

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

September 9, 2017, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Washington Cattleman's Association, 1301 W. Dolarway Rd., Ellensburg

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- Jim Sevier
 - Jim worked on a waterfowl clinic with Washington waterfowlers in Vancouver.
 - He taught several classes at Vancouver trap and skeet.
- Eric Lauver
 - Eric had a traditional class recently and only six of the nine signed up were able to pass the class.
 - He also has two online classes scheduled later this month.
- Larry Lufkin
 - Larry has been fielding questions on no-shows and deposits.
- Rich Mann
 - Rich has been teaching at Red's Fly Shop near Ellensburg.
 - He is also helping Aaron with mentored hunts and finding mentoring hunt properties.
 - Rich has not had many no-shows this year.
- Sam Grubbs
 - Sam is scheduled to instruct in four online classes to finish the year.
 - This year is the first time in 15 years that had almost 50% no-show rate.
 - He is mentoring a new instructor.
 - Sam plans on going to a hunter sight in event and will be giving a hunter safety refresher and talk to non-hunters.
- Cathy Lynch
 - Cathy has had several students show up to their classes with an expired certificate.
- John Malek
 - John has had four classes scheduled but had to cancel one due to lack of interest.
 - Up until recently his team had struggled to fill classes.
 - John and his team is using the deposit system but they still see several no-shows in each class.
 - Currently, John is working on next year's hunter education class schedule.
- Megan Schaeffer
 - Megan had a class in Republic recently.

- She is trying to facilitate the Republic team into teaching online classes as well.
- Butch Buffalo
 - Butch has a traditional class starting Monday that is full with a wait list.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty and his team taught an online class in July.
 - He went to New Mexico for the YHEC program.
 - Marty helped certify new HEIs in Neah Bay with Field Coordinator Montgomery.
 - He also volunteered at a youth day at the Paul Bunyan Rifle and Sportsman Club in Puyallup.
- Mike McDonald
 - Mike has a large online class coming up.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff had an online class last month.
 - He and his team have another class in a few weeks and only have five students signed up.
- Randy Absolon
 - Randy had an online class in August.
 - He has a September 23 class that is already full.
 - Randy will have another class on October 7.
- There was also a discussion regarding online certificates on the student's phone; should students really need to sign/date the hard copy?
 - Megan felt that yes they should sign the form from a liability standpoint.
 - There was a suggestion that HEIs can have a form that those (or all) students can sign, attesting they took the class, HEI writes their score on the sheet (and maybe HEI prints the certificate & staples the signature form).
 - Another suggestion was, can Kalkomey put check-box on the certificate for students to attest?
 - WDFW will work on information on this challenge and present it in the November mass mailing or the 2018 IST.

⊙ WDFW Updates

⊕ Dan Boes Retirement

- Dan is retiring at the end of November.
- His position will likely remain vacant for several months for cost savings.
- At this time, Bill Montgomery will be flexing into Region 5 to help cover the HEIs there.

⊕ Student statistics

- Total classes 398
- Capacity 9,384

- Registered 7,038 (75%)
- Total Pass 5,714 (81%)
- Total fail 211 (3.6%)
- Total incomplete 126 (1.8%)
- Total no Show 979 (13.9%)
- ⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants
 - There are 54 new instructors in 2017.
 - There were 73 new instructors for same time frame in 2016.
- ⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Update
 - Region 1 – Mike Whorton
 - Mike has a couple clinics scheduled on turkey and deer.
 - He is working with Aaron on First Hunt groups for mentored hunts.
 - He is not seeing a decline in enrollments in Region 1.
 - Region 2 – Chuck Ray
 - Chuck has noticed that the region is a little low on classes.
 - He is working with Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association on a NHFD event on Sept 16 in East Wenatchee.
 - Chuck is also going to Monroe for the large NHFD event on September 23 at Camp Pigott.
 - He is also holding a PST in Wenatchee in September.
 - Region 3 – Aaron Garcia
 - Aaron organized a mentored dove hunt on September 2.
 - He is starting the process to have a dove clinic and hunt for next year.
 - Aaron is working on scheduling mentors and turkey hunts for this fall.
 - He went to Republic to line up properties for future mentored turkey hunts.
 - He also set up mentored hunts for the youth weekend upland bird mentored hunt.
 - Aaron is working on setting up a new team in Walla Walla.
 - He is also working on building a team for Bleyhl's co-op.
 - SCl approached Aaron to start doing hunting camps in Washington.
 - Region 4 – Kris Thorson reporting for Steve Dazey
 - The number of no shows continues to be a challenge.
 - The number of classes and number of students is up compared to the last two years and almost where we were three years ago.
 - On-line classes are at 59% of the regional breakout while the other 41% is traditional classes based on sign ups.
 - Region 4’s attendance vs capacity is at 60% so class availability does not appear as of now to be a challenge.
- ⊕ Update on clinics

- Since June we have held one waterfowl clinic and one mentored dove hunt.
- Currently the department has eight clinics on the website for sign up.
- Bill is currently giving an upland bird clinic at JBLM.
- There was a suggestion to make sure HEIs inform students about clinics, booklets, and mentored hunting opportunities.
- ⊕ Peace Officer Exemptions
 - Similar to the Military Exemption.
 - There are three types of officers that qualify.
 - The exemption has to be processed by WDFW staff and cannot be processed by license dealers.
- ⊕ Kalkomey Notice re: ATN Optics Company
 - There was a salesman that went into classes and signed up for these classes to send HEI sales emails.
 - Kalkomey wanted the department to ensure HEI that their system was not hacked and is not an issue.

