



## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #4: Monday, January 29, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon.](#)

### I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Ellie Gage, Western Landowners Alliance, Oregon Outreach Associate. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Gordon Jones; and Stephen Pappa.

### II. Approval of December 6, 2023, Minutes

Donna Harris moved to approve the minutes. Ethan O'Brien seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Depredation Grant Request

Sarahlee Lawrence spoke on behalf of Ashanti Samuels and Long Hollow Ranch stating they have had several depredations in Deschutes County in 2023, one of which has been an ODFW confirmed wolf depredation and they believe there were up to four other depredations that were not confirmed. Long Hollow Ranch would like the committee to submit a grant request on their behalf for the confirmed depredation and a request for grant funding for missing and unconfirmed livestock deaths which they believe were caused by wolves. Commissioner Chang described the process and eligible categories for grant requests including confirmed depredation, missing livestock due to wolf depredation, and non-lethal preventative measures.

Ethan O'Brien made a motion to apply for a depredation compensation rate for the confirmed livestock on Ashanti Samuels ranch. The compensation rate will be for the committee established rate for the category ODFW stated in the depredation report. Donna Harris seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with the voting members, Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

The committee discussed what a process might look like to apply for missing livestock cattle and agreed that a more thought out process for missing livestock grant requests should be developed at a future committee meeting. As the committee was formed in June 2023 and the first year has been a learning process for ranchers and livestock directly impacted by wolves in the county, Ethan O'Brien suggested having a more lenient process for submitting missing claims grant funding for 2023 and the committee can establish a more formal application process for next year's grant application. ODA has a document with suggested ways to satisfy missing depredation requests requirements, which will be shared with Ashanti Samuels to assist in submitting his missing livestock claim.

Stephen Pappa suggested consideration of 50% compensation of the established depredation rate for Ashanti's missing livestock claim for this grant cycle. The committee would like a written statement from Ashanti for missing claims covering the questions listed in Category 2 on page 3 of the 2024 grant request application.

Ethan O'Brien made a motion to accept missing livestock claims from Ashanti Samuels if he provides a written statement covering the questions in Category 2 on page 3 of the 2024 grant request application. The written statement will be emailed to Aaron Bott with ODFW for review. The committee approved up to 6 missing compensations claims at a rate of 50% of the established depredation rates. Donna Harris seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

#### **IV. Preventative Measures Grant Requests**

Sarahlee Lawrence suggested applying for preventative measures grant funds to cover Range Riding and invisible fencing setup for Long Hollow Ranch. Ashanti Samuels uses collars with invisible fencing. \$25,000 was a suggested amount to apply for preventative rates to cover the costs of a new tower for the invisible fencing (\$10,000) and the yearly lease of collars for the livestock (\$50 per collar). Additionally, Long Hollow Ranch would like to request \$20,000 for a seasonal Range Rider (200 days, at 4 hours a day, at \$25 an hour).

Phil Chang moved to approve applying for \$45,000 in preventative measure grant funds on behalf of Long Hollow Ranch. Stephen Pappa seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

Jen Patterson will check with County Legal and Finance on the process for distributing preventative compensation funds to third parties. Jen will also check in with ODA to see what the State reporting requirements entail once grant funds are received.

Phil Chang posed the question on whether the committee would like to request funds for other producers who the committee has not yet been in contact with. Ethan O'Brien posed the idea of getting the word out about wolf activity and potential preventative measure options. Phil Chang suggested starting with a basic educational campaign regarding wolf activity in Deschutes County.

Johnny Leason suggested requesting a pool of funds and using funds granted for future preventative measures. Sarahlee Lawrence suggested asking for a larger pool of funds to be able to use the funds for preventative measures that may arise over the year. Phil Chang would like to be more specific and thoughtful of the requests. Gordon Jones suggested estimating likely costs knowing the wolf population are increasing in the area.

The committee is interested in applying for funds for an educational and outreach campaign and potential additional preventative measures for Central Oregon ranchers and livestock owners and managers. Sarahlee suggested \$5,000 for educational and outreach funds and \$20,000 for preventative measures stemming from outreach and education campaigns.

Phil Chang moved to approve to apply for additional preventative measure grant funds in the amount of \$25,000. Ethan O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ethan O'Brien flagged that the committee is asking for a lot of prevention funds. Phil Chang mentioned that the goal is to get ahead of the wolf presence in the county by implementing preventative measures.

## **V. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **VI. Next Steps**

Allocation of grant resources, building outreach and educational campaign.

Developing a process to apply for preventative measures and missing livestock grant funds for the next grant cycle.

Next meeting will be sometime during the first two weeks of April, Jen will send around a doodle poll to schedule meeting time.

## **VII. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,  
Deschutes County Administrative Services