

**Adjourned Meeting of the Board
Ferry County Commissioners
Tuesday July 26, 2016**

The meeting was opened at 10:12 a.m. by Commissioner Davis with Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Blankenship present.

Correspondence

Changes and Additions to the Agenda

A Wolf and Cougar Letter Writing Working Session was added to the Agenda.

Minutes were added to the Agenda.

Consent & Vouchers was added to the Agenda.

Correspondence was added to the Agenda.

An Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(d) Contract Negotiations was added to the Agenda.

Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(d) Contract Negotiations

Prosecutor Kathryn Burke was present. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. Executive Session was extended until 12:10 p.m. No decisions were made.

Consent & Vouchers

Travel Reimbursement for Jennifer Knowles was approved in the amount of \$387.92.

A copy of the Letter to Marc Keith from the Board is in the file. (Ex. #1)

Commissioner Blankenship made a motion to approve the Public Defender contract with the Ferry County Standards attached and give permission for the Chairman to sign the contract when it is received. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Commissioner Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected for July 18, 2016. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Lunch

The Board recessed for Lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Wolves and Cougars Letter Writing Working Session

Laura Sanders-Bulldog Allotment
Steve Sanders-Bulldog Allotment
Justin Hedrick-Diamond M Ranch
Gordon Strandberg-Community Member
Bowe Brown-Long Alec

Travis Fletcher-Range Program Manager, Forest Service
Doug Grumbach-Lone Ranch Allotment
Dave Smith-Nancy Creek Allotment
Brian Dandel-Washington State Senate 7th LP
Kevin DalBalcon-Permittee
Ray Maycumber-Sheriff
Bill McIrvine-Diamond M Ranch
Hannah McIrvine-Diamond M Ranch
Scott Nielson-Stevens County Cattleman Association
Len McIrvine-Diamond M Ranch
Brenda and Ron Starkey-The View

Mr. Bill McIrvine stated that they have hands riding the range with the cattle to keep them safe but can't stay out there forever. Sheriff Maycumber is willing to take action but needs to know what his limit is within the authority of the law. Mr. Bill McIrvine stated that the wolves are killing about a calf a day worth \$1,500 each. A wolf eats 50 pounds a week and there are 12 wolves. There have been 6 dead calves found; 3 wolf kills and 3 probable wolf kills. This is a problem in Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, and Okanogan County as well.

Mr. Scott Nielson said to look at wolves like a pack of dogs, if it was a pack of dogs they would have been taken care of. If this continues, there won't be any ranchers left. Mr. Len McIrvine stated that they lost 40 calves on the Wedge due to wolves. They haven't lost any more up there once the 7 wolves were taken care of. There are still wolves in the areas but with lower numbers they are coexisting with the cattle. When wolves start harassing livestock, they won't or can't stay on the allotments. They can be forced into water areas causing riparian water issues. Mr. Fletcher stated that a partial pack removal isn't going to change the pack behavior, it will only reduce the amount of protein that the pack will require. There is no statistical difference between doing nothing and a partial pack removal.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is calling this the Profanity Peak Pack. Ferry County already has a State of Emergency Declaration, but if each county has one, it might be more effective. If they managed the wolf numbers, we wouldn't have to annihilate a whole pack. We need to open a wolf hunting season. Ferry County needs to invite other counties for a coalition of counties with a wolf State of Emergency.

Commissioner Miller made a motion that the Board declare that the entire profanity peak pack be removed, and send a letter to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife declaring that act. Commissioner Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Maycumber stated that he would be willing to sign the letter to WDFW. The Board discussed the possibility of reworking the wolf State of Emergency with new information. According to the WDFW wolf kills start over every year with a clean slate. Commissioner Blankenship will call Okanogan County, Pend Oreille and Stevens County to discuss a collaboration. Mr. Hedrick stated that the calf bones were chewed into quarter sized bone chips. The only thing left intact was the bottom jaw bone and a piece of tail and Fish and Wildlife says there is no proof that it was a wolf kill. The sight was scattered with bone chips and ear tags in piles of wolf scat. No other signs of predators were found.

Discussion was held on wolf trapping. No 'body gripping' traps are allowed for wolf trapping. Commissioner Blankenship asked the ranchers to do a count of how many cows that they are pretty

certain were wolf kills; probable and certain kills. The Board will use these numbers to help prove to WDFW that this is a crisis.

Mr. Bill McIrvine stated that they have a rider out with the cattle and they are still having kills. Mr. McIrvine said that they were camping in a tent and they had wolves howling and barking around their tent all night within 30 yards of them. Hunting season on wolves wouldn't help since wolves hunt at night and you don't see them, they need to be trapped. Ms. Hannah McIrvine stated that she is the 5th generation of Diamond M Ranchers and the wolves are killing her chance at being a rancher and staying on the ranch. Diamond M Ranch has been in operation for 73 years. Mr. Nielson stated that his teenage daughter is riding the range with a pistol and a rifle for protection and he feels that his daughter and Hannah shouldn't be put in a position where their lives are in danger like this.

The Board would like to put together a package and a plan, they would like to start immediately. The letter will be carbon copied to Donny Martorella, Steve Pozzanghera, WDFW Director Jim Unsworth, Pend Oreille County, Stevens County, Okanogan County and anyone present that would like to be included in the email.

The pups are mobile and their tracks have been found near the depredations. Mr. Hedrick stated that there are 12 wolves in the pack, there were 8 last year. Mr. Len McIrvine asked Sheriff Maycumber to make sure the Sheriff sees the proof of the dead wolves, not just take WDFW's word for it. Sheriff Maycumber stated that he and his deputies have helped them when they hunted in the past and have seen proof of the kills. The Board would like to make a Resolution that makes it illegal for anyone to release wolves in Ferry County.

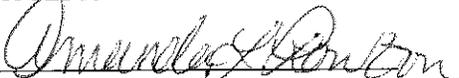
A copy of the Letter to Washington State Fish and Wildlife Director Jim Unsworth demanding for the immediate and complete removal of the entire Profanity Peak Wolf Pack is in the file. (Ex. #2)

Unfinished Business

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

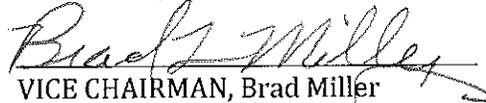


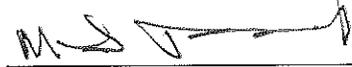
ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON


CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis


VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller


MEMBER, Mike Blankenship