



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

CPW Area Office – 73485 Hwy 64

July 26, 2017

7:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: Mary Taylor/BLM, Lenny Klinglesmith/livestock grower, DWM Bailey Franklin/CPW, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Jim Brennan/livestock grower, Samantha Sorensen/admin. and Rich Parr/sportsperson joined at 7:45pm.

Guests present were: Mike Grady, Tammy Stout, Reed Kelley, JW Squire and Ryan Vroman.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented the committee with 2017 and 2018 budget reports. White River ended FY17 with \$15,602.95 but \$15k of it rolled into FY18 for the Miller Creek Burn. Curtis is hoping for a fall window on Miller. The committee's remaining FY18 budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$124,819.49. Bailey let the committee know that Bill deVergie plans to attend the next State Council meeting on August 8 & 9 to express his support for a budget increase for the White River committee.

Pat Tucker-Budget Process/Procedures: Tabled.

Old Business: Minutes from May 16th and May 22nd were approved as written.

New Business: Additional Electric Fence for WRHPP: Bailey explained there is still a need for additional materials such as poly posts to have a big enough kit to fence off the 4th pasture on K/K Ranch. Maxi Reels will be needed to store the wire and lengthen its longevity. A second battery would be useful in the event the kit needs to be split in the future. The committee approved \$2,400.00 for the project.

Grady Ranch Water Improvement: Mike Grady presented his proposal to the committee. He has a good spring that runs at approximately 3 gallons/minute. He'd like to rip in a 2" pipe and drop the water over the ridge into another existing pond. Plans to pipe out of the overflow and install the drain at the low spot. Ryan asked if he's worried about clogging and Mike explained that the drain would be under the surface. Mary suggested installing an escape ramp. The committee approved \$2,275.00 for the project. Mike let everyone know they are welcome to attend a field day on his property scheduled for August 15th for the NRCS Stewardship program.

Earl Stout Dryland Ag Conversion: Bailey presented the project on behalf of Earl and Tammy Stout. They would like to improve the hay crop for their goat operation. The plan is to have Mountain Air Spray treat the smooth brome in the fall then Etchart will do the farming just before winter, should see growth in the spring. The property is close to Cherry Ranch and Buckshot; it's a good spot for mule deer. They're seeking a 50/50 cost share. The committee approved \$5,189.09 for the project. Later in the meeting the committee asked Bailey to speak with Earl about allowing 1 special hunt on the property.

Joe Brown Dryland Ag Conversion: Bailey explained that the landowner has approximately 50 acres of dryland Ag fields and he would like to provide something for mule deer. Jeff Squire will conduct the farming. Joe is seeking a 50/50 cost share. There are a lot of mule deer in the area coming off of elk ridge. The committee approved \$4,510.50 for the project with the condition Bailey request that he allow 1 special hunt.

Byerly/Gustin Dryland Ag Conversion: Bailey let the committee know that the old Byerly property had been sold to Lonnie Gustin. He loves to hunt and lives in Craig. He'd seen what had been done on Etchart's and Fritzler's and wants the same thing done on his place to benefit deer and elk. The plan is to spray this year after Lonnie is finished with mechanical mowing. Shawn Bolton will farm in the fall. The project site covers 215 acres and has the potential to change the distribution of a significant amount of animals. Cow elk dispersal hunts are allowed on Etchart's and Fritzler's August 15th through January to keep cow elk from overgrazing. Lonnie is seeking a 50/50 cost share. The committee approved \$17,555.75 for the project with the condition Bailey request he allow 2 cow elk hunts.

4M Ranch Water Improvement: Ryan presented his proposal to the committee. He explained there is a spring located at the top of a dry gulch and currently all of the animals congregate around the spring. He'd like to pipe the water down to the end of a strip of private, which is approximately 3 miles, and install tanks along the way. He would like to T into the old concrete tank then bury a line to the pond with another T leading to tanks. Plans to use the water in spring, summer and fall. Proposed project is located on deeded property with BLM surrounding. The spring currently runs 3-4 gallons/minute even right now. Mary stated that it could be a huge benefit to extend the waterline eventually. The committee encouraged Ryan to seek additional funding from the NRCS for next time. Ryan is seeking a 50/50 cost share. The committee approved \$20,000.00 for the project.

Halandras Water Improvement: Tabled

Jeff Squire Seeding: JW Squire proposed his project to the committee. He would like to create a 4 acre food plot for pronghorn and deer. The field already has some brome and sainfoin established but rather than spraying he'd like to inner seed with a custom seed mix. He's trying to coexist and find a happy medium by creating a better environment for big game. Jeff would do all of the labor and he's asking HPP to pay for the seed. Bailey explained to Jeff that wheatgrass and brome is low quality forage and recommended he spray first to knock down competition. Jeff pointed out that he plans to mow each year to control weeds. The committee approved \$284.00 for the project.

Cherry Ranch Fall Ag Conversion: Bailey presented the project to the committee. He explained that this is phase II and last year they sprayed in the fall and had a good kill. Etchart will do the farming and Curtis will mow next June to control weeds. He pointed out that the projects had to be broken into phases because of the weeds and fiscal years. Curtis is seeking a 50/50 cost share. Lenny asked why they are only rototilling once and are proposing two passes on Stout.

Bailey explained that the grass on Stout will be harder to break up. He believes this project will be good over the long term after weed control. Unfortunately the neighbor is not helping matters much. Bailey will ask if he'd be open to a youth hunt, has a hunting operation. The committee approved \$4,181.50 for the project with the condition Bailey request he allow 1 special hunt.

Sheridan Bar 7 Ranch Ag Conversion Ph. II: Bailey let the committee know that the second phase of this project will include additional mechanical tillage and standard seed mix. Buckshot will do all of his own farming with Bolton's equipment. The area is not currently fenced in but it will be eventually. Buckshot already offered to allow a youth hunt after the outfitter is finished. He's seeking a 50/50 cost share. The committee approved \$3,119.38 for the project.

K/K Ranch Water Improvement: Bailey pointed out that the committee has done a lot of projects here. Aerial spray, tire tanks, and temporary fence used to rotate 340 head of yearlings through 3 pastures. They chose to defer grazing on 1 pasture due to the herbicide that was used. He went on to say that the solar pump is not currently keeping up so they are proposing the installation of two 1550 gallon storage tanks. It's a straight solar pump so it's only catching up during the day. Jim voiced concern over lack of storage after a few cloudy days and pointed out that there are oil and gas companies' replacing tanks and he got 2 delivered for \$700. Lenny explained that they are only in there for a short period of time, they could use a generator if need be. Rob Walton is the landowner. Sharp tail grouse are present in the area. Each pasture is grazed for 7 days. Public hunts take place on the adjacent easement, should not be a problem to get hunts in there. They're seeking a 50/50 cost share. The committee approved \$1,666.45 for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: HPP Expansion: Bailey briefly explained what the expansion entailed. There were no questions from committee members regarding the letter that Pat Tucker sent out at the end of May.

FY17 Evaluations: Samantha asked the committee if they'd received FY17 project evaluations that she'd emailed out in early July. Members were appreciative of the chance to review finished projects and didn't feel there was a need to discuss them any further.

Roundtable: Samantha pointed out that there are new HPP applications available on the website. She also asked the committee if they'd be open to holding meetings at an earlier time during the winter months, everyone agreed to start winter meetings at 5:30pm.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.