WIR President, Commissioner John Martin called the meeting to order, and welcomed the Board to Tarrant County.

President Martin called the roll. Members present were:

- **Alaska:**
  Hon. Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough
- **Arizona:**
  Hon. Tommie Martin, Supervisor, Gila County
- **California:**
  Hon. Kevin Cann, Supervisor, Mariposa County
- **Colorado:**
  Hon. John Martin, Commissioner, Garfield County
  Hon. Rachael Richards, Commissioner, Pitkin County
- **Hawai‘i:**
  Dennis “Fresh” Onishi, Council Member, Hawaii County
- **Idaho:**
  Hon. Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner, Valley County
  Hon. Robert Cope, Commissioner, Lemhi County
- **Montana:**
  Hon. Lesley Robinson, Commissioner, Phillips County
  Hon. Mike Murray, Commissioner, Lewis and Clark County
- **Nevada:**
  Hon. Lorinda Wichman, Commissioner, Nye County
  Hon. Demar Dahl, Commissioner, Elko County
- **New Mexico:**
  Hon. Walter Armijo, Commissioner, Sierra County
- **North Dakota:**

- **Oregon:**
Hon. Tim Josi, Commissioner, Tillamook County
Hon. Dan Joyce, Commissioner, Malheur County

- **South Dakota:**
  Hon. Clint Farlee, Commissioner, Ziebach County

- **Utah:**
  Hon. Alan Gardner, Commissioner, Washington County
  Hon. Daron Smith, Commissioner, Millard County

- **Washington:**
  Hon. Todd Mielke, Commissioner, Spokane County

- **Wyoming:**
  Hon. Joel Bousman, Commissioner, Sublette County

**Ex officio board members, and staff present were:** Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties; Kathie Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League, Mike McArthur, Association of Oregon Counties; Chip Taylor, Colorado Counties Inc.; Kris Jacobsen, South Dakota Association of County Commissioners; Dan Chadwick, Idaho Association of Counties; Craig Sullivan, County Supervisors Association of Arizona; Eric Johnson, Washington State Association of Counties; Cara Martinson, California State Association of Counties; and Ryan Yates, NACo.

1:03 p.m. Welcome – President John Martin
1:04 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance
1:05 p.m. Introductions
1:10 p.m. Organization message – Martin, Robinson, Cruickshank
1:15 p.m. Proposed bylaw amendment – Mike McArthur, AOC
   Amendment to expand WIR Baor dof Directors to now include NACo Western Region Representative (1st Selby, 2nd Wichman) – passed unanimously
1:17 p.m. Overview of the Endangered Species Act and concerns – Dr. Cronin, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

**Caribou on the North Slope**
- Not ESA, but similar use of selective science to stop resource development
- National Research Council report 2003 concluded decline between 1992 and 1995 was due to oil field impacts
- Didn’t note the large increases in the herd in other periods
Wildlife in the Tongass National Forest

- No ESA listings but threat of listing goshawk and wolf subspecies influence TLM Plan
- Creation of OGR and move to exclusive second growth harvest
- Identification of nebulous “Endemics”

Polar Bear - FWS concludes they are threatened with extinction

- Using Models of global warming and SUMMER sea ice disappearance led to models that polar bears will decline across their entire range to the point of near extinction
- Polar bears are threatened by arctic sea ice loss, which is attributed to climate change, which is attributed to human greenhouse gas emissions, so greenhouse gas emissions are to be regulated.
- This will affect many parts of the American and Alaskan economies

Wolf

- Wolf DPS on ESA list in northern Rocky Mt States until recently
- Wolf DPS in Great Lakes States on ESA list until recently
- Mexican wolves subspecies on ESA list
- Wolf subspecies in southeast Alaska petitioned for ESA listing
- “Eastern Wolf” proposed by FWS as a SPECIES

Major ESA Problems

- The review system of ESA documents within the federal agencies is closed
- Government agencies frequently use science selectively for the ESA, but Recent examples of Balanced Science from Gov’t
- The ESA has been dramatically expanded because it includes subjective subspecies and populations
- ESA now allows predicting with models future “Endangerment”
- The potential for litigation challenges to FWS decisions in this process is slanted because courts give deference to agencies in assessing science and management information.
- Subspecies and Populations are not well-defined and Designations for ESA Listings are often Arbitrary
Conclusions

• The Current ESA is Deceptive Because it Includes Undefined Subspecies and Populations and now Allows Predictions

• Pro-ESA listing bias in the government agencies is a serious problem

• Use of Models to predict Endangered Species is becoming common and not good science

1:48 p.m. 2nd Vice President Campaign Speech – Alan Angel
1:51 p.m. 2nd Vice President Campaign Speech – Stan Bateman
1:54 p.m. 2nd Vice President Campaign Speech – Tim Josi
1:58 p.m. 2nd Vice President Campaign Speech – Sallie Clark
2:02 p.m. Katie Lighthall, Western Regional Strategy Committee

• The Western Regional Action Plan is part of the culmination of a three-year effort put into motion by the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act).

