



Domesticated Elk Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Location: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
4315 S 2700 W – TSOB South BLDG FL.2
Taylorsville, UT 84129

Attendees: Deputy Commissioner Kelly Pehrson, Director of Animal Industry Leann Hunting, Phil Crowther (Program Director), Stewart Barney (New Program Manager), Dr. Daniel Christensen (State Vet), Dr. Amanda Price (Assistant State Vet), Kortee McGee (UDAF), Camie Ovaleni (UDAF), Camille Knudson (Policy Analyst), Curtis Grow (Assistant Attorney General), Angie Robinson (Producer), Shane Dykster (Producer), Mike Ford (Chairman), Daniel Richens (Producer), Dallas Cook(Producer), Chris Robinson (Producer), Brent Tanner (Cattlemen's Rep.)

Agenda

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Phil Crowther (00:00)/01:39
2. **Review and Approve Minutes from 6/18/2024** – Action (02:23)
 - ◆ Review and Approve Minutes from 6/18/2024 – Action (02:23)
 - Minutes Approved (Mike motioned to approve, Dallas second)
3. **Elk Program Update** – Phil Crowther (04:51)
 - ◆ Phil Crowther will be retiring January 3rd, and Stewart Barney taking his place.
 - ◆ Still able to bring bulls down from Canada (second year doing this) to help our hunt parks to keep thriving.
 - ◆ Anything Imported into Utah have to be harvested by the end of the year and all Canadian bulls have been accounted for in 2024.
 - ◆ Brain stem and nymphonids are still being tested.
4. **Canadian Import Requirements and Derogations** – Dr. Amanda Price (8:20)
 - ◆ Legislative Updates (08:32)
 - Remove genetic purity requirement from code and rule.
 - Change license expiration to June 30
 - Require records to be kept for 5 years after death/movement. Matches with CWD requirements.
 - Increase brand inspection service charge to \$20 (same as cattle and horses)
 - ◆ 201 Elk imported to Utah from the 100th Meridian. (New this Year 2024) (10:26)
 - Must deworm or harvest within 150 days
 - 30 dewormed
 - 111 hunt killed/died
 - ◆ Canadian Elk (11:18)
 - Canada doesn't have the same testing requirements as the U.S. With the derogation with USDA for this year we were still able to bring in bulls that matched our state and federal laws.
 - ◆ CWD cases (15:55)
 - 2 Canadian-origin (pre-2024 import)
 - 11 US-origin
 - 8 Utah-origin

- ◆ Active Quarantines: (USDA requires it or it puts our herd certification program at risk) (16:40)
 - 4 hunt parks
 - 4 farms
 - ◊ Working on CWD sampling video and a laminated sampling guide. (17:04)
- ◆ Elk Research Foundation (17:36) – *We are being able to send out our testing to 3 different elk studies being performed to help find an answer for CWD in elk.
 - Two infected farms - approx 90 elk
 - Rectal biopsies – (60-70% accuracy) Multiple testing required to adequately give an idea of how much CWD is in a herd. Help to eliminate harvesting a whole herd for a few positives. .
 - Blood collection
 - DNA collection
 - Ear wax
- ◆ DWR issues we are trying to get resolved. (24:50)
 - Endemic area definition (What is the definition of an endemic area for CWD)
 - Reindeer HCP (Herd certification. DWR will run the program but we have quarantine authority.
 - Data sharing (wild and domestic) – Protected information will not be shared with the public.

5. **Compliance with inventory and testing Requirements** – Phil Crowther (27:20)

- ◆ 95% on inventory needs to be met to renew your license. If you don't meet the 95% rule you will have to rectify it the next year. If you miss the 95% inventory for two consecutive years in a row then your license will not be renewed.
- ◆ CWD testing – 90% accuracy. Hunt parks don't have an issue with the testing requirement but the farms do because elk are not harvested as often. UDAF is always willing to work with elk producers to help them with meeting their test requirements.

6. **USDA Grant Proposal** – Dr. Amanda Price (30:16)

- ◆ We didn't get the grant proposal we wanted from the USDA to help with some things we wanted to get to help improve the elk program.

7. **Board Roundtable-** (32:15)

- ◆ Daniel Richins and Dallas Cook new to the council.
- ◆ (33:02) Stewart Barney introduces himself to the board.
- ◆ AllFlex App. We are now using the google sheets app so we can correct the animals in real time if there is a mistake so we don't have to manually reconcile the animal.
- ◆ You need to have 1 dangle tag and a RFID tag. The dangle tag needs to be visible from outside the trailer.

8. **Adjourn** (38:38)