



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way
January 10, 2017
5:00PM

Introductions: **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Mark Lowrey/BLM, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Dale Beckerman/BLM and AAM Mike Swaro/CPW.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented the committee with a starting budget of \$35,069.72. It was pointed out that a number of projects had already been completed; evaluations were passed around for members to review if interested.

Old Business: The minutes from September 28th were approved as written.

New Business: BLM Programmatic Rx Burn: Dale Beckerman presented the proposal on Toni Toelle's behalf. The Northwest Fire Management Unit is seeking local committee support so they can apply for funding through the HPP State Council. Toni's proposal stated that "The intent of asking for State funding and not local committee contribution is solely based on the concept that the money could be used on any of the six prescribed burn locations depending upon which comes into prescription during the two year period the funding is available." Dale explained that they don't receive much funding from the BLM unless there's a benefit to sage grouse. The two burn units that fall within Northwest CO HPP boundaries are Teepee and Seven Springs, totaling 681 acres. Seven Springs will be partially funded by RMEF, thanks in part to Bill deVergie and Mike Swaro. Their goal is to remove fuels in the area while at the same time improve the quality of deer and elk habitat; there would be some grazing improvement too. Looking to burn sometime in the spring, NEPA has already been done. Mark pointed out that they'd tried using bug control on Teepee but they didn't survive. Evan asked if the bugs ever work. Curtis said they did so well in Idaho that they had to move the bugs. Samantha let the committee know that White River would see the proposal next week and Middle Park will probably discuss it via conference call sometime in the near future. The committee approved of Toni's proposal and fully supported the Northwest Fire Management Unit's request to seek funding from the State Council.

HPP Distribution Hunts: Evan Jones asked the committee for their support in applying for 200 distribution hunts again. Explained it's something they've been doing for the last 5 years now. DWMs control where the tags go and are used as a last resort. It's been a mild winter thus far and he doesn't foresee the need to use too many. Last year they used around 100 and got everyone buttoned up. Unfortunately everyone falls into a lull between harsh winters and the cycle will restart. The committee approved Evan's request to apply for distribution hunts.

Committee Recognition Awards: Samantha began by apologizing for the last minute decision to move forward without the Northwest committee on a plaque purchase for Toni Toelle. The White River committee needed to order the plaque long before Northwest would meet again to take an official vote. She reminded the committee that a vote is needed before any money can be spent and wanted to know if they would consider a blanket approval for recognition awards each fiscal year. Samantha asked the committee if they typically purchase awards for exiting members. No one could remember doing anything for members in the past. Guidelines surrounding the purchase of recognition awards were discussed. The committee approved the purchase of a recognition award, allowable under the guidelines, for deserving members that might leave before the end of the fiscal year.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: License Fee Increase: Evan started the conversation by explaining any increases would be percentage based. Basically there are 3 options: leave resident fees as is and continue to make cuts, increase fees slightly to maintain current programs or increase fees to a point that would accommodate future programs. Costs to run the agency have increased but funding has not, resident fees haven't increased since 2005. Evan asked everyone how they felt about a license fee increase from a sportsman's point of view. Mark and Curtis felt like an increase needed to happen in order to keep up with the times. Everyone agreed they would continue to purchase licenses even if the price goes up.

Fence Voucher Landowner List: Samantha provided committee members with a list of landowner names and addresses specific to MJK and Murdochs. She highlighted the names of those who did not redeem their vouchers last fiscal year and asked the committee if they'd heard of any changes. Gary Visintainer arrived at 5:40PM. The committee worked through the list and made a number of changes. Gary pointed out that in the past a landowner would need to speak with a DWM and fill out a conflict form before they could be added to the list. Samantha and Evan will look through their files for a conflict form, Samantha will update the form if need be. Evan will hand out a landowner list at their next Area meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15th at 5PM, pending projects. Mark Voloshin may bring a water project to the committee before spring.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.