



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Colorado Parks & Wildlife 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs
Monday Feb. 13, 2017
6:00pm

Introductions: **Members attending meeting:** Darren Ebaugh/Sportsperson, Kathy McKinstry/BLM, Libbie Miller/CPW, Chad Stewart/USFS, Larry Monger/Livestock Grower and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting:** AWM Kris Middledorf, DWM Jack Taylor, Chris Rhyne/BLM, Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, Jeff Yost/CPW.

Libbie introduced the new Area Wildlife Manager Kris Middledorf. Kris gave the committee an overview of his history with the agency.

General Public Comments: Kathy announced to the committee that she'd recently been promoted to Assistant Field Manager and expressed her desire to stay on as the BLM representative.

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. \$60,087.02 were the funds remaining at the start of the meeting. Two projects have been completed thus far and evaluations were made available for members to read if interested.

Old Business: Minutes from September 12th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles Presentation: Rangeland Management Specialist Chris Rhyne gave a presentation on biological control. She spoke about leafy spurge beetles as well as other agents that could be used on various weeds found throughout the Upper Yampa region. Handouts and brochures were provided for attendees.

Larry Monger Stackyard Fence: DWM Jack Taylor and Larry Monger presented the project to the committee. 900 foot hay corral had electric fence around it, initially it worked but Larry would like to take the electric wire off and put steel panels around it. Libbie pointed out that HPP had always been willing to pay for the cost of standard panels; need to confirm the status quo through game damage. She went on to say that woven wire longevity is reduced due to snow loads in the area, hence the need for steel panels. Larry pointed out that the current stackyard posts had been supplied by CPW and he'd hung the wire himself but it is now failing.

Chad suggested HPP pay the difference above and beyond the standard panel cost; Larry estimated that would cost around \$3,000. The committee suggested Larry table the project until his proposal was complete.

Celebrate Ag: Libbie let the committee know Celebrate Ag would be held on March 22nd this year. In the past HPP has collaborated with other agencies to host the event. Pat Tucker pointed out that the state has rules on sponsoring an event and that last year the project had to go all the way to the Executive Director for approval. Essentially HPP would be allowed to purchase something for the event but can no longer provide sponsorship. Chad thinks there would be an opportunity to purchase items that they had been thinking about eliminating this year. Everyone was in agreement that they'd generated some interest in HPP with Libbie speaking at the event; Libbie asked if any other members would be interested in volunteering this year. The committee approved \$100.00 each to be used for the renewal of a membership and an event purchase. Pat suggested the committee purchase HPP swag to be handed out at the booth. The committee amended their approval to include the purchase of notepads not to exceed \$250.

Committee Recognition Awards: Libbie was very happy to report that Tom Rossi is doing well and would like to remain on the HPP committee. Kathy suggested holding a couple meetings in South Routt to occasionally reduce Tom's commute.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: CPW Committee Representative: Libbie explained that AWM Kris Middendorf would be taking over as the new CPW representative since she'd accepted a new position as a biologist.

License Fee Increase: Darren explained to the committee that CPW had held 13 meetings statewide to get a stance from sportsmen on a potential increase. Resident licenses have not been increased for some 10 years. He feels as though folks who have been properly informed and/or attended meetings are supportive of the increase. Libbie pointed out that the agency cannot continue to support itself on the current revenue. She wanted to make everyone aware of the topic and give everyone the opportunity to ask questions. Pat shared with the committee some of the options on the table.

Select Next Meeting Date: Monday March 13th.

Future Agenda Items: Larry Monger Stackyard Fence and Clynke's Bear River Ranch-Fertilizer

Roundtable: Pat Tucker explained that WildEarth Guardians are suing CPW over the approval of the predator study. He thanked everyone for attending and having a good meeting.

Kathy asked after the prospect of committees diversifying. Pat clarified that historically a conflict has always been necessary even if a project is helping with game management objectives. The State Council is working to provide more definitive guidelines for local committees by July 1st. Chris Rhyne expressed that she would like to see more consistency across all the committees. Pat explained that while they are working to streamline guidelines and paperwork, the point of having local committees is to allow them the flexibility to adjust their goals based on the conflicts they are seeing within their area.

Adjournment: Next meeting scheduled for March 13th. Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.