

MINUTES
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Meeting
FWP Headquarters – 1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT
JULY 8, 2010

Commission Members Present: Bob Ream, Chairman; Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chairman; Willie Doll, Ron Moody; Shane Colton.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: Joe Maurier, Director, and FWP Staff.

Guests: See July 8, 2010 Commission file folder for names of who signed in.

A Work Session was held July 7 beginning at 3:00 p.m. to discuss Wolves and Proposed FWP Land Acquisitions.

Topics of Discussion:

1. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2010 Meeting
3. Approval of Commission Expenses through June 2010
4. Commission Reports
5. Director's Report
6. Agency Budget and Legislative Proposals – Final
7. Beaverhead and Big Hole River Rules – Final
8. Classification of Exotic Species – Proposed
9. 2010 Wolf Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries – Final
10. Nongame Check-off Work Plan – Final
11. 2010 Deer, Elk and Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges – Final
12. Elk Plan Objective Adjustments – Proposed
13. 2010 Upland Game Bird Quotas and Limits – Final
14. 2010 HB454 Hunting Access Agreements – Final
15. 2010 Early Season Migratory Bird Regulations – Proposed
16. Johnson Conservation Easement (Region 7) – Endorsement
17. Big Lake WMA Expansion (Region 5) – Endorsement
18. South Glasgow Easement (Region 6) – Endorsement
19. Haymaker WMA Access Easement (Region 5) – Endorsement
20. Judith River WMA Access Easement (Region 4) – Endorsement
21. Wood Ranch Access Easement (Region 7) – Endorsement
22. Plum Ridge Trail Access Easement (Region 6) – Endorsement
23. Open Microphone – Public Opportunity to Address Additional FWP Issues

1. **Opening - Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Bob Ream called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2010.**

Action: Colton moved and Doll seconded the motion to approve the June 10, 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the June, 2010 Commission Expense Report.

Action: Colton moved and Doll seconded the motion to approve the expense report as presented. Motion carried.

4. Commission Reports.

Colton noted there is a lot of interest in the Sixteen Mile Creek acquisition. He has received positive comments. Ream – thanked FWP staff for all their hard work on the many issues before them.

Vermillion – high waters are receding, so the fishing season is back on track. He has attended meetings in Sheridan to discuss elk objectives with a new group who drafted a good proposal supported by all in attendance.

5. Director’s Report. Director Maurier stated that Hal Harper retired at end of June, so Mike Volesky will be the contact at the Governor’s Office. Bids have been received on the Outdoor Discovery Center, so that project will be moving forward. He is meeting with a potential donor tomorrow. Future fisheries will be discussed at a work session at the August meeting. Region 2 continues to work on the Spotted Dog acquisition. The advisory council voted to solicit public comment, however they want a 4- day comment period, while FWP prefers the 30-day comment period. The new fiscal year is underway, so the 7 percent vacancy savings begins again.

6. Agency Budget and Legislative Proposals – Final. Sue Daly, FWP Finance Division Administrator, stated that Montana Statute delegates authority to the Commission to review and approve the budget before the legislative session begins. The Commission approved agency priorities in January, which were submitted to the Governor’s Office. The legislature reviews the base budget of actual expenditures with any adjustments, after which joint subcommittees review the proposed budget.

FWP is requesting restoration of ten OTOs:

- FAS O&M
- Parks O&M
- Information Technology
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Program
- Urban Wildlife Planner
- Block Management (Enf & Wildlife)
- Migratory & Upland Game Bird Funding
- Game Damage Herders
- Comm Ed Operations Budget
- Private Lands Fishing Access

Restoration of Base Budget - Placeholders:

- Restore FAS Base Operations
- Restore Parks Base Operations
- Restore Warden Overtime
- Restore Grant Administration Funding
- Restore Coming Home to Hunt Funding
- Restore Snowmobile Equipment (Biennial)
- Restore Auction Programs
- Restore FWP Commission Honorarium
- Restore Search and Rescue Base

New Requests:

- Montana Outdoor Discovery Center Operations
- Legal Unit Workload Efforts – half FTE to assist with litigations, easements, water court issues, etc.
- Wolf Management – if Federal Funding disappears should wolves be delisted
- Elk Management Strategy for Brucellosis – Yellowstone Park area project

Legislation – Seven bills are agency bills, three were brought in from outside the agency.

