

Private and State Lands Committee

Call to order by Joel Ohman at 4:00 p.m.

Jim Arnold State Land Update

- In the past Farm loans total \$275,000,000 with \$7,000,000 going for beginning farmers or ranchers now there is \$27.5 million going for beginning farmers or ranchers.
- Livestock restoration Act at loans money at .7%
- State lands will charge \$4.13 this year \$4.85 next year per AUM.
- New legislation is being introduced to prevent State land rate from being bid higher than 1.25% of the current national lease rate that is for private land.
- New legislation is proposed to allow them to be able to use more of their money that has been designated for spraying weeds to actually get it used on the ground without the red tape.
- Legislation is proposed to clarify the improvements lessee make.
- Legislation to give the state the ability to access state lands that are leased to another party.
- Legislation to make it simpler to acquire and sell lands that will meet the objectives of the state committee.

Annaliese Wiederspahn gave a presentation on the down falls of wind generation.

- Wiederspahn warned producers to be careful how you make contracts with wind farms some of them are requiring a 200 feet width right of way .
- Wasatch electrical wants to put in 400 ft. tall wind turbines.
- Resolution to have people to oversee new turbines that are installed. Failed.
- Discussion was made that the Governor has a task force to deal with wind energy development.
- Resolution WSGA support the Governor's task force regarding wind energy development. Failed.

Karyn Coppinger gave a Presentation on Wind Power.

- Many independent companies make up the total windmill conglomerates.
- She said that wind energy is clean, green, and economical.
- Multiple landowners help make it all work better.
- Having landowner support is important.
- Jobs will be created. It is estimated that 15 million over 20 years will be created in property tax.
- Challenges- Transmission lines through public and state lands have environmental concerns.
- Flow gates are stopping power from going in other states.
- Need consistent policy.
- Many bills promoting wind energy have not got passed.
- Wind energy feel they are heavily regulated. Feel that the landowner should be responsible to salvage turbine if it fails.
- Applications from BLM take six months.
- State lands are easier to deal with.

- Sage grouse could put a hamper on windmill production.

Grant Strumbough

- Carbon Sequestration. Has done four workshop with 40 ranchers interested and two ranchers have received money for carbon credit trading. No-till or minimum-till alfalfa permanent pasture or methane digesters qualify for carbon credits. The people that are emitting more than permitted they will buy carbon offset. Landowner needs to be interested in trading needs to find an aggregator who puts several producers together to sell on Chicago exchange.
- New “cap and trade” bill is coming out that is silent on agriculture offsets on carbon credits. Many in the house say they need agriculture to support the bill. This will increase the cost of energy. CO2 has been declared as a pollutant.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed the following resolution was adopted:

- Be it resolved that the WSGA supports free and open access to all transmission lines in Wyoming by all electrical power producers now and in the future and request State and Federal Governments to expedite the location and building of transmission lines from the State of Wyoming.

Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.