

**Whistling Wings HRC
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2019**

The June 28, 2019, Board of Directors meeting was called order at 6:45 PM by President Doug Burt at the home of Lee and Robin Marshall, in Renton. In attendance were President Doug Burt, VP Dow Derato, Treasurer Jerry Leitch, Secretary Toni Pace, Immediate Past President Sam Pace, and Board Members: Colin Ching (by phone) and Jeff Hunter.

Minutes of the April 2, 2019 Board of Directors meeting were approved (following correction of typos).

The first order of business was **Holding Blinds**.

Effective September 1, 2019, no rebar will be allowed on the Training Day and Hunt Test grounds at Jerry's Place. Jerry explained to reasons for the prohibition involving rebar: Following the June Hunt test, rebar was found "in the field" at multiple locations, and because the grass is cut using a combine, it's likely that continued use of rebar would result in damage to the farmers equipment at some point, and liability for Whistling Wings, notwithstanding our best efforts to ensure no rebar is left in the field. In the event the farmer's combine hits a piece of rebar, the equipment damage could easily reach \$5,000-\$7,000.

In addition to holding blinds for dogs and wingers, the prohibition on rebar could also affect our event signage.

WWHRC currently has between two and three dozen holding blinds, all but a handful of which use PVC and rebar to hold them in place.

As a result, Jerry, Doug and Colin have been looking at various options, none of which is ideal:

Dog Star: Would cost approximately \$100 per blind for replacement poles to use with Whistling Wings' existing blinds (based on \$22 per pole, plus shipping). Purchasing the whole blind new from Dog Star would cost \$150.

Jeff Hunter discussed the possibility of using wooden dowel for (with a sharpened spear tip) for holding our existing blinds (with PVC pipe) in place.

Jerry also reviewed Elsa Hawley's blinds, and while they are significantly better than her previous blinds, they are still not quite what we are looking for.

The biggest challenge we face is finding a product that is durable, and also light-weight enough that it is not unduly heavy/cumbersome trying to transport them into, and out of, the field. There are a number of options that have metal stakes on the bottom, but the area where the metal is attached to a lighter weight whole does not appear sufficiently durable in any of the options that are available to us at this time.

The Board approved Doug and Jerry spending approximately \$450 to obtain various samples of both metal pole options and aluminum pole options that the board could try-out before making a decision.

Colin also discussed the fact that handlers with their own equipment will also need to be able to comply with the new limitation on rebar, and that it would be important for us to open up the opportunity to purchase whatever solution we select, both to secure a bigger volume discount for Whistling Wings, and also secure a lower price for our members. The board was persuaded by the logic of Colin's suggestion.

August Hunt Test

President Doug Burt confirmed that we have received a license from HRC/UKC for an Upland Hunt Test in August. He noted that because of a conflict with the Canadian Master National Hunt Test in Canada, approximately a dozen dogs that would normally show up to run our Upland Test would not likely attend. Jeff Hunter noted that he had identified perhaps four additional non-Canadian dogs that might be interested in running an Upland test that have not been part of our previous discussions regarding likely registrations.

Doug also indicated that Cascade HRC is interested in doing an August test, but they have a significant challenge with lack of water. It would be possible to do an Upland test on their grounds in a joint effort.

Sam indicated he supported trying to work with Cascade but noted that previously when Rainshadow HRC held a regular Hunt Test with Cascade the parties thought they were in agreement, but it turned out they were operating on different assumptions regarding items that affected costs of the test, and that ultimately were beyond Rainshadow's ability to cover. He suggested that if we want to avoid a repeat of that situation it would be important to work through the details with Cascade in advance of agreeing to a joint test. He also underscored the successful efforts that have been made, and that we continue to make, to build a strong relationship with Cascade, and that given the history of the formation of Cascade we should minimize risks of getting crossways with each other.

The Board confirmed by consensus that WWHRC would proceed with a plan to put on the currently licensed Quad Upland on August 18th and 19th - and leave open the possibility of cooperating with Cascade while preparing to hold our test ourselves.

The Board provided the President with a list of preferred judges for the Quad Upland test. In addition, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the President to sign a *Letter of Recommendation* to HRC/UKC for Jerry Leitch to begin apprenticing at Upland since he has met all of the qualifications to do so.

Jerry agreed to serve as Bird Steward for the August test, and confirmed with the Board that we should probably attempt to obtain 150 birds for the Quad Upland. Doug volunteered to check with Boyd Ulsh and Lower Columbia regarding sourcing for the bird.

Bill Hillman Seminar

Doug initiated the discussion of a possible Bill Hillman seminar by noting that we had hoped to have a seminar earlier this year, but that it had not come together because we did not have enough handlers sign up.

The primary challenge is a bit of a “chicken or egg” dilemma: In order to minimize the club’s financial risk, we need to have enough people sign-up to cover the cost, which would be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. But people are reluctant to sign up unless they know when the seminar will be held. Unless WWHRC is willing to guarantee to cover the cost in the event we don’t have enough registrants, Hillman is unlikely to make a firm commitment to a specific date, especially a date that might conflict with him running his dogs in competition.

The Board discussed a number of options, including the possibility of WWHRC guaranteeing the cost, but that would tie-up more than half of the club’s total cash. The Board also discussed possible dates, including February, when Hillman and handlers would be less likely to be running their dogs in competitions; but the downside is weather, especially given the recent history of snow in February at Jerry’s Place. The Board also discussed the importance of nailing down what handlers would receive at the various price points that might be charged for participation and/or monitoring.

The Board did not reach a consensus or agreement on the matter.

Operation Waterdog

Jeff Hunter and Doug reported that the 1st - Annual “*Operation Waterdog*” event would be held on July 20th at Jerry’s Place. The event will be held in cooperation and partnership with the Wounded Veterans Waterfowl Club of Washington. Jeff will be co-chairing the event with Billy Davis.

Jeff is assembling a list of consistently successful Seasoned and Finished dogs that are being recruited to help with the event. The idea is to have the veterans and their families run highly competent dogs on relatively short marks in a way that will ensure that the veterans and their children are very successful.

The plan will be to use (politically correct) Dokkens, set up two hunting scenarios (one on land using layout blinds, and one on water). All net proceeds will go to the WVWC. The event will include a raffle/auction and Jeff reported on efforts to secure donations from Cabela’s, Purina, Leupold, Sportco, Armageddon Arms, Les Schwab, Tractor Supply etc.

Jeff also noted the article by Nancy Harney that had been published in Retriever Magazine regarding WVWC and the *Operation Waterdog* event.

June Hunt Test Financial Report

Treasurer Jerry Leitch presented and reviewed the Financial Report from the June Hunt Test:

JUNE HUNT TEST 2019

INCOME

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Entries | 8,170 |
| Raffle | 1,920 |
| Food | 1,610 |
| T-Shirts | 325 |
| | <u>\$12,025</u> |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Birds (net) | 2,635 |
| Help | 2,200 |
| Fees (HRC & UKC) | 940 |
| Ribbons | 450 |
| Judges Expenses | 350 |
| Hunt Secretary | 240 |
| T-Shirts and Hats | 200 |
| Ammo | 150 |
| Trash and Potty | 50 |
| | <u>\$8,340</u> |

\$3,865

There being no further business to come before the Board, Doug adjourned the meeting shortly after 9:00 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Toni Pace

Toni Pace, Secretary