

**Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group
(USVEMG) Meeting
July 17, 2014**

Meeting called to order: At VP Erland's request, Secretary Jim Gildersleeve called the USVEMG meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. There were 22 persons attending.

Introductions: Alton Gaskill was introduced as a new attendee.

Quorum: Present: Harold Erland, Jim Gildersleeve, Don Hacherl, Phil Cassady, Tom Kemp, , Matt Yancey, Sam Metzler and Jerry Koeping.

Agenda Items: Key agenda items for the meeting were:

- Unfinished Business
 - o Further revision to the Revised Telemetry Policy
- New Business
 - o Andrea has volunteered to be our website manager, in addition to being President. She will present an outline of her plans for updating the website.
 - o Proposed bylaw change to define Chairpersons of major committees as officers.
 - o Landowner outreach initiative-July 29, 2014

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Minutes of May 19, 2014, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. Treasurer's report was submitted and shows we have a balance of about \$11,100 on hand in our checking account. This significant increase over last month is the result of the Wild Game Dinner/Auction, which produced about \$6,700 in profit.

Committee Reports:

Public Education and Outreach. Sharen Marsall, Committee Chairperson and lead for the WGD, reported the WGD was successful and replenished our treasury. She thanked all who made it possible and volunteered for various jobs and tasks. She added that there are more volunteer opportunities coming. The Festival at Mt. Si is scheduled for August 8-10 and Snoqualmie Railroad Days from August 15 to 18. We will have an information booth at both.

Elk Research and Habitat Improvement Committee. Harold deferred providing a report at this time because his committee meeting immediately follows this general meeting. A summary of his follow on meeting follows:

- o He reported on the current status of the local elk herd. Population is staying relatively stable; however, more elk are migrating out of the valley floor and

several are unlocated at present. EMG055 was located near Carnation. EMG058 was located near Lk. Calligan in the Hancock Timber Management property. EMG056 has been confirmed killed by a cougar on June 26, 2014, on Hancock property in the Tokul Creek drainage. Collar retrieved. EMG043's (Nellie) collar did not disconnect as programmed. Over 2000 locations are in its memory. Harold has been unable to download these locations which suggest the GPS collar may be malfunctioning in other ways as well.

- o Improved habitat on the CC Flats is being heavily used by local wildlife including elk. Several of our GPS collared elk have been located in the CC flats which may be related to calving activities and presence of adequate forage.

- o Harold gave a quick over of a WDFW cougar study that is underway and led by Dr. Brian Kertson. Conclusion: We have a healthy cougar population in GMA 460.

No other committee reports.

Unfinished Business.

- o As a courtesy, the Secretary sent WDFW a copy of our 30 day waiting period Telemetry policy. It elicited a strong recommendation that we increase the waiting period to 90 days. Their primary rationale was to avoid a possible negative public perception that hunters doing telemetry enjoyed an advantage over the general hunter. State law (RCW 77. 12.047 (1) (c) authorizes the WDFW to restrict the use of certain equipment when hunting or fishing. WAC 232.12.045 specifically prohibits the use of telemetry equipment to locate wild game with transmitters for hunting purposes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to amend our current telemetry policy and require a 90 day waiting period.

New Business:

- o Andrea's presentation on proposed website changes will be rescheduled.

- o Jim Gildersleeve proposed an amendment to the bylaws which would define the three major three committee chairs as officers, thus enabling them to vote in group decisions. A fuller discussion of the proposed amendment is attached (Encl 1). Motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board. All bylaws must be presented to the Board twice at separate general meetings before going into effect, so this item will be on the next general meeting agenda.

- o Sharen and Jim reported on the upcoming Landowner Outreach Initiative which is scheduled for July 29, 2014 (Tuesday), 6:30 P.M. at the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center. Purpose of the meeting is to brief the public on the local elk herd, the Master Hunter program, and the increased cow elk harvest authorized by the WDFW for SHA 4601.

o Tom Kemp motioned that half of any elk meat donated by the WDFW and processed by EMG volunteers be made available to the Mt. Si Food Bank. Motion was seconded by Jerry Koepping. A lively discussion of the proposal ensued and the question was called for a vote. The motion failed 2 to 6; however, there was consensus that both local food banks would be given donated elk meat in the future. The point of the failed vote was that the majority did not think that a formal policy was necessary to effect the action.

Comments for the Good of the Order: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M 07/17/14.

Jim Gildersleeve, EMG Secretary

Encl:as

ByLaws Change Proposal

ISSUE: The EMG currently has three major committees and its chairpersons lack voting status. The committees are:

1. Elk Research and Habitat Improvement Committee, headed by Harold Erland
2. Public Awareness, Outreach and Education Committee, headed by Sharen Marsall , and
3. Land and People Management Committee, headed by Jim Gildersleeve

FACTS:

1. Each of these committees are responsible for important and major activities of the EMG. Best known is the Elk Research and Habitat Improvement Committee.
2. One of the reasons Harold and Jim have stood for an officer's position is to be able to vote, otherwise we would have been satisfied being a committee head. Some members have expressed surprise that a committee chair who is a major leader and contributor within the Group may not vote in the decisions of the Group unless he/she is an officer or director.
3. The EMG Bylaws are posted on the library page of snoqualmievalleyelk.org.

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that the ByLaws be amended to include the Chairs of our three principal committees to be officers, which would provide them voting privileges. Specifically it is proposed that Article VII- Members, para 7.1 be amended to read: "Officer positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairpersons of each major committee listed in Article VIII –Committees. Terms will be for one year...."

DISCUSSION: This proposed change would:

1. Establish three additional voting positions within the Group. Our ByLaws do not allow a person to fill two voting positions concurrently (Article 7.1), so Harold and Jim would have to resign one voting position for someone else to fill.
2. Further harmonize responsibilities with voting privileges.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve above proposed ByLaw change.

Jim Gildersleeve, 7/13/2014

