

**ACTION ITEMS from Meeting of the
Kootenay PAZWP Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee (RAWC)**

DATE: Tuesday, 5th April 2011
TIME: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (Creston time)

Service BC meeting room at 1404 Canyon Street, Creston, BC

Participants

Jeff Morgan – MFLNRO – PAZWP A/Manager	Jeff.Morgan@gov.bc.ca
Brian Baehr – ARDCorp - BCAC (linked in by telephone)	brian@ardcorp.ca
James Barber - MOE COS	James.Barber@gov.bc.ca
Gerry Bond – Creston Valley R&G, WKO Region 4 West	ottervalley@shaw.ca
Faye Street – Kootenay Livestock Association	fstreet@kootenaylivestock.ca
Andy McDonald – Waldo Stockbreeders Association	cam.mcdonald@telus.net
Darrell Smith - MAL Resource Agrologist	Darrell.Smith@gov.bc.ca
Mannie Roberts – BCTA local representative	mannieroberts@hotmail.com
Donna Thornton - MFLNRO-PAZWP Ag/Wildlife Specialist	Donna.Thornton@gov.bc.ca
Gary Glinz – Ranger Logistics	rangerlogistics@shaw.ca
Rob Davidson – Creston Valley Beef Growers	davidson@wynndel.ca
Brian Huscroft – EKWA	wildacres@wynndel.ca
Rob McKeeman – Disabled Hunters	ejparent@shaw.ca
Sue Crowley – ER with MFLNRO	sue.crowley@gov.bc.ca
Mike Malmberg – KLA	mmalmberg@cintek.com
Marc Andre Beaucher - CVWMA	biology@crestonwildlife.ca

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30 - Coffee mingle - introductions for new members – attendance & order lunch
09:30 – 09:45 - Review of action items from prior meeting
09:45 – 10:15 - Report on the 2010 C&E Strategy & Communications Project & success of Zone X of 4-03 GOS
10:15 – 10:30 - Report on East Kootenay Landowner Enfranchisement Project
10:30 – 10:45 - Update on Upper Columbia aerial elk inventory surveys from Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2011
10:45 – 11:00 - Update on ARDCorp application for funding of elk telemetry/GIS project with KLA/BCCF
11:00 – 11:30 - Update on ARDCorp funding of the 'hunter dating service' website
11:30 – 12:00 - Discuss any ag/wildlife conflicts from the past winter – committee member reports?
12:00 – 12:30 - **LUNCH BREAK**
12:30 – 13:00 - Proposed new hunting coordination projects (eg: Tarry's/Thrums), anywhere else?
13:00 – 13:30 - Presentation by Jody Murdoch from Monsanto on proposed 'Kootenay Agricultural Society'
13:30 – 14:00 - Update on BCWF's 'BC Outdoors Passport' by Gary Glinz & presentation on proposal for access across private land to reach Crown land for hunting
14:00 – 14:30 - **HEALTH BREAK**
14:30 – 15:00 - Proposed hunting regulation changes for 2012 (including disabled hunter pilot project proposal & Creston elk fence/LEH zone expansion)
15:00 – 15:30 - Wrap up and determine date of next RAWC meeting
**announced EKCP workshop on May 27 & 28, 2011, at COTR in Cranbrook, give out EKCP brochure

NEXT MEETING? Early Fall in Cranbrook, tentatively Tuesday, November 1, 2011
Please R.S.V.P. to Donna if unable to attend, thanks! (250-354-6353 or donna.thornton@gov.bc.ca)

Brought Forward Action Items (last RAWC minutes on screen)

Old Item #1 Donna

Donna had found a possible source of travel funding for participants who have to travel to RAWC meetings, but each organization has to apply for \$ on their own and commit to CBT to return with community info (see CBT website at: <http://www.cbt.org/Funding/?Programs>). *Andy McDonald reported that Donna from the Waldo Stockbreeders group was to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust and their Community Initiatives Program for funding for WSG volunteers to attend relevant meetings-*

he hasn't heard back yet on the success..

Old Item #2 Jeff ('5 and you're out' ICBC guideline)

Jeff Morgan reported that this MVA policy was not confirmed by ICBC at all, he'd need more specific information to be able to follow up further.

