



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

CPW Area Office – 73485 Hwy 64

August 31, 2017

7:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: Mary Taylor/BLM, Lenny Klingsmith/livestock grower, DWM Bailey Franklin/CPW, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Jim Brennan/livestock grower, Rich Parr/Sportsperson and Samantha Sorensen/admin.

Guests present were: AWM Bill deVergie/CPW, Reed Kelley, DWM Ross McGee/CPW, Greg Glasgow, Gary Visintainer, Paul Sheridan, John Halandras and Chad Carter.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget was \$63,637.82.

Budget Process/Procedures: Bill deVergie let the committee know that he'd attended the last State Council meeting and the Council decided not to increase base budgets. He reminded everyone that Pat Tucker has the ability to approve projects up to \$20k/project without the State Council's approval. Special projects still need to fall within the scope of HPP. When asked if the Council would pick up the monitoring funding Bill explained that because it's ongoing keep it as is but if monitoring can be construed as statewide then the State Council will consider funding it. Bailey felt that the monitoring presentation Todd plans to give at the Statewide HPP meeting in December will convince the State Council to fund their monitoring. Gary Visintainer encouraged the committee to utilize Pat as a resource when they run out of money.

Old Business: Minutes from July 26th were approved as written.

New Business: LK Ranch Water Improvements: Lenny explained that he'd like to install a couple waterlines leading to two new tanks and an overflow pond. He'd plan on tying into an existing line and there would be close to two miles of new pipeline. He already has tire tanks on hand. The rotational grazing has placed a large demand on the existing water sources. The two new tanks would help to provide more uniform grazing while also benefiting wildlife on the ranch. Lenny pointed out that he would like to start ASAP. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$11,602.45.

K/K Ranch Aerial Spray & Seeding: Bailey began by explaining that Lenny is helping with the grazing. The temporary fence has been set up for a four pasture rotation. Sprayed one pasture with Poast and now they would like to continue with phase two of the project. For the secondary treatment Troy will spray the 2 lower pastures and monitoring will take place on all four pastures. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$1,140.00

Sheridan Bar 7 Ranch Water Improvement: Bailey stated that Paul needs water for their new calving grounds. Their plan is to pump water out of a nearby ditch and into tire tanks. Paul pointed out that the new pasture will provide better coverage for calving and will result in less pressure from deer and antelope. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$4,785.00.

Halandras Water Improvements: John presented committee members with two different proposals. The first proposal, South Water, John explained that he'd like to expand water into dry country. The only water available in the area is what they catch in the spring. They drilled a well in Deer Creek two years ago and it's producing at a good rate. He pointed out he's working with the BLM on NEPA and the NRCS has already approved their funding. Well is on deeded and will be pumped onto BLM; water would remain on until the fall. The committee approved a 34% cost share up to \$17,000.00.

The second proposal, North Well, was also presented by John Halandras. He would like to drill a well and pipe water to 3 or 4 tanks. Bailey made it clear that HPP will only fund a well if they hit water. John pointed out that the area is prime deer and elk winter ground. Mary asked if he'd be willing to allow any big game hunts for the public Rich voiced concern over clarity and that the project is a lot of money with no benefit to sportsmen.. John said that the area doesn't typically hold elk in the summer but maybe water would change that; water would benefit deer and livestock. The committee felt that John's North Well project was a better fit for the Grazing Advisory Board.

Ranch Advisory Partners Contract Extension: Bailey asked the committee if they would approve two more monitoring sites, one on K/K and the other on Russell Ranch. RAP provided a quote for \$2,800.00 which would bump the total cost of the contract up to \$49,000.00. The committee agreed that the benefits far outweigh the costs and there is no sense in repeating what doesn't work. Bailey explained that transects would go in before spraying happens. He's hopeful that the State Council will agree to fund monitoring after the Statewide meeting in December. The committee approved to increase the RAP contract by \$2,800.00.

Rogers/Russell Ranch Sage Roll Chop & Seeding: Bailey presented the proposal on Rogers' behalf. He explained that there is a 31 acre flat that has been treated several times before but Rogers' wants more grass for his cows. Bailey has mixed feelings about the project because currently there is a good understory present and a lot of mule deer utilize the area. His fear is that if HPP doesn't partner on the project then the alternative treatment will not have any benefit for wildlife at all. The plan is to conduct a two-pass mechanical roller chopping, dragging and inter-seeding treatment. The project needs to be reviewed for impact on Greater Sage Grouse. Mary asked Bailey to speak with the landowner about deferred grazing. Rogers' already volunteered to allow a youth/veteran hunt. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$5,463.00.

K/K Ranch Aerial Grass Spraying Phase II: Bailey explained that a 38 acre area had burned recently. It didn't burn into the HPP project area but it came close; north side of 8 around mile marker 9. He's looking to implement a two phase project that would entail a fall spray and early winter seeding. The committee approved a 75/25 cost share up to \$4,109.48.

Borchard Pond Fencing Materials: Bailey started off by pointing out that initially Borchard wanted to see about fencing around his hops but apparently big game will not eat hops. Instead he would like to construct a fence around a steep lined pond to keep animals out and prevent them from drowning. HPP would provide the materials and the landowner would provide the labor. The committee approved up to \$1,518.00 for the project.

Josephine Basin Water Development: Reed explained that he would like to bring in water for better livestock and wildlife distribution. He first needs to drill a well then plans to pipe water into tanks. The committee made it very clear that they would not fund the project if he hits a dry hole. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$13,450.00.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Select Next Meeting Date: TBD

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.