Real Property Trust Account Amended to Exclude State Parks. Agency-Sponsored Bill.

The purpose of this legislation is to allow proceeds from the sale of surplus state park lands or revenues from other state park land-based activities such as leases of buildings or grounds to be immediately utilized by the state park system rather than placing those funds in the FWP real property trust.

Bounty and Commercial Hook and Line Fish Reduction. Agency-Sponsored Bill.

Introduced fish species can impact existing fisheries through competition, predation, and hybridization. This is particularly problematic for native fish and their conservation. Suppression or elimination of the introduced fish may be desired to

rebalance a fishery. Bounties and commercial hook and line fishing are two means to exert selective harvest on a species and ensure harvested fish are utilized.

Amend Primitive Parks Act. Agency-Sponsored Bill. The Primitive Parks Act, as currently written, limits development that is needed to meet the good neighbor law, to improve site maintenance, and to maintain proper stewardship. It also limits the division's ability to raise revenues. Some sites currently listed in legislation are simply not primitive. Finally, the list is outdated. Specifically, FWP proposes to:

change the act to allow for charging of residents for camping and other related fees; change the act to allow for development of host pads, for improved sanitary facilities, and for electricity in parks or for similar alternatives; and amend the act to remove Missouri Headwaters, Natural Bridge, Painted Rocks, Big Pine, Lost Creek, Thompson Falls, Deadman's Basin, Ackley Lake, and Sluice Boxes State Parks from the primitive parks list.

License Free Fishing Day. Agency-Sponsored Bill. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to recruit and retain anglers by allowing people to fish without purchasing a license on the Saturday of the first full weekend in June.

Revise Title 87 Criminal Code. External Bill. The Montana Legislature in 2007 passed House Joint Resolution 16 recommending the appointment of a Commission by the Montana Supreme Court to study revision of the criminal codes in Title 87. Upon the Supreme Court not appointing such a commission, the FWP Director appointed a Work Group to study and recommend a bill to the 2011 Legislature. Since the Work Group has legislator representation they will be finding their own sponsor for the legislation at the 2011 session.

Revise MIP and Dangerous Drug Laws. External Bill. This proposal gives FWP law enforcement officers the ability to enforce laws related to minors in possession of intoxicating substances (MIP), misdemeanor possession of dangerous drugs, and disorderly conduct and public nuisance on lands owned or operated by FWP, on public waters of the State of Montana, and on other public lands pursuant to an agreement with the land management agency.

Revise Boating Under the Influence Laws. External Bill. This proposal will generally revise laws related to enforcement authority of Fish, Wildlife and Parks wardens and park rangers; revise Fish, Wildlife and Parks laws pertaining to the illegal use of alcohol and drugs while boating or sailing; establish penalties for boating under the influence, refusing testing, and violating orders; clarify the standards for alcohol concentration and testing; authorize Fish, Wildlife and Parks wardens and park rangers to enforce laws related to boating under the influence; amend Section 23-1-106, 23-2-502, 23-2-506, 23-2-523, 61-8-407, and 87-1-502, MCA; and repeal Section 23-2-535.

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the Department's budget request and legislative proposals. Motion carried.

7. Beaverhead and Big Hole River Rules – Final. Chas VanGenderen, FWP Parks Division Administrator, explained that rules were adopted in 1999 to address over-crowding concerns on the Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers. In 2005, the Commission added language requiring a re-evaluation of the rules within five years. In April, 2010, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the rules, which are now before the Commission for final approval.

Action: Vermillion moved and Doll seconded the motion to adopt the final Beaverhead and Big Hole River Recreation Rules as proposed by the Department.