Item #2 Donna

Work at Wildlife Act/Regulation amendment to use shotguns and slugs for elk. *Donna has already spoken with Joe McBride, legal counsel for Wildlife Branch; he recommends a two phase approach. First, to restrict application of the shotguns & slugs rule to the 'special hunt zones' (agr'l or winter range). Second, to allow municipalities to enact local bylaws as they see fit (eg: closure areas, bows only, etc). In progress.*

Old Item #4 Jeff/Greg

To check on membership and responsibilities of RAWC members, see if any more responsibilities are identified and add these to the RAWC Terms Of Reference (TOR). *New MFLNRO Kootenay Boundary Regional Director is Paul Rasmussen (advised everyone he has a hobby farm with horses, and has elk problems, so familiar with issues, plus he hunts). Revised RAWC TOR handed out to members for comments to be sent back to Donna (ran out of time to discuss at meeting).*

Requested also to check on how to relate/communicate to local First Nations communities. The first TOR was sent to the Ktunaxa, with no response so far from the FN. *Recommendation to send all RAWC minutes to the Ktunaxa and the Shuswap. Donna to check with Dave Dunbar to see if Pam Cowtan /Brent Lucas need to be included.*

Item #4 Brian Huscroft?

To check with the Creston Agricultural Society if they want a representative from the vine or orchard fruit or crop sectors on the RAWC. *In progress. Donna to pester Brian and then follow up with the Creston Agr'l Society.*

Old Item #6 Donna

The East Kootenay Landowner Enfranchisement Pilot Program final meeting and wrap up 'thank you' luncheon was held in the fall in Grasmere for the participating landowners. *KLEP final report in progress of being written with up to date statistics and will be distributed.*

Item #11 Donna

East Kootenay elk telemetry/GIS project has been funded to \$10,000.00 by ARDCorp. BCCF and KLA have collaborated to hire Becky Phillips to do the contract (she originally helped put the collars on the elk), with technical expertise volunteered by Tara Szkorupa of K-B Region Wildlife. Sue Crowley reported on the Ecosystem Restoration efforts in the RMT and positive habitat changes are being seen. Now know 5-10 years are needed for the fescues to return to treated areas. This GIS project may help show this ER success? **Action Item** – *Sue to show where ER done and bring an overview of restoration success to next RAWC meeting.*

Meeting Notes, New Action Items & Agreements

1. Coffee/tea, treats and introductions around the table. Jeff Morgan was the (ruthless) moderator for meeting, Donna Thornton was scribe. Lunch orders were taken with attendance in morning.
2. Information was presented to non-government folks on the most recent government name as part of its transformation: **Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations** (MFLNRO) is the current location of the PAZWP program. The Kootenay Boundary PAZWP brochures and website are being updated.
3. Review of action items from prior meetings (see follow up actions in Bring Forward section above).
4. One page summaries of the 2010 Compliance and Enforcement Strategy report were distributed to all on the antlerless elk GOS in Zone X of 4-03; a few hard copies were available for those interested. Changes and additions recommended from the last RAWC meeting have been

incorporated. Discussion on how PAZWP hunter education had really helped decrease COS infractions. **Action Item** - Donna to work with James Barber to add at least an anecdotal example of how effective the education outreach turned out to be for the GOS. Gary Glinz volunteered to write an article for the 'Outside Edge' comparing 2009 to 2010 complaints. Want to know the number of hunter related complaints received. **Action Item** – Donna to survey RAPP call centre (try to separate out for this GOS and the Kootenay Boundary only)? Discussion on the lack of funding for extra COS for year two of the antlerless elk GOS. A 2011 C&E& Communications Strategy to be developed for the Creston and RMT ag zones. **Action Item** - Donna to create the 2011 C&E&C Strategy and explore the use of the 'Wilderness Watch' volunteers out in the field next fall to 'observe and report' infractions, plus hand out educational materials. KLA's 'Range Patrols' to assist as well.