⊙ **Classroom video discussion report from IAC members**

- ⊕ The IAC members were tasked with asking their HEI about which videos they currently use in class to determine if WDFW should purchase more videos or move to digital licenses.
- ⊕ Below is the response from the IAC members:
 - Larry Lufkin
 - Last Shot
 - Ammo Video
 - Marty
 - Last Shot
 - Ammo Video
 - Sam
 - Field Dressing video
 - Jim Sevier
 - Last Shot
 - Ammo Video
 - Jeff
 - Excerpts of Measure the hunt
- ⊕ Butch commented that a lot of HEI have the videos at this point so we may not need to get a lot more.
- ⊕ Butch also uses an Idaho field dressing video.

⊙ **Students who fail the Online Field Skills Evaluation Course**

- ⊕ Recently, there was an issue where a student did not pass the online field skills and was told to retake the course.
- ⊕ The students mother was instructed to contact Kalkomey to retake the online course per the HEI Policy Manual.

- ⊕ The customer service representative at Kalkomey did not reset the profile because their certificated are good for a year.
- ⊕ Dave contacted Kalkomey to review the current process and to make sure that we can have students who fail the online field course retake the online portion.
- ⊕ The new updated process will be given to chief HEI.

⊙ IAC Notes Discussion

- ⊕ Currently WDFW waits until all members respond that the meeting notes are approved before posting them onto the IAC website.
- ⊕ In the past the notes are three months old before they are posted.
- ⊕ WDFW tried to get approvals by email but it was difficult to manage.
- ⊕ There were three options that were brought forward by WDFW to get the notes posted earlier.
- ⊕ The option that won out was for positive acceptance by email.
 - If there is no response by all IAC members by the end of a review period and there is a majority of responding members, WDFW will finalize the notes and post them to the website.

⊙ National Hunting and Fishing Day Update

- ⊕ Kris gave a brief overview on the National Hunting and Fishing Day event scheduled for September 23, 2017.
- ⊕ The event is going to be located at Camp Pigott in Snohomish.
- ⊕ WDFW has 14 non-government organizations that are participating.
- ⊕ Participants can shoot department .22, 20 gauge shotguns, .177 air rifles, and archery equipment.
- ⊕ Hunter education staff estimate that there will be 500 participants.

⊙ Safer homes taskforce discussion

- ⊕ In 2016 there was broad support for House Bill 2793.
- ⊕ This bill formed the Safer Homes Task Force, w/ firearms & pharmacy subcommittees.
- ⊕ The suicide prevention and firearms subcommittee includes NRA, 2nd Amendment Foundation, firearms industry, etc.
- ⊕ WDFW was a named member but staff recommended the department be a consultant.
- ⊕ Among other things, the safe homes task force will:
 - Consult w/ WDFW & recommend suicide awareness & prevention info for Firearms Safety, the Law, and You pamphlet
 - Consult w/ WDFW to develop strategies for creating & disseminating suicide awareness & prevention info for hunter education classes, including potential messages to parents that can be shared during online registration, follow-up emails, etc.
- ⊕ The current status update is:
 - Task Force recommended & WDFW incorporated info into Firearms Safety, the Law, and You pamphlet, which is nearly done.

- WDFW developed draft info box for HE class page to direct interested readers to suicide awareness & prevention info (Safer Homes Coalition website) & Project ChildSafe website.

⊙ **Update on HEI hour reporting requirement**

- ⊕ There is a new federal requirement to report HEI hours as if they were a paid employee.
- ⊕ WDFW is working w/ Kalkomey on the below options:
 - Digital reporting option works for HEIs w/ computers/skills & email
 - Paper reporting possible, but Chief will need up scan or take photo & upload to Kalkomey.

⊙ **Female Classes**

- ⊕ Kris is working on a survey to the 2017 female students.
- ⊕ There have been no advertisements of this kind of classes so far.
- ⊕ Several members asked “Is the demand there?”
- ⊕ Butch suggested that WDFW may not need only female HEI to put on a female oriented class and Megan agreed.

⊙ **Incentive Permit Discussion and potential survey**

- ⊕ Currently working with Game division on permits for 2018.
- ⊕ The moose population in Washington appears to be declining so the 2018 moose permits will likely decrease accordingly.
- ⊕ Three bear permits were not pushed forward at this time.
- ⊕ Game division wanted to know answers to several data driven questions that we could not provide a response to.
- ⊕ Since tracking of the data has not been completed in the past, we want to get an idea of how instructors applied in the past.
- ⊕ WDFW staff members are working on a survey for HEI regarding past submission history.

⊙ **Future of IAC meetings discussion**

- ⊕ WDFW wants to ensure that these meetings are productive and viewed as beneficial to all parties included.
- ⊕ Some meetings are light on agenda items and may have information and discussions pushed into the meeting to fill time.
- ⊕ Most years, at least one meeting is cancelled.
- ⊕ Jeff - Likes to have the time that we currently have to ensure we are discussing all of the topics efficiently.
- ⊕ Sam – Likes the quarterly option. When there are light agendas IAC could look at other work options.
- ⊕ Randy – Quarterly is good.
- ⊕ Larry – Likes the quarterly option.
- ⊕ Eric – Agrees with the quarterly option.
- ⊕ Jim – Agrees with quarterly option.

⊕ John – quarterly is good.

⊕ Consensus was to continue to keep the meetings quarterly.

⊙ **Adjourn**