

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF NIOBRARA COUNTY

Minutes of March Meeting

5:00 pm March 16, 2024

Courthouse

Members and Staff Present:

Royce Thompson, Chairman
Arleen York, Vice President
Kitson Boldon, Secretary-Treasurer
Richard Edwards
Gary Bayne
Dave Birch

Dan Tadewald
Terry Allbright
John Graham, Trapper
Dale Greenough, Trapper

Members and Staff Absent

Shannon Bruegger

Matty Chobanian, Seasonal Trapper

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Edwards made a motion to approve the consent agenda of previously emailed minutes from the last meeting and the bill list. Motion was seconded and carried.

Reports

Aerial Services Report: Boldon reported that from July 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024 we had been billed for 94.3 hours and they had taken 306 coyotes.

County Trappers Report: Dale reported it was very windy in February, so they didn't fly much. March 16th Kelly flew and killed 26 coyotes and the 19th they flew and got 10 coyotes. The females have had anywhere from 5 to 7 pups in them. John reported he has lots of traps out and has ground crewed for Kelly and Dale the times they flew. He has killed 17 coyotes so far for March and 4 of them were for sure bred.

Operations and Personnel Committee: Bayne reported that they did meet. They discussed that our new part time trapper, Matt, they believed was not holding up to his end of the contract. He hadn't killed any coyotes for February and had not set out any traps for fear of catching his dog. His lack of description and location on his trapping report and his non willingness to learn the area was also concerning. The committee recommended we terminate his agreement and send him a letter giving him his 10 day notice. Justen made a motion to send Matt his 10 day written notice that the board would be terminating his Agreement. Motion was seconded and carried. Boldon would type up that letter and get it in the mail March 22, 2024.

Thompson put the Operations Committee in charge of looking for another part time trapper.

Old Business

CNA Surety: Boldon informed the board that she had contacted Lorie out of Moorcroft to see if she could get this bond to cover for positions instead of actual names. She found we could not cover just positions for the bond policy unless those positions were employed. She did determine we only had 2 names on that bond. I had informed her we had 3 people signed up at the bank to sign on the Predator Board behalf and that we should probably have all 3 of those members bonded. She agreed and looked into adding that 3rd person. With this change we incurred a \$25 fee, to change the policy, but Lori assured me it would be only a one-time fee. Tadewald made a motion we pay the \$25 fee to CNA Surety for the additional person added to the bond. Motion was seconded and carried.

Special District Grant: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Douglas Wildlife Biologist, Matt Huizenga was at the meeting again to discuss the special grant for the wildlife projects. He told us that these special projects were more to increase deer numbers and wildlife than for the protection of livestock. He informed us the grant is due the end of this month but that it wouldn't take him long to get it typed up once we knew the area we wanted to do and the amount we wanted to apply for. York made a motion we pursue applying for the special districts grant to help increase the wildlife population focusing on the Lance Creek area, for the amount of \$20,000.00. Motion was seconded and carried. Gary volunteered to help Matt with the grant application.

Part Time Trapper/Contract Accepted/Radio: Since the board was giving the part time trapper his 10 day notice of termination of agreement it was not necessary to accept his signed contract and we needed to make sure and get whatever radio we loaned to him back before he leaves.

New Business

Gunner & Flying Permits: Boldon said she signed Shannon Bruegger's aerial and Traylin Bruegger's gunner permits. Justen Miller also brought her Taylor Dilts, Deven Bohlander, and Jason & Jenne Miller's flying permits for her to sign. York made a motion to approve all permits signed by Kitson. Motion was seconded and carried.

Predator Fee Refunds: Boldon presented the requests for predator fee refunds from 2023. York moved to approve all requests at the maximum 95% level. Second was received. Motion carried.

ADMB Grant: After board discussion Miller made a motion to apply for the ADMB Grant in the same amount as last year \$180,000. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

LGLP Renewal: York moved to renew the liability insurance through the state LGLP and to pay the \$600 annual premium. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Boldon presented two bills from Shannon Bruegger. One for aerial services in the amount of \$4,262.50 and the other for aerial hunting in the amount of \$10,750.00. Bayne moved to pay all the bills presented by Boldon. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

York made a motion to pay our current full-time trappers, Dale & John, \$600 each to help pay for their personal equipment they use. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Royce brought to the boards attention so that if anyone called the board or anyone saw flying, there is a red helicopter here in the county for the next couple days doing raptor nest surveys for the wind project.

Edwards also brought to the attention of the board about, not in this county, anti trappers that are starting up due to a dog getting caught in a trap.

There being no further business to discuss Chairman Thompson adjourned the meeting at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kitson Boldon, Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted by:



Royce Thompson, President

Predator Management District of Niobrara county

4/18/24

Bill List

Bills Paid, To be approved

3/31/24 Dale Greenough	March Contract	\$6,000.00
3/31/24 John Graham	March Contract	\$6,000.00
3/31/24 Matty Chobanian	March Seasonal Trapper Contract	\$6,250.00
5/15/24 Kelly Huseby	March Aerial Services	\$3,602.50

Bills Payable

Cash on hand less bills outstanding

Funds set aside	\$198,751.00
Funds to operate on	\$154,397.67
Less outstanding bills	\$0.00
Total	<u>\$353,148.67</u>

Submitted by:


Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted by:


President