Vermillion said he attended the open houses and felt the open house format was good - he heard widespread support for the rules. The five-year review benefits both the public and the rivers.

Chairman Ream asked for public comment. There was none.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

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Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Division Administrator, commended the Wildlife Bureau on their hard work. He noted that the Director, he, and several other staff members will attend the WAFWA conference in Anchorage, Alaska in mid-July. The 2011 WAFWA conference will be held in Montana in July at Big Sky with Ron Aasheim serving as lead on the project.

**8. Classification of Exotic Species – Proposed.** Bruce Rich, FWP Fisheries Division Bureau Chief, introduced Eileen Ryce, FWP Aquatic Nuisance Specialist, and Tim Feldner, FWP Wildlife Permit Manager. Eileen presented the rule change, and began by explaining that all exotic wildlife are considered prohibited until classified. A review committee, established by statute, makes recommendations for classification when petitions are filed. They conduct a scientific review and make recommendations based on potential environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, the risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture, and the ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity, to determine if the species should be classified as non-controlled, controlled, or prohibited. Import permits are also required for imported species. The committee is recommending that the Hyena family be classified as prohibited, and the Barbary falcon and Coho salmon be classified as controlled.

The Miller Hutterite Colony is requesting possession of Coho salmon at their colony, with the potential of expanding to six additional colonies. Ryce stated that their facilities must be enclosed and would have to be at least 200 feet from open water. No live fish are to leave the premises. Examination of their facilities would be conducted prior to importation, followed by routine inspections of facilities and fish health. FWP staff would incorporate the annual and routine inspections into their normal schedules to alleviate any additional expenses to the Department. This would be handled similarly to the commercial pond permit system. A \$500 surety bond, set by statute, is required for commercial ponds, and would be recommended for this situation as well.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to approve the classification of these exotic species as recommended by the classification review committee. Motion carried.*

**9. 2010 Wolf Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries – Final.**

Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Division Bureau Chief, narrated a power point presentation. Four changes were proposed to the proposals that were approved by the Commission in May.

- \* Create 13 WMUs rather than 14 WMUs.
- \* Quota of 186
- \* Potential harvest over-runs taken off other WMU or statewide quotas
- \* Quota to tally only legal harvest

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to combine the Big Hole and Bitterroot WMUs (WMUs 210 and 300) to create a larger WMU210, thereby creating 13 WMUs rather than the proposed 14 WMUs.*

Chairman Ream asked for public comment.

Steve Kinley, Bitterroot Elk Working Group, supports this proposal.

Steve Wilson, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association, agreed with the larger quota.

Tim Aldrich, MT Wildlife Federation, initially thought the WMUs should be separate, but now supports the combination.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

*Action: Ream moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 33% harvest rate.*

Chairman Ream asked for public comment.

Steve Kinley would like to see a subunit in HD210 of 15 wolves. If that won't happen, he supports the 33/33/33 proposal. There is no depredation hunting in Westfork, which does not help with depredation.

Steve Wilson, supports the proposal.

Dale Burke, Stevensville, indicated he was speaking for Tom Powers of the MT Wild Sheep Foundation, and said that sheep are vulnerable in HD250. He asked the Commission to consider impacts on wild sheep.

Ben Lamb, MT Wildlife Federation, supports the motion and that they support revisiting depredation. He suggested a wolf depredation hunt.

Steve Kamps, MT Bowhunters Association, supports the 33% proposal, although personally he hates to see wolf numbers go down. Supported the subquota in HD210 of 15.

Mat Skogland, Natural Resources Defense Council, opposes a wolf hunt – it's premature. He suggested establishing a buffer zone around the perimeter of Yellowstone Park. He requested no hunting be allowed in the Centennials or in the back country as there is minimal livestock for them to encounter there. Any overrun should be subtracted from the total quota.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

*Action: Colton moved and Moody seconded the motion that the Commission reevaluate the quota range in October once data is collected from depredation. Motion carried.*

*Action: Colton moved and Moody seconded the motion to approve that any potential harvest over-runs be taken off other WMUs or statewide quotas.*

Bob Lane, FWP Legal Counsel, said the Commission has the power to institute a closure if there is an over-run. It can be addressed when it becomes a problem or it can be delegated to the Department.

