

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Wolf Depredations
Friday August 24th, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Tri county Economic Development District 986 S Main St. Colville, WA 99114
Meeting Room**

Introduction of Attendees:

1. Amanda Rowton, Clerk of the Board, commissioners@co.ferry.wa.us
2. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner
3. Nathan Davis, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
5. Wes McCart, Stevens County
6. Kinsey Coots, TEDD
7. Wes Matlock, Self
8. Brandon Hansen, Chewelah Independent
9. Mark Gibson, Self
10. Jay Shepherd, Self
11. Jacqueline Maycumber, 7th District Representative
12. Shelly Short, 7th District Senator
13. Don Dashiell, Stevens County
14. Chris Loggers, Self
15. John Conner
16. Doug Grumbach, Self
17. Amanda Grumbach, Self
18. Jake Nelson, Self
19. Steve Parker, Stevens County
20. Joel Kretz, 7th District Representative
21. Mike Manus, Pend Orielle
22. Mike Peterson, Lands Council
23. Jolene & Arron Scotten, DS Ranch

Call to Order

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Introductions

Discussion was held on the injunction regarding the lethal wolf removal. It was suggested that the offending wolves could be caught and moved. Pend Orielle does not want them. Discussion was held on the catch and hold idea but problems arise out of suspected treatment of the wolves. The patience is running thin in the region as out numbers in the wolf community grows. Regional delisting is the solution to this problem. There is a strong belief that the Sheriff has the authority. Joel Kretz said that Ray Maycumber is under the cease and desist order.

If we were to do something it would have to be in an unofficial capacity. Joel said the injunction was toward fish and wildlife & law enforcement. There was a report from Donny Martorella that a cattle producer reported that he shot at a wolf defending himself. Joel Kretz discussed the injustice of the

legal situation for the injunction that was done on the west side. Wes Matlock said that we are in a fight by ourselves. Producers are going to have to take matters into their own hands. Discussion was held on the folks who are fighting off wolves. People are quitting their herds because they can't fight off the wolves. People can't afford to fight.

Mike Blankenship discussed how it might go if the judge presiding over the case was on our side of the mountains. Would we have a different outcome at a different venue? Steve Parker asked if there is any support in the room to capture and contain. Mike Blankenship said he would support. Joel Kretz said Jeff Flood is getting involved. Wes Matlock supports the containments with Flood. Don Dashiell said that the Colville Confederated Tribes has lifted their quota. Wes Matlock discussed the ineffectiveness of the tactics being used so far. Aaron Scotten discussed more collars on the wolves. Mike Blankenship discussed the possibility of private collars. There is a bias to saving wolves. There was no ungulate population research before the wolves were released.

Shelly Short discussed the changes in the ungulate population has to do with a reconfiguration in the wolf plan. Mike Blankenship discussed a lawsuit to go against the saving of the wolves. Wes McCart discussed how the Prosecutor would have to agree but the commission does not have the authority. Don Dashiell suggested a sanctuary city for relocation. Wes McCart said he could possibly help with writing a resolution to further authority to Ray Maycumber to detain a wolf. Wes Matlock asked what we can do today and tomorrow. Steve Parker said the only we can take is to detain and hold the offending wolves. If quick action isn't taken the wolves become habituated.

Wes McCart asked Joel Kretz about a resolution to strengthen Ray Maycumber authority. Mike Blankenship asked Ray if he could catch and hold the offending wolf. Ray Maycumber responded that we have to be very careful. Possibly an amicus brief can be the next step. This needs to be fought in the courts. The concern is that when a wolf was caught previously, the wolf damaged itself and set precedence. Wes McCart asked if you have the ability to detain the wolf. Can we treat it like a prisoner? Ray Maycumber said he thinks he could but it depends on the circumstances by which we come to have the wolf. Is there a court action we can file against the department?

The battle is for the TOGO today. The authority to act is situational whereas their authority is more wide spread. Don Dashiell asked to hear from the range riders. Does the WDFW give you rubber bullets? Range riders ride all day and see cows looking for their babies. Joel Kretz said that in the court action they are questioning the non-lethal deterrents. Ray Maycumber said regardless of what we say here, they are going to fight us in the courts. Jake Nelson said he has been working with the department. The wolf came at him this morning and there were shots fires. He has been working with the departments but still getting their asses kicked every day. They want to stay legal. He doesn't think they can catch that wolf again.

Ray Maycumber said it would take a strong argument to defend the public safety. The Sheriffs have been under attack for a while now. The environmental groups live in the courts. Joel Kretz has been working day and night regarding this situation. It's the hardest thing he has ever dealt with in the legislature. We are making progress but we are running out of options. Ray Maycumber asked about petitions or ballot measures. There is a group in Idaho that protects wildlife from wolves. Justin Webb is the contact person. Ray Maycumber asked if we could file an action. We need to have a lawyer present to discuss options for actions. We need to change our dialogue.


The suggestion was made to collar the alpha female with a shocking mechanism if it comes close to the cattle.

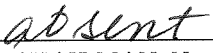
Steve Parker recapped the discussion. The cattle producers are being forced out of business. The department is ineffective. They shifted the goal posts. The counties need to step up to authorize collaring the animals. This is for the here and now. It is a local issue.

Mike Blankenship asked the cattle producers about how they felt if we reached out to the tribe for help with removal. Jake Nelson said he didn't think it was a bad idea. Ray Maycumber said the state recognized the tribes' right to hunt on the north half. Mike Blankenship said that it is not a direction we wanted to go but it sounds like we need to reach out. If the tribe is hunting them, can they give a permit to hunt? Mike Blankenship said that he wants action now. People are suffering today. Joel Kretz said he feels optimistic about the commission and data sharing. Wes McCart said the counties and landowners have a right to that collar data. He also asked if Stevens County should ask their Prosecutor to help Ferry County's Prosecutor write this up. There is a concern about taking out an animal with collar because then we have no data.

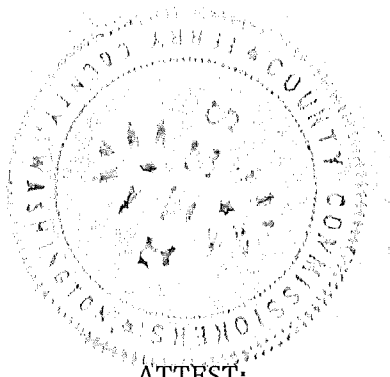
Ferry County will be talking to the Prosecutor on Tuesday September 4th.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON


CHAIRMAN, Johnna Exner


VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis


MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton