

Re: Park County Elk Brucellosis Working Group

From Quentin Kujala
To Pat Flowers, Ken McDonald

4/25/2013 11:04

No apologies necessary from this end. To be frank, my thoughts don't focus on any of the specifics below-but rather on a larger scale. This voice (not just from Kathryn) consistently presents itself with suspicion, doubt and animosity that is consistently unilateral and consistently reflected by no other group. I'm not saying we are always right or perfect-but I will staunchly defend our approach and sincere dedication to both process and product. Public meeting? It was Livingston Rod and Gun Club's meeting, confirmed that approach with Legal before we went. No return phone call? Criticism for a call not returned the same busy afternoon it was sent-knowing from past experience that emails to Glenn are emails to all. No working group participation? No working group yet identified-still making information presentations that was confirmed by the power point I sent to Glenn. Etcetera, etc., and so on.

To be frank again, my first inclination (probably not the best?) is to make no response. Right now there's very little productivity towards conservation that comes from this relationship. And past efforts to change that have arguably come to nothing-and in more than a few occasions have been spun against us. So if collaboration and discussion can't improve things, perhaps simply and sincerely saying "thanks for the input" and driving them to the overall public process is the best thing we can do.

For what it's worth.

Thanks and sorry,
Q

From: Flowers, Pat
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 4:20 PM
To: Kujala, Quentin; McDonald, Ken
Subject: FW: Park County Elk Brucellosis Working Group

Hi Quentin and Ken,

So sorry this is still alive and for the apparent role I played as she describes below. We should talk about how to respond to this. I am in tomorrow morning and Friday.

Cheers,

Pat

From: Kathryn QannaYahu [mailto:gallatinwa@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 4:13 PM
To: Glenn Hockett
Cc: Kujala, Quentin; McDonald, Ken; Flowers, Pat; 'Dan Vermillion'
Subject: Re: Park County Elk Brucellosis Working Group

Gentlemen, Having attended a number of meetings and researched issues involving elk brucellosis, I have been keeping an eye out, and hoping to hear from Glenn Hockett about the local working groups that would be developed, as GWA has officially requested. This is a Public Trust issue and as a member of the public, as well as a sportsman (hoping the rotator cuff will be strong enough for a hunt this year), member of Gallatin Wildlife Association and Montana Wildlife Federation, as well as a wildlife advocate, I am a Montana stakeholder in a variety of ways.

I looked forward to the meeting, we were originally invited to by Lou Goosey, only to be told that it was a private meeting and we were not allowed, unless we purchased a membership. According to a number of statements from FWP personnel concerning past events, if FWP is represented in an official capacity, then it has to be open to the public. So on Monday, I had to track down the legalities, just to be able to attend this meeting. I now have a physical copy of the Montana Annotated Code 2-3-101 - 107.

At the Bison Hearing, your FWP lawyer stated that FWP followed the statutes that the legislature directed y'all to follow. So holding your feet to this "statute" fire, why did FWP employee Quentin Kujala (emailed to mt.gov address) not only sidestep the issue of his presentation and presence constituting a public meeting, but when Glenn Hockett, in an official capacity, as the president of the Gallatin Wildlife Association, requested clarification, Quentin Kujala replied, "Glen-My understanding is this is Livingston Rod and Gun Club meeting. That definition is theirs to make. Quentin"?

No, gentlemen, it is not Park County Rod and Gun Clubs right to determine if it is public or private meeting. That definition is determined according to Montana Annotated Code 2-3-101 - 107. How is it that FWP employee Quentin Kujala does not seem to understand this? In fact, according to the statute, he is not only required to understand the difference and uphold this statute, but according to the Montana Annotated Code 2-3-102, he is required in the "permitting and encouraging the public to participate in agency decisions that are of

significant interest to the public". He did not permit us, nor encourage us in attending this meeting, but in fact, obstructed us from attending.

I called Quentin at 1:29 on Monday, to discuss this statue with him, yet did not receive a call back. Suspecting I would not receive a call back and time was slipping away, at 2:34 called Pat Flowers, the Region 3 supervisor, who confirmed that the presentation portion of the meeting was open to the public and said he would speak with Quentin Kujala. No call or email was still forthcoming after that time, to confirm that all parties understood the Montana statue, that while FWP was there, that portion was open to the public. So I drove to Livingston's Park County Rod and Gun Club from Bozeman, with my printed copy of the Montana Annotated Code, hopefully assuring my public right to attend.

None of this should have been necessary. Pat Flowers clearly understands the statute, as does Tamara of Region 3 who answered the phone and professionally provided me with the statute numbers and information. So again, I ask the pertinent question - why did Quentin Kujala not "permit and encourage the public to participate", instead chose to violate the statute and obstruct our attendance? This action has caused us to not only question Quentin Kujala's competence in this matter, but the bigger picture of the FWP's Elk Brucellosis Working Groups agenda with the local working groups. Don't even get me started on the presentation and the unbelievable plethora of "um's", skipping over of the science or the irresponsible use of it. To say that I am pissed would be an understatement. As FWP employees, y'all have the privilege of upholding this Public Trust. At this juncture, as a member of the "public", I feel that this has been violated and am currently determining what I need to do about this, to ensure that it does not happen again, or to anyone else. Thank you for your time.

Kathryn QannaYahu

On 4/22/2013 3:06 PM, Glenn Hockett wrote:

Q:

So if you as a representative of the FWP are at the meeting is it open to the public?

Thanks, Glenn

From: Kujala, Quentin [mailto:qkujala@mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 2:00 PM
To: 'Glenn Hockett'
Cc: McDonald, Ken; Flowers, Pat; Dan Vermillion
Subject: RE: Park County Elk Brucellosis Working Group

Glenn-

I cannot speak for how the club holds their meetings.

As for the topic, is an informational presentation of the recommendations and associated history. Will also ask them if/how they'd like to be involved. Have attached the intended power point I intend to use tonight.

Regards all,

Q

From: Glenn Hockett [mailto:glhockett@bresnan.net]
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Kujala, Quentin
Cc: GWA Board; McDonald, Ken; Flowers, Pat; Dan Vermillion
Subject: Park County Elk Brucellosis Working Group

Quentin:

Would you please clarify what is going on with the Park County Rod & Gun Club tonight (7PM April 22, 2013)? We understand that you on behalf of FWP are making a presentation about elk management in areas with brucellosis. Is this an open public meeting? Because we have been told that it is not. While we were first invited to attend by Lou we are now being told by Hayes this is not a public meeting.

As well, I also want to remind you that on January 12, 2013 I requested on behalf of GWA being informed about any meetings/discussions FWP was pursuing regarding formation of specific elk working groups. Here was the specific ask:

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