

County Livestock Loss Authority
P.O. Box 507
Reserve, NM 87830

August 20, 2025

Special Meeting Agenda

MINUTES

1" C" Foster Dr. Reserve NM. 87830

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE MEETING VIA:

Zoom:

1:00P.M. Special Meeting *Called to order at 1:03p.m.*

Roll Call: Audrey McQueen, Catron County *Present*
Jim Paxon, Sierra County *Absent, Proxy to Director Monette*
Daniel Monette, Socorro *County Present, on-line*
Tom Paterson *Abesent, Proxy to Director Shirley*
Nelson Shirley *Present, on-line*

Pledge of Allegiance *By Administrator Mahler*

Introduction of Guests

John Oakleaf, USF&W

Lordes Saenz, NMDA

Patricia Depner, NMDA

Dr. Kelly Ebert, NMDA

Anthony Colin, NMDA

Gabby Hernandez, NMDA

- I. Approval of Agenda *Motion to approve by Director Monette, Second by Director Shirley Passes*
- II. Approval of Minutes *Motion to approve by Director Monette, second by Director Shirley, Passes*
 - A. Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2025
- III. Public Comment: Limited to 3 Minutes *No public Comment*

IV. Presentations/Reports

A. Report on Indirect Damages formula by John Oakleaf, USF&W *John Oakleaf presented the formula. There may be producers that are over the cap (\$124.00) due to other factors in the formula if it applies to yearlings (high wolf utilization areas). Dr Ebert advises her calculation on yearlings is \$121.00 cap with the understanding she used the 3rd quarter 2024 valuation. 2023 Indirect Damages needs the 2023 valuation. The 2023 cow/calf valuation cap should be \$111.00, then yearling cap would be determined from that number. John Oakleaf advises these are preliminary numbers based off the 2023 Conflict Avoidance applications only. Discussion on Indirect Damage payment allotment from State Funds. Dr. Ebert advises it was previously determined to be \$800,000.00. John Oakleaf advises he ran his estimates off of \$600,000.00. Chair McQueen suggests using the number approved by the CLLA Board in 2024. Director Shirley advises of shortfall if we pay \$800,000.00. CLLA will not be able to pay depredations in 2026. Do not exhaust county funds. Director Monette agrees with Director Shirley. Dr. Ebert advises she located a scientific Journal that discussed wolf impacts on sheep. Suggests a cap payment for the sheep producer. Discussion by Director Shirley on the impacts of sheep on open range versus on in-town land, small operation proposes there is minimal loss in weaning weight or fertility for that in-town producer. Dr. Ebert advises the study from Sweden found no impact on slaughter weights of the lamb because producers delayed slaughter until the lambs reached desired weight but they did find an impact on the number of lambs per ewe. Dr. Ebert estimates that a cap payment would be approximately \$100.00 per ewe. Recommends we use the calculation for the number of live births. Director Shirley feels the application by the sheep producer for Indirect Damages is inappropriate. John Oakleaf advises that in Sweden and Norway that it is an open-range situation. Requests paper from Dr. Ebert. Motion by Director Shirley to not include the goat and Sheep producer in the Indirect Damages calculation. Second by Director Monette. Passes*

V. Old Business

- A. Discussion and Action regarding the previously discussed cap of \$124.00/per cow by Dr. Kelly Ebert. *Dr Ebert advises the cap amount was based on the 2024 3rd Quarter. The cap amount should be adjusted to reflect the 2023 3rd Quarter. Will double check the amount. Requests the Board vote on the 2023 3rd Quarter valuation for use for the 2023 Indirect Damages calculation. Director Shirley states that Indirect Damages are calculated and paid based on wolf presence and number of cattle. No minimum payment. Eliminate the one calf valuation for Indirect Damages. Motion by Director Shirley second by Director Monette. Passes*
- B. Discussion and Action regarding the adoption of formula Standard Operating Procedures for both Indirect Damages and Conflict Avoidance Calculations. *Dr Ebert advises that the CLLA Board has previously voted to use the formula designed and implemented by the wolf-livestock Coexistence Council. She feels that the CLLA should have an administrative record of the formula and what the variables mean and how the math is done so there is a written procedure. Dr. Ebert recommends a change be made to the formula. John Oakleaf describes the change being requested is the removal of the 2x multiplier for Conflict Avoidance implementation within both the Conflict Avoidance and Indirect Damages calculation. Having the 2x multiplier just increases the amount of the wolves weight on the formula. Motion by Director*

Shirley to accept written formula with modification as described. Second by Director Monette. Passes.

- C. Discussion and confirmation of total state funds to be used for the 2023 Indirect Damages payments. *Chair McQueen advises that this was previously discussed in Item IV A, Motion by Chair McQueen to use \$600,000 for the 2023 Indirect Damages of state funds. A second by Director Shirley. Motion Passes.*

VI. New Business

- A. Discussion, Direction and Action regarding the 2024 Conflict Avoidance application and the payment for that application being distributed from the state fund source prior to the allocation of federal grant funds. *Administrator Mahler advises that Dr. Ebert has suggested we distribute the Conflict Avoidance applications for 2024 out of the state funds. When the 2025 Federal Grant is allocated we would pay for 2025 Conflict Avoidance from that source. Chair McQueen asks if anyone knows when the 2025 Federal Grant is coming available. Dr Ebert has not heard, all FY grant applications have been reviewed and scored but the decision remains at the Dept. of Interior Headquarters. Dr. Ebert advises that per previous year's notification may hear before the end of September. Dr Ebert is still concerned that the Legislature that they will not entertain addition funds until we have spent the \$1.5 million. NMDA recommends that the CLLA use the state funds to pay for 2024 Conflict Avoidance. We also recommend CLLA also pays 2023 and 2024 Indirect Damages prior to the next Legislative Session. Dr. Ebert does not have enough data to determine an amount to suggest for the Conflict Avoidance amount. Director Shirley states we will have paid out of state fund \$650,000 once we pay 2023 Indirect Damages. Between now and the end of year CLLA will have paid close to \$1million when depredeations are added. CLLA will have a shortfall by 2027. Clarifying point made by Dr. Ebert that Director Shirley is correct. If the legislature does appropriate additional funds, they would not be available until the following July. Director Monette agrees with both Director Shirley and Dr. Ebert. We need to show the Legislature we are using the funds. Motion by Director Shirley to not pay 2024 Conflict Avoidance out of state funds. Director Shiley also moves that CLLA does not pay 2024 Indirect Damages this year either. Second by Director Paterson Proxy. Passes.*
- B. Discussion direction and/or action regarding the letter of support for increased funding for USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services. *Motion by Chair Mcqueen to sign the letter of support, second by Director Monette. Passes.*

Director Paterson has requested a Special meeting to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session and the funding request by CLLA. CLLA Administrator to send out meeting dates via email. Special Meeting email has been sent with the date of September 10, 2025 at 2:00pm

VII. Adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Next proposed Regular Meeting will be October 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Socorro. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the County Livestock Loss Authority Administrator no later than 5:00pm on the Monday the week prior to the meeting.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or

meeting please contact the CLLA Administrator, at 1 C Foster Drive, Reserve NM. 87830, phone (505) 787-9652 at least one (1) week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact CLLA Administrator if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed."

Minutes approved: 

Audrey McQueen, Chair