• Representatives of federal, state, local, and tribal governments, scientists, interested governmental and nongovernmental organizations, businesses and industries worked together to develop a regional approach to achieving the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management

• Strategy: Restore and Maintain Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Wildfire Response. The Western Regional Action Plan was developed with stakeholder input in an inclusive and transparent process. It is a dynamic document that will be updated continually and modified on a five-year basis to best focus on the issues of concern in terms of wildland fire in the West.

• The Western Regional Action Plan details the goals, objectives and monitoring and accountability actions, and sets priority implementation actions for the Western Cohesive Strategy Region.

• The Action Plan describes the scope of the actions, the tasks associated with the actions, suggested leads and coordinating groups that are involved in implementing the actions, and the timeframe in which the actions are expected. The monitoring and accountability sections will enable all parties to assess and track progress toward the desired outcomes, envisioned within each goal, while the priority implementation tasks identify specific actions needed to realize measurable progress.
• An important element of the Action Plan is the emphasis on fuels treatments from the community outwards, into the middle lands and toward the wildlands. Protection of the middle lands is found in recommendations for both landscape restoration and fire adapted communities.

• The tasks are consistent with the guiding principles of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

  • Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.

  • Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.

  • Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.

  • Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.

  • Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.

  • Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.

  • Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.

  • Local, state, tribal and federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.

  • Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.

  • Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and costs down.

  • Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations.
Motion to move accounts from bonds to CD’s (Wichman 1st, Richards 2nd) – approved

Motion to accept financial report (Robinson 1st, Cruickshank 2nd) – approved

2:30 Update from Randy Phillips, USDA Forest Service Liaison

2:40 Update from Cynthia Moses-Nedd, US Department of the Interior Liaison

• Drought on the range has had a major impact
  • Impacting wild horse and burro populations
• 300K acre withdrawal of land in mining leases converted to solar zones – 20 year withdrawal
  • Note growing opposition over action
• Budget challenges
  • Limiting action of furloughs
  • Travel and training gets cut first

2:55 p.m. John Martin – Discuss upcoming Fall Board of Directors meeting in Colorado

3:05 Ryan Yates – Provide update on current legislative priorities

• PILT fly-in details (September 10-12, 2013)

3:48 Adjourn

9:05 a.m. Welcome from Hawaii - Dennis “Fresh” Onishi
2015 WIR Conference is scheduled for Kauai County, HI
Gifts for WIR Executive Committee Members

9:07 a.m. Welcome from Alaska – Kathy Wasserman, AML
2014 WIR Conference is Scheduled for Anchorage, AK

9:09 a.m. Welcome to Coconino County, Arizona – Supervisor Liz Archuleta

9:11 a.m. Roll Call & Approval of minutes
9:12 a.m. Approval of WIR Financial Report and Investment Report - David Keen, NACo

9:13 a.m. Developing North American Energy: An Overview of the TransCanada Corporation
Alex Osborne, Manager, US Land Management, TransCanada

- Competitively positioned in pipeline and energy infrastructure
- Approximately $48 billion of premium pipeline and energy assets
- Employs about 5,000 people in nearly 50 professions, trades and fields, located in 7 provinces and 32 states
- Our Vision: To be the leading energy infrastructure company in North America with a strong focus on pipelines and power generation opportunities, located in regions where we enjoy or can develop significant competitive advantage.
- Our Mission: To provide reliable supplies of energy across the continent – safely and responsibly. We are proud that millions of North Americans can depend on us for the energy they need.
- One of North America’s Largest Natural Gas Pipeline Networks
  - Operating 68,500 km (42,500 mi) of pipeline
  - Average volume of 14 Bcf/d or 20% of continental demand
- North America’s 3rd Largest Natural Gas Storage Operator
  - 406 Bcf of capacity
- Canada’s Largest Private Sector Power Generator
  - 21 power plants, 11,800 MW
  - Diversified portfolio, including wind, hydro, nuclear, coal, solar and natural gas
- Premier North American Oil Pipeline System
  - 1.4 million Bbl/d ultimate capacity*
- Safety: TransCanada’s first priority is always the safety of our employees and the public. With one of the best safety and operating records in the industry, we are serious about maintaining the safety and integrity of our energy infrastructure system.
• Land Use Planning & Transmission: The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) is a collaborative effort of pipeline safety stakeholders who developed recommended practices for protecting communities and transmission pipelines and communicating among stakeholders.

