

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force - Fall Meeting

Date: October 31, 2024

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

1. Call to Order: The Natural Resources Division called the meeting to order. The recording was initiated, and attendees were welcomed. Ryan was noted to be delayed due to traffic, and several members joined virtually.

2. Introductions: Given the small group size, participants introduced themselves, including in-person and online new faces. Attendees included:

- J.P. Fairhead, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division
- Robert Bird, State Director, USDA Wildlife Services
- Laura Rothfelt, State Public Health Veterinarian, Department of Health
- Ryan Farney, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Patrick Fisk, Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Micheal Kirby, USDA Wildlife Services
- Tim Smyser, USDA National Wildlife Research Center
- Courtney Bowden, USDA National Wildlife Research Center
- Rodger Mangum, Nature Conservancy

3. Quorum Check: A quorum was not confirmed at the beginning of the meeting. If established later, the approval of previous meeting minutes will be addressed at the conclusion.

4. Agenda Overview: For efficiency, the group agreed to prioritize presentations from Colorado participants at the beginning of the meeting.

5. Key Discussions:

- Overview of the objectives and recent progress of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force.
- Coordination between state and federal agencies to mitigate feral hog impacts.
- Public health concerns associated with feral hog populations, as highlighted by the Department of Health.
- Presentation from Colorado representatives on DNA collection and analysis from sampled feral hogs in Arkansas
- Emphasis on the importance of community engagement and public reporting in identifying feral hog activity.
- Review funding opportunities to support eradication efforts and potential grants for 2025 initiatives.

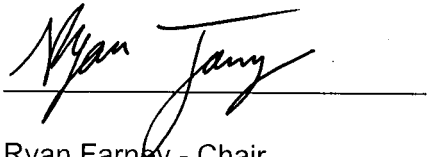
6. Action Items:

- Confirm quorum and approve prior meeting minutes if possible.
- Follow up on interagency collaboration for future eradication strategies.
- Document and share findings from Colorado's presentation.
- Explore grant opportunities and funding mechanisms to enhance future control programs.
- Develop outreach materials to increase public awareness and encourage reporting of feral hog sightings.

7. Adjournment: The meeting concluded with acknowledging attendees' participation and discussing the next steps for collaboration. The next meeting date will be scheduled for Spring 2025, and it will focus on assessing progress and refining management strategies.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ryan Farney
Feral Hog Program Coordinator
10-31-2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Farney", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Farney - Chair
Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force