

WATERFOWL ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of March 27, 2004 Meeting

Train Depot, North Bend

Members in Attendance: Pat Shearer, Chuck Bratton, Fred Levering, Bob Trost, Dick Nason, Scott Fink, Corky Smith, Dick Price, Dave Sievers, Oscar Graham, Fred Slyfield, Craig Sherwood, Ralph Engle, Chris Hyland, Larry Boose, Chris Dorow

Agency Staff: Dennis Beich, Dave Ware, Don Kraege

Others in Attendance: Felix Konat, Roger Reynolds, Tracy Hames, Yakama Indian Nation Biologist

June 28, 2003 Minutes summarized by Don Kraege and group voted to approve the minutes.

Migratory Bird Stamp Funding: Don Kraege provided background on Migratory Bird Stamp funding proposals for 2004 (presentation attached); Pat encouraged the members to look at projects or contact proponents to get ideas on value of projects; Pat will look at potential for the group to get together in Moses Lake depending on level of interest on individual projects, Don will send out a scoring sheet to members, which should be returned by **April 23**.

Member Discussion:

- Strong support for Packer Creek
- Discussion on efficacy of carp control and/or relative priority
- Lauzier project supported if public hunting provided; if closed for hunting, mixed support
- Shillapoo area supported, but concern about proximity to houses
- Concern that the cost/benefit ratio on the Wells WA project is poor
- Stillwater water control project should be funded by salmon recovery, the waterfowl benefits may be limited due to flooding concerns
- Sunnyside circle pivot food plot seemed to have fairly strong support
- Concern by Corky Smith that Skagit projects shortstop birds that might go further south, cause disease concerns
- Support for the Winchester moist soil project
- Support for the Vancouver Lake moist soil project
- Many questions, but good support for Col. Basin Habitat Assessment project
- Desert WA dove plots discussion on whether migratory bird stamp should apply to doves
- Should look at funding nest cylinders and wood duck boxes from other sources
- General support for Washburn Island food plot
- Chelan Butte Dove project, questions about whether 50 ac needed, but overall support for the project

Miscellaneous Topics: Felix Konat discussed his concept of Pacific Flyway Coalition to address waterfowl food availability in the Columbia Basin; perhaps a sub-group of WAG; would like migratory waterfowl stamp funding proposal forms and list of WAG members to gather other ideas; Pat suggested including Pheasants Forever in the coalition; dealing with farmers will

be a major issue; don't forget the political side and influence and the economic benefits of hunting;

Corky Smith discussed need for WDFW to plant food plots on the Chehalis Wildlife Area and Pat discussed the need to work together and local WDFW staff to get that project going.

Dennis Beich talked about the need for additional grain plots in the Columbia Basin as well and seeking additional fund sources. Pat suggested that everyone in the WAG should know their Regional Directors, Regional Wildlife Program Managers, etc so that discussions can be held and relationships formed.

Quality Hunting Areas: Update provided by Don Kraege on the Winchester Quality Area. Dennis followed up with Winchester project, habitat was put in late and when water was finally spread over the site, it froze within a couple of weeks. Project will be monitored during next season to determine need for any changes. Roger Reynolds expressed dissatisfaction with restrictions and his impression of limited opportunity.

Southwest Washington Goose Seasons: Don Kraege gave a brief overview of the program.

Member Discussion: Dave Sievers recommended that the season be open September 1 to October 10 then conduct the AHE program; Bob Trost responded that this might implemented after a couple of years of monitoring to ensure that Dusky geese don't show up before Oct 10th. Group voted that Pat Shearer would write a letter to Congressional delegation requesting funding for the Dusky goose depredation control and check station support.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items: WAG selected June 26th; suggested Moses Lake

Agenda:

- Estuary Restoration
- Provide a discussion of the swan/lead shot issue
- Regulations
- Report on the corn stubble project
- Review of robo-duck and discuss reinstating quiver magnets (?)
- Set meeting schedule and agenda for coming year.

Future Potential Discussions:

- Perhaps provide a presentation on distribution of waterfowl over time

Send copy of organization chart to include Regional Directors, Regional Wildlife Program Managers, and District Biologists with phone numbers.