5. KLEP final report in progress. **Action Item** - Donna to check with Faye to confirm numbers of participants/year, 2009 hunt statistics received from Tara.
6. Update on the Upper Columbia winter aerial inventory surveys to assess elk numbers to see if the targets of the Elk Management Plan are being met. Presented preliminary 2010 elk statistics, discussed need to get large private land tracts to allow hunting ('no hunting' areas become sanctuaries/refuges during the hunting season and help wildlife to hide, and so reduces the harvest). **Action Item** – Donna to work with Tara on analysis and report, to see if numbers warrant expanding the EK RMT ag zone north (develop LEH proposal for the North Trench if the statistics support a hunting regulation change).
7. Jeff wants goals for PAZWP quantified so he has some calculated measure of success for the program. **Action Item** - Once ARDCorp/BCCF/Becky's GIS project is completed in July 2011, Donna will review results and work at generating PAZWP strategies & goals to bring to fall RAWC for consideration.
8. Update on the proposed 'dating service' website that was supported at the last RAWC meeting – try to get operational by the fall. Lisa Armstrong (Kelowna) was hired by sub-committee through funding from ARDCorp. **Action Item** - Jeff working at securing the rest of the funding for the web design contract.
9. Reports on ag/wildlife issues from recent winter: Faye has seen increased complaints with the extra deep snow that the RMT received, from Moyie, Jaffray, north end of RMT, and from orchardists in 4-06. New hunting coordination project proposed in the Tarry's/Thrum's area? **Action Item** - Donna to contact locals to investigate further.
10. Presentations by Jody Murdoch on a proposed Kootenay Agricultural Society ; Gary Glinz gave an update on the BC Outdoors Passport, plus initiated discussion on private land trespass and how to gain access across private land to get to Crown Land. **Action Item** - sub-committee of Faye, Andy and Gary formed; Donna to organize a meeting/conference call.
11. Discussion on longer term elk reduction/range depredation mitigation plans. Government is now in a two year Hunting & Trapping synopsis cycle, but ideas for 2012 hunting regulation changes included: **Action Item** - propose to expand Zone X of 4-03 in the southwest and introduce a region wide black bear hunt in late summer or fall? **Action Item** - Donna to work at analyzing the data from the Upper Columbia aerial elk surveys done this winter, and develop LEH proposal for the North Trench if the statistics support a hunting regulation change. **Action Item** - Donna to work at researching and coordinating hunting seasons with the USA for WMU's along the border.
12. Disabled hunters now apply for 'disabled access permits' to use their vehicles in closure areas, idea to give them their own season before bow season/or at the end of all the seasons? Suggested to allow the creation of special wheelchair accessible blinds on selected farms/ranches; a more structured hunting approach may prevent abuse of these access permits? Faye, Mike Malmberg and Rob McKeeman to sit on sub-committee and help determine if need a disabled season vs special permits. **Action Item** – Donna has already spoken with Paul Rasmussen (new Regional Manager) and he will chat with his peers on topic and what they do in their regions.

13. Nicks Island Dyking District elk fence in Creston (ag zone of 4-06) was briefly discussed, Brian Huscroft has worked hard to get local landowners to work together on one fence, rather than each farm fencing separately. Community meeting has already been held. **Action Item** – *Donna to work at HCTF application (due Nov. 2/11) for funding to collar some Creston elk (SW herds), to see if their movements are anywhere close to the Selkirk Mt caribou group. Need to see what effects the fence may have on movements if it does get built. If data suggest that elk are not 'too close' for the caribou specialists, perhaps ER work is possible in Corn and Lower Dodge Creeks to keep elk there? Donna to request letters of support from Creston Rod & Gun, Creston Agr'l Society (orchardists) and local COS.*
14. Discussion on how to get 'faster statistics' available for use to make decisions on regulations for the next hunting season, need to accurately assess the elk GOS success rate. Suggested ways to shorten the long lag time for government staff to design, print, send, collate and analyze hunter surveys by introducing a simple phone call when species tag is filled by a successful hunter? **Action Item** – *Donna to ask region biologists and HQ about trying a Kootenay pilot project? Faye suggested just a phone call to volunteers when species tag filled.*
15. Next RAWC meeting, want Kill Permit review to be on agenda.
16. Wrap up and determine date for next meeting, tentatively Tuesday November 1, 2011.

Handouts & Attachments:

EKCP brochure and announcement about workshop May 27 & 28, 2011 at COTR-Cranbrook.
RAWC Terms Of Reference document with revised language to reflect government's most recent transformation.