• Investing in Communities:
  • At TransCanada, we believe in making a positive difference in the lives of others, through investing in our communities, with one goal in mind: creating a brighter future.
  • Through investments in the communities where we live and work, we are forging meaningful partnerships that serve as community assets in empowering individuals and building strong communities.
  • In 2011, we distributed more than C$9.6 million in financial and in-kind donations in communities across North America. Our community investment program focuses on three key areas: community, safety and the environment.

  Kathy Wasserman: What is the status of the AK pipeline?
  A: Project is stuck. This has been an ongoing effort – more than 30 years.

  Joel Bousman: Regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline, how much oil will stay domestic vs. international export?
  A: Will get back to you.

9:33 a.m. Issues Concerning FLAP, Harold Blattie, MT Association of Counties

  Baucus Amendment 831: Under the Forest Highways program, road projects providing access to and through National Forest System lands would proceed as 100% federal share projects. The latest highway bill, MAP-21, did not re-authorize the Forest Highways program, but replaced it in part with the Federal Lands Access Program, which requires a local match for all projects.

  After MAP-21 passed, local governments were informed that regardless of existing Project Agreements, they would be required to re-apply under the new program and provide a local match. This amendment will simply allow states – if they choose – to allocate that state’s own unobligated, leftover Forest Highway funds toward the local match requirement.

  • Local entities with a signed Project Agreement had the expectation that the project would proceed as 100% federal share.
  • Local entities are now re-applying under the new Federal Lands Access Program, which requires a local match for all projects.
  • This amendment does not require an offset and does not change the apportionment for any state.
• We do not believe it was Congress’ intent in MAP-21 to require project sponsors with a completed Project Agreement to have to re-apply under different terms than under the agreement.

9:43 a.m. Pam Haze, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition, U.S. Department of the Interior

• 2013 – on June 13 the DOI will distribute FY2013 PILT payments to counties, $400 in payments –
• Most payments should be higher than FY 2012
• Prior year payments went down, shifting PILT payments up
• Sequestration will impact FY 2013 PILT payments
• FY2014 Presidents Budget proposal supports a one-year extension of mandatory PILT payments. Mandatory funding authority expires in 2013. Congress will need to act for FY 2014 payments
• NACo & DOI testified before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee earlier this year in support of PILT
• President Budget calls for an evaluation of the program. Specific to long-term funding solutions and a multiyear authorization.
• DOI requests NACo to weigh in on ideas for long-term funding solutions

Q: Robert Cope: Status of FWS appropriated wolf mitigation funding?
Q: Jerome Selby: Status of printed books for PILT program?
A: Due to sequester, DOI will not print books. Will be available online.
Q: John Martin: Referenced creation of special districts for federal mineral leasing. Formally requests reinstatement of FY11 & FY12 PILT funds.

10:05 a.m. James Reid, El Paso County – Waldo Canyon Fire

Preparation: Relationships
• It is not what you know, but more of who you know
• Partnerships – shared resources
• Cost Savings
• Work together to stabilize the situation
• Delegations of Authority

Mechanics of the Response
• Initial
• Controlled Chaos
• Elected Officials
• Recognizing the Need to Request Help
• The Long Run

After the Fire
• Relief
• Aftermath – What to do now?
• Public Response: Grief, Happiness, & Anger

Recovery is often the most expensive part following a disaster

Encourage counties to develop delegation of authority between all county fire departments / resources

Quickly delegate authority up the chain to state and federal government

10:23 a.m. Ray Suazo, AZ State Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Sequestration impacts, Cynthia Moses-Nedd unable to travel to Arizona – sends regards to WIR
- BLM manages 200+ million acre surface and 700+ million subsurface estate
- Value county partners in land use planning
- Generate more revenue than spends - $4.8 billion in revenues is 1:4 return on taxpayer investment
- 756,000 jobs supported
- Sequester is roughly a 7% cut for BLM
- Not hiring seasonal summer crews due to sequester cuts
  - in AZ, this is a $7 million deficit

11:05 a.m. Ryan R. Yates, Legislative Update on WIR priorities

11:16 a.m. Randy Phillips, Update on USDA Forest Service Activities

11:25 a.m. Open Discussion

Doug Thompson – WIR moves a lot of information. Need to spend more time to develop strategies to assist western counties

Robert Anaya – Sequestration doesn’t make sense. Need to change FHWA processes. Wilderness inventory need to identify counties to participate in process. Need more feds present at meeting to discuss policy and networking.

Joel Bousman – Blueways concept for recreation land designations troubling. Local government participating as cooperating agencies – need to educate more counties, schedule more trainings, review with newly elected commissioners. Promote Keystone XL Pipeline. Suggest permanent PILT funding sources for PILT with DOI.

Scott Ouradnik – concerned over bankhead jones payments. Sequestration should not impact payments.
Cope – Suggest using LWCF & land acquisition funds to support an offset for future PILT funding


Mike McArthur – WIR Region Representative – Bylaw change proposal for Annual

11:55 Adjourn