

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF NIOBRARA COUNTY

Minutes of December Meeting

4:30 pm December 03, 2025

Niobrara County Courthouse

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Arleen York called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. Members**

Members & Staff Present:

Arleen York – President

Justen Miller – Vice President

Kitson Boldon – Secretary-Treasurer

Kodi Smith – Secretary-Treasurer

Shannon Bruegger

Dave Birch

Dan Tadewald

Terry Allbright

John Graham – Trapper

John Lashmett

Dale Greenough – Trapper

Hayden Wick

Members & Staff Absent:

*None reported.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Justen Miller to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Seconded by Dave Birch.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 Treasurer's Report**

Presented by Kitson Boldon

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Wyostar Account	\$324,690.81
Checking Account	\$30,529.97
Outstanding Checks	\$14,000 (trapper payments)
Total Funds Available	\$341,218.78
Special Reserve	\$193,000

Usable Funds Until June 30, 2026 \$148,218.78

Predator fees are expected before June 30, 2026.

Motion: Justen Miller

Second: Hayden Wick

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **4.2 Aerial Services Report**

- Reporting Period: July 1 – October 30 (Kelly) and July 1 – October 16 (Shannon)
- 58.3 total billed hours; 149 coyotes taken.
- July 1–October 9: 29 coyotes taken by aerial hunting.
- 200 total hours contracted; 58 hours flown as of October.
- No flights in November. Greenough reported 8 additional coyotes taken during deer-count flights.

#### **4.3 County Trappers Report**

Dale Greenough:

- Aerial totals (Dec 2024–Dec 2025): ~500 coyotes (Kelly: 365; Shannon: 125).
- Ground kills: 186 coyotes.
- 15 dens taken — 74 coyotes, 35 unborn pups.
- Additional captures: 42 porcupines, 20 red fox, 28 badgers, 20 skunks.
- Spring denning hindered by muddy conditions.
- Deer and grouse populations appear to be increasing.

John Graham:

- 68 coyotes since Oct. 1; mostly adults and dry females.
- Reports higher mule deer numbers throughout the county.

Shannon Bruegger:

- 22 coyotes taken on ground; 36 total in past three months through aerial work.

#### **4.4 Coyote Hunt Report – Kyle Gruwell**

- 12 teams participated (including one single entry).
- 52 coyotes taken, 29 within Niobrara County.
- Also recorded: 2 porcupines and 1 fox.
- Fewer overall numbers but higher local success rate.
- Participants will continue reporting through April 1.
- Thermal hunting discussion postponed pending budget availability.

#### **4.5 Operations & Personnel Committee**

No meeting held.

#### **4.6 Deer Count Report – Shannon Bruegger**

Survey Date: November 11, 2025

<b>Area</b>	<b>Deer Population Change</b>	<b>Fawn Ratio</b>	<b>Notes</b>
20 Mile Creek	+8%	-10%	Slight decline in fawn ratio
Cow Creek	+58%	+1%	Significant growth
Rawhide Area	+51%	+81% fawn crop	Nearly double from prior year

- Only 3 coyotes observed during count.
- Elk sightings reported by Lee.
- Increased number of bucks with broken horns.
- Copies of the count provided to members upon request.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

## **5.1 Guest Introductions**

Joe Netz, Logan Heth, Anthony Walczyk, Jack Miskimins, Dakota Forkner, and Kyle Gruwell were introduced.

## **5.2 Board Member Elections**

- Secretary/Treasurer: Kodi Smith appointed (replacing Kitson Boldon).
- Cattle Producer: Jack Miskimins nominated and elected unanimously.
- Sheep Producers: Joe Netz and Dave Birch elected.
- At-Large Recommendation: Anthony Walczyk – to be forwarded to County Commissioners for confirmation.

Swearing-in to occur at the courthouse.

## **5.3 Predator Fee**

Remains at \$1.00 per head for both cattle and sheep.

Motion: Shannon moved; Hayden seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **5.4 Adjournment of Public Meeting**

Motion: John moved; Justen seconded.

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Result: Approved unanimously. Public meeting adjourned.

## **6. OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

- President: Arleen York
- Vice President: Justen Miller
- Secretary/Treasurer: Kodi Smith

Motion: Nominations closed and unanimous ballot cast.

Result: President and Vice President remain the same as previous term. Approved unanimously.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

- State Predator Board Representatives: Justen Miller, Hayden Wick, Kodi Smith, and Arleen York.
- Hangar Insurance Renewal: \$955.60 approved.
  - *Motion: Miller; Second: Lashmett. Carried.*

- Lease Renewal – Travis Bruegger: Two leases renewed at \$1,800 total (\$75/month × 12 × 2).
  - *Motion: Hayden; Second: Justen. Carried. Shannon abstained.*
- Game & Fish Coordination: Thank-you letter and tag consideration request to Richard Ladwig.
  - *Motion: Justen; Second: Dave. Carried.*
- Annual BLM Report: Due January 1, 2026. Will include BLM and non-BLM totals from trappers and aerial reports.
- Aerial Services & Gunner Permits: Approved for Theran Hagamen, Shannon Bruegger, Garrett Cameron, and Traylin Bruegger.
  - *Motion: John; Second: Justen. Motion carried.*

## 8. FINAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Justen moved to adjourn; John seconded.

Vote: Unanimous.

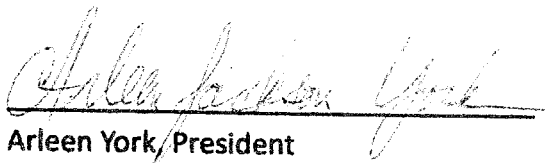
Meeting Adjourned: 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kodi Smith, Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted by:

  
Arleen York, President