



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
CPW Office in Hot Sulphur Springs
June 14th, 2017
1:00 pm

Introductions: Members present: Doreen Sumerlin/USFS, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, Duane Scholl/Chairman, AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Barry Smith/Sportsperson, Mark Volt/MPCD and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests present:** Cole Alexander, DWM Rachel Sralla, DWM Jeff Behncke, Katlin Miller/MPCD, Deborah Wood/MPCD and Doug Bruchez.

General Public Comments: Duane began by encouraging projects that support both Ag and wildlife, he also pointed out that hounds tongue problems are prevalent. Doug suggested spending this years remaining budget on a weed spraying program. Lyle explained the fiscal year rules and open meeting laws. HPP may be a grassroots program but it is still government run. Dave pointed out that ½ of the committee's committed funds have been spent on weed projects.

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a fiscal year 2017 budget report which reflected a remaining balance of \$40,289.85 and a fiscal year 2018 budget report which reflected a remaining balance of \$98,000.00.

Old Business: Minutes: Minutes from the meetings held on March 15th and May 22nd were presented to committee members and approved as written.

Clover Survey Summary: Katlin went over how much and what kind of seed was handed out. MPCD received 30 responses from the survey. Mark explained that while the project may not directly reduce conflict it does provide somewhat of a benefit to ranchers putting up with a lot of elk on their properties. It's still a very popular program with a side benefit for sage grouse, good for the soil and good PR.

Pronghorn DAU Recommendations: Tabled

New Business: Muddy Allotment Spring Development: Doreen Sumerlin and Mark Volt presented the project. Little Muddy grazing allotment is currently leased to Skylark Ranch. The pond was developed to relieve hoof traffic around Little Muddy Creek. Unfortunately the pond has become a big entrapment hazard with poor access and water quality. They want to build a

collection system with a spring box and tank. There is also a need to restore the road since it's currently a 2-3 acre mud bog. Deer, elk and moose as well as livestock use the water source, may even try to keep the water flowing in winter. Tire tanks are resilient and they might partially bury them to protect against vandalism. USFS would pitch in \$1800 for site restoration and supplies. They are asking HPP to contribute \$4200 for excavation and materials. Late September would be their anticipated start date. The committee approved up to \$5,000.00 for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Livestock Grower Vacancy: Duane explained that he'd been here long enough and there was a need for younger blood. Doug Bruchez provided committee members with a resume and pointed out that he's been really involved with wildlife and ranching. He likes what the organization does, especially the local collaboration aspect. Sam was asked to read the section of the statute explaining the members that should make up a committee. The committee nominated Doug Bruchez as Duane Scholl's replacement.

Select Committee Chair/Co-Chair: Tabled

MPCD Grand County Noxious Weed Guide: Katlin passed around a weed guide that she'd recently created and explained they've been so popular that they're running out of copies. She asked if the committee would consider funding the publication of more copies and provided members with a quote from Kopy Kat. Dave suggested adding HPP logo to the back page as a cooperator. Katlin guessed that MPCD could contribute \$700 and thought that Northwest might consider becoming a future cooperator as well. The committee approved \$1550.00 for the project out of this year's remaining budget.

Highway 34 Wildlife Signage: Chuck explained that there is no game crossing signs on Hwy 34 between Hwy 40 and Coffee Divide. Lyle explained that sometimes CDOT will require at least 5 wildlife/vehicle strikes before they put up a sign but it can vary by district. Lyle said he could bring it up at the CDOT/Wildlife conference in summit next week. Sam was asked to compile a comment letter.

640 Acre Minimum: It was decided that 640 is not a set standard and that the topic had been resolved during the conference call on May 22nd. 640 acre minimum will apply to vouchers, clover handout and weed spraying program, etc. Dave said the committee should try it for a year and then review how it went.

HPP Expansion: Mantra has always been fence and forage. This committee has already allowed projects applicable under the new expansion.

Committee Member Recognitions: Duane Scholl and Mark Volt were both presented with plaques recognizing them for their years of dedicated service on the Middle Park HPP committee.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Ted plans to help out with youth hunts again next year. Sam will email evaluations to committee members to review.

Roundtable: Chuck suggested Duane be recognized at the Statewide meeting in December.

Sam pointed out that HPP applications are always changing therefore it is best to get them from the website each time.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:26pm.