diamond Creek Wetland – FULL FUNDING - \$15,000.00  
McCullough Peaks II – FULL FUNDING - \$20,000.00  
Coal Bank Gulch – FULL FUNDING - \$47,000.00  
Goshen County Weed and Pest III – FULL FUNDING - \$50,000.00  
Greys River Aspen Inventory – DECLINE  
Sand Mesa WHMA Invasives – DECLINE  
Laramie River Restoration I - FULL FUNDING - \$172,000.00  
Shell Farson Project II – FULL FUNDING - \$107,853.00  
Upper Rock Creek Fish Passage – FULL FUNDING - \$64,000.00  
Tongue River – Padlock – FULL FUNDING - \$195,000.00  
Pennock Mountain Meadow – FULL FUNDING - \$29,000.00  
Swift Ranch Trumpeter Swan – FULL FUNDING - \$60,850.00  
White's Ditch Fish Passage - FULL FUNDING - \$70,000.00  
Pine Creek Fish Passage – FULL FUNDING - \$26,075.00  
Stateline Fuels Reduction – FULL FUNDING - \$100,000.00  
Yellowtail CRM III – DEFER  
Sublette Wildlife Fence II –DEFER  
North Platte River Restoration – CONDITIONAL - \$70,000.00  
Renner WHMA Invasives – FULL FUNDING - \$9,000.00  
Sixty Seven Ranch Easement – DEFER  
BQ Fish Passage – FULL FUNDING - \$70,000.00  
Franc's Fork Fish Passage – CONDITIONAL - \$120,000.00  
Fish Creek Wetland – FULL FUNDING - \$90,000.00  
MJ Ranch Enhancements – DECLINE  
Clarks Fork Elk – DECLINE  
Seven Brothers Sagebrush – FULL FUNDING - \$80,000.00  
Carter Triangle Sage-grouse – DECLINE  
Skinner Park – DECLINE  
Bitter Creek School Section – DEFER

Funding for McCullough Peak will include \$5,000.00 from the Black Hills Bentonite grant for upland bird water sources.

Shell Farson Project will include \$39,164.00 from WWNRT funds and the remainder from the Shell Grant.

North Platte River Restoration is granted for hydrologic design on the river project, pending completion of a master plan for the project that will include a strategy to eliminate invasive species in the river corridor. No contract will be issued until the master plan is completed.

Franc's Fork Fish Passage is conditioned on completion of permitting and resolution of issues related to sediment loads above the current culverts, and removal of those sediments. No contract will be issued until those issues are resolved.

Motion carried unanimously, with Anderson voting no on McCullough Peaks, Banister voting no on Laramie River Restoration, Banister voting no on North Platte River River Restoration, and Floyd voting aye on Clark's Fork Elk.

**SMALL PROJECTS:** Meadows and Budd suggested the board consider a process that would allow the board to approve projects for less than \$1,000 at any regular meeting. Budd will bring the appropriate rules language to the August meeting.

**CONTRACT EXTENSIONS:** Budd requested that the board approve contract extensions of Duck Creek Wetland (Sublette County – WGFD), Riparian Reforestation (Niobrara County – NCCD), and .NE Wyoming Wetlands (Weston – WCNRD). Baker moved, Banister seconded to approve extension of those contracts. Motion carried 9-0.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held in Thermopolis August 21, location to be determined.

**OCTOBER MEETING:** The Board will meet Monday, October 12, at the Best Western Fossil Country Inn in Kemmerer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 5:10 p.m.