

WSGA BRAND/WWGA GRAND & THEFT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

WSGA Chair: Mike Lohse

WWGA Co-Chair: Brent Larson

WSGA Vice Chair: Pat Cullen

WWGA Co-Chair: Liz Philp

Chairman Loshe called the meeting to order. He asked State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan to give the Livestock Boards Update in lieu of Jim Schwartz being called away on a family emergency. Jim informed the membership that they expect revenues to remain sufficient to meet obligations in the near term but are concerned about the future. Livestock inspections are continuing the declining trend which obviously impacts the revenue picture. He reminded the membership that they were in the red a year ago to the tune of \$100,000. They continue to reduce their expenses where possible like mileage to work through these tough times. They continue to work on their goal of having one year of operating expenses in an earmarked account.

Jim commented on the board's mileage policy and the surcharge for livestock inspections. He addressed a question from a member on the lack of apportionment of the surcharge fee and the reasoning for the board policy surrounding the issue.

Comments followed on addressing the budget shortfall the board is expected to face in the future. One member expressed that the board might consider raising the livestock brand recording fees another \$100. A member and legislator commented on the states budget shortfalls expected in the new session next year.

The chair put forth a directive on Maintenance of Brand Fees for the membership committee to consider and encouraged its adoption. It states the WSGA/WWGA oppose any increases in brand inspection and registration fees and urge the Wyoming Livestock Board to recognize the difficult economic challenges facing Wyoming's livestock industry and to refrain from proposing any increases in fees related to brand inspection and brand registration. David Kane moved and Jim Wilson seconded the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.