Chairman Ream asked for public comment. There was none.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

*Action: Vermillion moved and Doll seconded the motion that the quota tally only legal harvest.*

McDonald stated that illegal kills are already taken into account so FWP is trying to be consistent with other species.

Chairman Ream asked for public comment.

Ben Lamb, MWF, stated that under the trophy game statute, the Department has rules that allow harvest to be halted if someone take takes out a whole pack.

Darek Goldman said he supports all take be included in the total quota. Wolves are not like other wildlife. People threaten to kill the wolves, and there is the potential for increased poaching and illegal taking of wolves. This might provide the opportunity for hunters to police their own ranks.

Steve Wilson, said elk and deer and bighorn sheep are being poached; wolves are just another piece of wildlife out there.

Steve Kamps advocated a higher number, but don't take harvest from hunters.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

Colton noted that the licenses go on sale August 9, and until Judge Malloy rules, it is difficult to know what to prepare for, so he would like to discuss the possibility of refunds and the costs involved, and what the impacts would be if the August 9 deadline were moved back. Perhaps that would save money and frustration.

Hank Worsech, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, stated that the August 9 date is still the plan. Once archery season begins, money will not be refunded because once an archery stamp is purchased, the opportunity to shoot a wolf is there. If an archery stamp is not purchased, folks would get their money back, but if they do, they will not. He added that the 5-day wait only applies after the season starts, not before.

Maurier said that regardless of the date the licenses go on sale, FWP will publicize the fact hunters may want to wait to purchase the licenses.

*Action: Colton moved and Moody seconded the motion to change the wolf license issuance date to August 23, 2010, and if the hunt is cancelled there is no refund.*

Chairman Ream asked for public comment.

Steve Wilson, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife, stated that he would like a portion of the wolf money to go toward an Upper Bitterroot elk study.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the final 2010 wolf season quotas and hunting district boundaries as proposed by the Department, including the approved amendments. Motion carried.*

#### **10. Nongame Check-off Work Plan – Final.**

No changes to the tentative proposals. Funding for FY2011, from tax year 2009, has dropped from over \$40,000 in previous years, to approximately \$23,000. FWP is proposing the following work in FY11 with this anticipated funding:

\$11,500 - Prioritize habitat for conservation including 1) identifying the most critical habitat needs for nongame, threatened or endangered species, 2) identifying and monitoring threats to these critical habitats.

\$11,500 - Inventory and monitoring species of concern. Species to be monitored will likely include bald eagles, mountain plovers, burrowing owls, and common loons.

*Action: Doll moved and Colton seconded the motion to approve the Nongame Check-off Work Plan as proposed. Motion carried.*

#### **11. 2010 Deer, Elk and Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges – Final.**

No changes to the tentative proposal.

*Action: Colton moved and Doll seconded the motion to adopt the Final adjustments to 2010 deer, elk and antelope quotas outside the biennial range as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.*

#### **12. Elk Plan Objective Adjustments – Proposed.**

Two recommended adjustments.

West Fork EMU/HD 250: Remove current requirement that UNLIMITED permits for bull harvest are implemented for at least two years prior to any application of LIMITED permits for bulls.

Gravelly EMU/HDs 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327 and 330: Re-establish pre-2005 elk objective of 8000 observed elk +/- 15% (current objective is 7000 observed elk +/- 15%).

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the Proposed Elk Plan objective changes as proposed by FWP.*

Chairman Ream asked for public comment.

Steven Kinley supports the language in HD250.

Steve Wilson supports the changes, and wants to go to limited permits.

Steve Kamps supports this proposal.

Ben Lamb, MWF, supports the proposal.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

### **13. 2010 Upland Game Bird Quotas and Limits – Final.**

One proposed change from 2009 - no changes to the tentatives.

