

**Special Emergency Meeting of the Board  
Ferry County Commissioners  
Thursday July 14, 2016**

The meeting was opened at 1:00 PM by Commissioner Davis with Commissioner Blankenship present. Commissioner Miller was absent.

**Present:**

Kim Charles-Ferry County Citizen  
John Paul Charles-Ferry County Citizen  
Robert Platt-Ferry County Citizen  
Travis Fletcher-USFS Ranger Program Manager  
Doug Lux-Ferry County Citizen  
Terri Sebree-Dispatch  
Karin Hall-911 Coordinator  
Steve Parker-Stevens County Commissioner  
Ray Maycumber-Ferry County Sheriff  
Brian Dandel-Washington State Senate 7<sup>th</sup> LP  
Teresa Jenkins-Ferry County Citizen  
Leah Vanderstoep-TEDD Economic Specialist  
Don Dashiell- Stevens County Commissioner  
Johnna Exner- Ferry County Citizen  
A sign in sheet is in the file. (Ex. #1)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Working Session: Wolves and Cougars**

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the new details regarding the wolf depredations. Travis Fletcher said that there wasn't enough evidence to prove that it was wolf kill. Discussion was held on the details of what a wolf kill looks like verses what a cougar kill looks like. Sheriff Maycumber discussed the details on the canine teeth and how that detail would prove what actually made the kill. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the term "probable" kills. Discussion was held on how many kills would be necessary before action is taken.

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the history profanity peak pack. Sheriff Maycumber discussed the flaws in the reporting system of the wolf depredations. Kim Charles stated that she would like to protest the lack of cooperation from the Fish and Wildlife. Commissioner Davis discussed the location of the wolves. Travis Fletcher discussed how people on the west side would like to see wolves on the landscape but not on their side of the mountains.

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the cougar problem and how the deer population is depleted. Commissioner Blankenship discussed possibly reintroducing hound hunting so that the management of the cougars and wolves would be possible. Commissioner Blankenship discussed how the wolf that was relocated here was not the wolf that originally came from this area. Discussion was held on the surrounding areas and where wolves have migrated from. Not all of the wolves are collared. Senator Brian Dandel discussed a letter previously sent in 2013 requesting collared data. Commissioner Davis confirmed that we have access to the collared data. Commissioner Davis discussed the previously named Profanity Pack which is now called the

Sherman pack. Sheriff Maycumber discussed the economic impact of the decimation of the deer population. The decimation of the deer population would impact the hunting season economic boost that is normally every fall.

Commissioner Blankenship suggested the writing of a letter at this time. Kim Charles discussed having a plan before we send a letter. Sheriff Ray Maycumber discussed talking to the Prosecutor to see what power he has during a state of the emergency in this situation. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the Eastern Washington Council of Government being a good avenue to write a letter through.

Leah VanderStoep discussed how the western side of the state views the predators as a way of weeding out the sick animals. She discussed how wolves make kills they don't eat and how wolves kill the healthy animals.

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the new type of wolf and how they work in a group and how they travel in a different way. Commissioner Blankenship identified the Canadian wolves as black in color and said that the wolves from this area were always pictured as grey. Sheriff Maycumber is looking for the stick to use legally to act upon this issue.

Steve Parker discussed the call to action and how he feels the Sheriff power to be supreme. Discussion was held on the legality of a posse but the limitations of the posse actions. Don Dashiell discussed the stakeholders and the diverse group that comments. Mr. Dashiell said the WAG has no power. When the Director decides to kill based on the depredation event it is the Director's decision. Each cow death is a single depredation. It was suggested that for each depredation that there be a large compensation. Mr. Dashiell discussed the amount of compensation was lower than what the cow would actually sell for. Mr. Dashiell said you don't have to sign an agreement to get compensation. Senator Dansel discussed ways the Commissioners can go about creating change. Senator Brian Dansel supports the letter from Ferry County. Senator Dansel discussed using "emergency" as a means to make an effective change.

Mr. Fletcher discussed the lethal means of removal. He felt there were shortcomings and real liabilities within that protocol. The protocol is based on across the state and we are different in Ferry County and wolves aren't dispersing from here which causes problems.

Commissioner Blankenship asked for comments from the people even if they are anonymous to be sent to the office. Doug Lux discussed the loss of Ranchers in the areas due to depredations. Kim Charles discussed the loss of the mine and the timber. Leah VanderStoep discussed the misperceived notion of the people of the west side and how they view Ferry County. Kim Charles discussed our County as being the true environmentalist as we take care of the land. Discussion was held on how to show the west side what the actual problem is with the wolf depredations. Discussion was held on legally fighting this agenda. Commissioner Davis discussed the entirety of Eastern Washington unifying in a singular message.

Leah VanderStoep discussed the work that the FC Commissioners do and how the community can help support the Commissioners work with media. Senator Dansel discussed the limitation of the media power as the other side of this issue is organized and quick. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the possibility of caging the wolves and shipping them out of here. The discussion was held on the west side not wanting our problem of having the wolves in their back yard.

Discussion was held on delisting the animals to be hunted. Discussion was held on the bills that the Senate has been working on. Senator Dansel said that he believes that policies are made by the fear of lawsuits not by common sense.

Steve Parker asked about the possibility of charts that show all the depredations of the wolves. It would show the timeline and how many depredations have occurred. Discussion was held on the reporting of the cougar reporting and how many sightings have been seen but because it isn't reported.

Discussion was held on why the wolves were eradicated to begin with. They were detrimental to our area. Ferry County is the cattle country.

Mr. Fletcher discussed approving of the Jay Sheppard approach. The approach Jay Sheppard has established the current wolf depredation. Don Dashiell discussed the people trusting the Fish and Wildlife to make the decision on whether or not to kill the wolves.

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the history of the cougar legislation based on the cougar stalking children after the cougar had already eaten all the pygmy goats. Mr. Dashiell discussed the wolves continuing the cycle of showing up to areas where homes are in Stevens County.

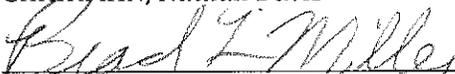
**Unfinished Business**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

  
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VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER, Mike Blankenship

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton