

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF NIOBRARA COUNTY
Minutes of Annual Meeting
4:30 pm December 4, 2024
Courthouse

Members and Staff Present:

Arleen York, President
Justen Miller, Vice President
Kitson Boldon, Secretary-Treasurer
Dave Birch
Dan Tadewald
John Lashmett

Terry Allbright
Hayden Wick
Shannon Bruegger
Dale Greenough, Trapper
John Graham, Trapper

Members and Staff Absent

Richard Edwards

Chairman Arleen York called the public meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Boldon presented the treasurer's report.

Aerial Services: Boldon reported that from July 1, 2024 to Oct. 30, 2024 for Kelly and to Sept. 29, 2024 for Shannon there had been billed a total of 69.9 hours flown and 133 coyotes taken.

County Trappers Report: Greenough reported that Kelly had not been flying since 1st of November due to back surgery. As of Dec. 1st he has been cleared to fly and they flew on Monday the 2nd and took 51 coyotes. They took 37 coyotes in Oct. before his surgery. He reported that he has taken almost 500 coyotes from December 2023 to December 2024, from the air and 180 coyotes from the ground. He also said that the best months to take coyotes, in his opinion, was Feb. March and April, when the females are still pregnant as this is ultimately when you get the highest take of coyotes for the efforts put in. He said that during those months this year they had taken approximately 150 coyotes by air. Out of the ones checked they took 177 unborn pups and between him and John they had taken 17 dens allowing for 100 pups to be counted as taken. Graham reported that he had been ground crewing for Shannon and Kelly. He mentioned you get tough coyotes from air as well as in traps it takes all methods not necessarily one better than the other. Just depends on the situation. He also let the producers know that he appreciates communication and letting the trappers know where they have been hearing or seeing sign of coyotes.

Operations and Personnel Committee: Miller reported that they did meet briefly before the meeting. Bruegger could not get a hold of Brett Ruiz to further discuss what the trapper proposal was with him. So, it would be further discussed when Brett does get back in touch with them.

Other Reports:

Deer Count Reports: Bruegger reported that his deer count had been done and 20 miles deer count was up and cow creek's numbers were down. In his opinion the increase in one area and decrease in another might be due

to more moisture that 20 mile received vs. cow creek. Lee Lamb did the rawhide count and Shannon reported that those numbers are about the same. He would be getting Kitson the actual reported numbers once he got it done.

Introduce any guests: Chairman York introduced Chase Ferguson, the new Game and Fish warden for Niobrara County.

Trapper John Graham introduced Cierra Colvin as an interested seasonal trapper for the county.

Old Business

No old business to report

New Business

Election

York opened the floor for nominations for chairman and secretary to act as election judges. Kitson Boldon nominated Hayden Wick for chairman and Lee Lamb for secretary, nomination was seconded. Kitson Boldon made a motion that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for those nominees. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

York opened the floor for nominations for a Cattle Representative. Shannon Bruegger was nominated by Kitson Boldon, nomination was seconded. AW Manning was nominated by Sandy Moen, nomination was seconded. Lee Lamb made a motion that nominations cease, and ballots be cast for Bruegger and Manning. Motion was seconded. Motion carried. Ballot count by the election judges showed that Shannon Bruegger was elected as Cattle Representative by the cattle producers with 14 votes to AW's 13 votes on the Predator Board.

Thompson then opened the floor for nomination for a Sheep Representative. Kitson Boldon was nominated by Shannon Bruegger, nomination was seconded. Dave Birch made a motion that nominations cease, and a unanimous ballot be cast for Boldon. Motion was seconded. Motion carried. Boldon will remain on the board as a Sheep Representative.

Appointment of Sportsman & At-Large: Boldon reported that the County Commissioners appointed John Lashmett to be on our board as a Sportsman member.

Setting of Predator Fees: Discussion was held amongst the Livestock Representatives on the predator fee for 2025. York informed everyone that it is required you have a maximum fee of one dollar (\$1) per head for cattle and sheep to participate with ADMB. Tadewald moved we set it at the maximum fee of one dollar (\$1) per head for cattle and sheep. Motion was seconded. The livestock directors voted unanimously in favor. Motion carried.

York adjourned the public meeting at 5:32 pm.

York called the regular board meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Consent Agenda

Bruegger moved to accept the previously emailed financial report, bill list, and minutes of the November 21, 2024, meeting. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Seasonal Trapper: Miller reported he talked to another interested seasonal trapper, Clint Phillips who was wanting more information on what the proposal was for the seasonal trapper. Cierra Colvin was also interested in the seasonal trapping job. After discussion with the operations and personnel committee it was decided Kitson would email the seasonal trapper proposal to the interested individuals and allow them to get a resume to the board by December 15th in which they would be brought to the December 19th meeting and a decision would be made whether to offer any of them a contract or not.

Ratify Predator Fee: Miller following what the livestock representatives voted on, moved we set the 2025 Predator Fee at the maximum fee of one dollar (\$1) per head for cattle and sheep. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Board Officers: York opened nominations for election of board officers. Bruegger moved that Arleen York stay as chairman and Justen Miller stay as Vice President. Motion was seconded. Motion carried. Kitson Boldon was re-appointed by Chairman York as Secretary-Treasurer.

Operations Committee Appointments: Chairman York appointed Shannon Bruegger, Hayden Wick, and Justen Miller to the Operations Committee for 2025.

Representative to State Predator Board: York appointed Boldon, Wick, and herself to be our 2025 State Predator Board representative. She appointed Miller and herself to be Special Projects representative.

Officer Security Bond: Boldon informed the board that Keri Thompson can't disburse money to the board unless we have a bond. That being said our annual officer security bond would need to be renewed on March 1, 2025. Bruegger made a motion to renew the annual officer security bond for \$100.00. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Hangar Insurance Renewal: Boldon informed the board that our annual hangar insurance would need renewed on January 25, 2025. Bruegger made a motion to renew the annual hangar insurance for whatever amount is due. The motion was seconded, and motion carried.

Renting Hangar: Boldon reported that the hangar lease agreements were coming due January 1, 2025 and wanted to know if we should again offer agreements to the same lessees for the same amount. Tadewald made a motion to offer the same lease agreements to the same lessees in the same amount as 2024. The motion was seconded, and motion carried.

Game and Fish – Big Game Tag Letter: Boldon asked the board if we should send Richard Ladwig a letter to kindly ask for his consideration in giving out big game tags for 2025. Lashmett made a motion to mail that letter to Richard in considering the Niobrara County Predator Board to receive a big game tag for 2025. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Annual BLM report due January 20, 2025: Boldon reminded the trappers and aerial service providers that she was going to need coyote numbers, losses of livestock and number of coyotes taken on BLM from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 for this report due on January 20, 2025.

There being no further business, York adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kitson Boldon, Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted by:

Arleen York

Arleen York, President

Predator Management District of Niobrara county

12/21/23

Bill List

Bills Paid, To be approved

12/4/24 Lee Lamb

Deer Count - Rawhide area

\$300.00

Bills Payable

Cash on hand less bills outstanding

Funds set aside

\$198,751.00

Funds to operate on

\$213,850.61

Less outstanding bills

\$0.00

Total \$412,601.61

Submitted by:



Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted by:



President

Niobrara County Predator Management District

Treasurer Report

As of December 4, 2024

Wyo-STAR	\$375,275.35
LSB Checking	\$50,284.70
Less outstanding Checks	(\$ 14,000.00)
Less Unpaid Bills Presented	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$411,560.05

Funds:

Special Reserve	\$198,751.00
Operations thru 6/30/25	<u>\$212,809.05</u>
	\$411,560.05