Reduce fall turkey limit in Region 7 from 2 to 1 either sex turkey

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the Final 2010 upland game bird bag and possession limits and permit quotas as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.*

**14. 2010 HB454 Hunting Access Agreements – Final.** FWP received statutory authority to issue either-sex or antlerless elk permits to landowners for management purposes. The landowner must offer free public elk hunting, meet the various conditions of the statute, and enter a contractual public elk hunting access agreement with FWP.

One application was received from the Swanz Ranch, and that hunting access agreement specifically states that in return for allowing access to elk hunters, Mr. Swanz, or a family member, would receive one 411-21 either-sex permit. In turn, FWP would issue four additional 411-21 permits from the already randomized list of unsuccessful applicants for that license permit type (LPT). Successful applicants could only hunt on the Swanz deeded property. This agreement was first used in 2002 and has been reapplied annually since then based upon continued positive post-hunt evaluations. The proposed agreement for 2010 represents no change from the 2009 agreement.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the Final Swanz Hunting Access Agreement for the 2010 general hunting season as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.*

### **15. 2010 Early Season Migratory Bird Regulations – Proposed.**

Two proposed adjustments are recommended which apply to season dates on sandhill cranes and season dates for mid-continent cranes.

For the Rocky Mountain population of sandhill cranes the proposed opening and closing season dates for 2010 are later by six days relative to 2009 - same season length.. For all other 2010 Early Season Migratory Bird season elements, there are no proposed changes from 2009 except the annual calendar progression of dates for mid-continent sandhill crane harvest.

Season dates for Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes (special drawn permits): Sept. 11 – Sept. 26

Season dates for Mid-continent Sandhill Cranes: Sept. 25 – Nov. 21

*Action: Vermillion moved and Doll seconded the motion to adopt the 2010 Early Season Migratory Bird Seasons as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.*

**16. Johnson Conservation Easement (Region 7) – Endorsement.** FWP proposes to explore acquisition of an easement that involves thirty-one sections of contiguous, intact sagebrush grassland, and eleven miles of small stream and creek riparian habitat. The proposed easement would conserve four statewide habitats, two of which are among the most critical habitats in the state. Sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, small game, and a variety of nongame would all benefit from the protection and enhancement of these habitats. The easement would also allow the ranch to remain in private ownership.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to direct FWP, Region 7, to begin negotiations with the Johnson Ranch to pursue a conservation easement. Motion carried.*

**17. Big Lake WMA Expansion (Region 5) – Endorsement.** FWP proposes to pursue the purchase of 1,105 acres adjacent to the east boundary of Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, which consists of 2,060 acres in Stillwater County. The west shore of Big Lake is owned by FWP, and the east shore is privately owned by two landowners, with the legal boundary running through the lake bed which makes it impossible to fence neighboring cattle out of the WMA. The landowners have indicated willingness to sell the land to FWP if and when funding becomes available. The land is not currently listed for sale, but the landowners have indicated they would sell to a third party if a reasonable offer was presented. Funding options include North American Wetland Conservation Act grants and the State Migratory Bird Stamp Program.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to endorse FWP's effort to investigate and pursue all options to purchase 1,105 acres adjacent to Big Lake WMA. Motion carried.*

**18. South Glasgow Easement (Region 6) – Endorsement.** FWP seeks to pursue purchase of a conservation easement on 324-acres located one mile south of Glasgow along the Milk River in Valley County. The fields and riparian cover on this ranch, adjacent to the Milk River, provide important habitat to white-tailed deer, pheasants, waterfowl, fish, two threatened/endangered species, and six Montana species of concern. Acquisition of a conservation easement would guarantee public access to this ranch and to the Milk River for hunting, fishing and other recreation. This project also fits with the Milk River Initiative.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to support FWP's recommendation to purchase a conservation easement on this property. Motion carried.*

**19. Haymaker WMA Access Easement (Region 5) – Endorsement.** FWP proposes to purchase an easement on a half-mile of road that leads to the Haymaker Wildlife Management Area, located in hunting district 540 near Billings. This easement would provide public access to the WMA and adjacent USFS lands in the Little Belt Mountains. Some time back, FWP traded land but failed to retain an easement. Currently there is a good-will access allowed by the Olson brothers, who also participate in the Block Management Program. The landowners believe the public has the right to access, and they recently indicated a willingness to consider selling a permanent easement on the road that leads from the county road to the existing easement. The Billings Rod and Gun Club, the Magic City Fly Fishers, Wheatland County, and the Olson brothers have offered their assistance in the purchase and installation of cattle guards.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to approve that FWP pursue the purchase of an easement to the Haymaker Wildlife Management Area. Motion carried.*

**20. Judith River WMA Access Easement (Region 4) – Endorsement.** FWP proposes to acquire a one-and-a-half-mile road easement through private land to the Judith River Wildlife Management Area, and to Forest Service and DNRC School Trust land, via Dipping Vat Coulee in the Little Belt Mountains. Public access along Dipping Vat Coulee has been secured by a Block Management contract with the landowner, Mark Rogers of Hobson, since 1996. This land is located about a mile north of Sapphire Village near the Judith River.

*Action: Moody moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to endorse the Department's recommendation to begin negotiations to acquire a public road access easement across private land along Dipping Vat Coulee to the JRWMA. Motion carried.*

**21. Wood Ranch Access Easement (Region 7) – Endorsement.** FWP proposes to purchase a right-of-way easement on one-half mile of road to the northeast portion of the Custer National Forest. Currently, the landowner, Sandra Wood, allows good-will access to USFS land. She also participates in FWP's Block Management Program and believes the public should have the right to access. The Woods' recently indicated a willingness to consider selling a permanent public easement on the half-mile of road that leads from the county road to the existing easement.

*Action: Colton moved and Moody seconded the motion to endorse FWP's pursuit of the purchase of a right-of-way easement through the Wood Ranch. Motion carried.*

**22. Plum Ridge Trail Access Easement (Region 6) – Endorsement.** Plum Ridge Trail has been used as a key public access trail linking the Timber Creek Road to the Larb Hills in Hunting District 622. This trail crosses approximately three miles of deeded land owned by several local ranchers. In 2009, one of these ranchers, Kelly Burke, restricted access across his property by discontinuing public traffic through his 1,000 deeded acres. Without passage through this deeded land hunters must now travel roughly 50 miles north around the Larb Hills to pursue elk in HD 622. Mr. Burke has expressed interest in working with FWP on a potential access easement along Plum Ridge Trail.

*Action: Doll moved and Colton seconded the motion to endorse FWP's recommendation to begin negotiations to acquire public road access easements across private land along Plum Ridge Trail. Motion carried.*

**23. Open Microphone – Public Opportunity to Address Additional FWP Issues.**

Dale Burke, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association, said he wrote a letter requesting that FWP conduct a predator prey study on the upper Bitterroot. He proposed that half of the wolf license money go to this predator prey study. They know it has to go through the legislature, but are seeking support from the Commission to use that money. He also spoke at length about the salmon fly hatch on the Big Hole River and how he wants a study conducted on that.

Ream directed Vermillion to work with the Fisheries Division on the aspects of a study.

Bruce Rich stated that he would like to determine if there is indeed a problem before they invest resources in a study.

Director Maurier stated that there are a lot of people who want the wolf money, but it has to be appropriated.

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Doll stated that after touring the WMAs on the opening day of the shed antler season, he sees a need to unify things. He requested that FWP develop a program prior to next year's shed antler opening day that will unify all of the WMA regulations. He said it needs to be done soon.

Moody agreed with Doll. He is concerned about public safety when openings occur in the middle of the night, and he would like FWP to establish uniformity of regulations.

Action: Vermillion moved and Doll seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Bob Ream, Chairman

Joe Maurier, Director