



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
USFS in Walden, CO
March 2, 2017
1:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: DWM Josh Dilley/CPW, AWM Kris Middledorf/CPW, Danny Meyring/livestock grower, Jimmer Baller/livestock grower, Todd Peterson/sportsperson (via phone), Darrell Freeman/USFS, Zachary Hughes/BLM and Samantha Sorensen/CPW admin. Guests present were: Janie Brand/Jackson County, Tara Wertz/USFWS, and Adam Bromley/USFS.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The budget remaining at the beginning of the meeting was \$65,348.14. The committee was told that the Holsinger Stackyards and the Bench Stackyard had been completed; an evaluation for the Holsinger Stackyards was offered up in the event anyone was interested in reading it.

Old Business: Minutes: Samantha provided committee members with a copy of the September 1st minutes, they were approved as written.

Jackson County Weed Report FY16: Janie Brand had provided the committee with a report back in September and offered to answer questions about the information. Darrell asked for a summary and Josh pointed out that the amount of chemical HPP paid for is not reflected in acres treated. Janie explained that they have chemical left over from last year and that's why she is not asking the committee for money this fiscal year. She went on to say that dry years mean chemical usage goes down so sometimes there is remaining chemical. Samantha was asked to look into whether the committee was at risk of breaking any fiscal rules. Todd expressed that he believes the committee is being fiscally responsible by not purchasing more chemical. He would like to see a detailed record of acres treated with HPP funds and moving forward he'll be sure to ask Janie about timeframes and spraying forecasts. Josh asked the committee how they felt about sportsmen's dollars being used for weed treatments on state land that's not open to the public. He asked if the committee cares knowing that weed seeds can blow. Todd suggested putting the topic on the next meeting agenda. Jimmer liked Todd's idea of a more detailed report. He stated that maybe weed spraying needs to be dealt with on a case by case basis similar to stackyard and fence requests, parameters need to be set. Janie

admitted that her reporting has been lacking since her concussion. Zach pointed out that the Middle Park committee works with Grand County DNR when treating weeds and thought their report might prove to be useful; Samantha will forward their report to committee members and Janie. Janie excused herself from the meeting at 1:35PM.

New Business: Ads for Stackyard/Fence Damage Applications: The committee began with general discussions on which local landowners they believed were in need of stackyards. It was pointed out that some landowners are concerned about stacking all of their hay so close together due to insurance reasons; Josh suggested that a few smaller yards could be the solution. Also, if landowners refuse fencing assistance from the agency then the state is no longer liable for future game damage claims. Jimmer voiced concern over landowners who have failed to maintain their stackyards and the committee was in agreement that maintenance falls on the owner. Josh suggested that the committee proceed as they've done in years past. Everyone agreed that applications should be made available at the local stockgrowers meeting on March 18th as well as the CPW office on Grant Street. It was decided that the application deadline should be March 27th and the committee will review submissions on March 31st. The committee approved to place an ad, similar to ads from the last few years, in the Jackson County Star for 1 week ahead of the stockgrowers meeting. Jimmer will give an HPP update at the meeting and Samantha will provide him with the report.

Elect NP Committee Chairman and/or Co-Chair: Josh said he's happy to remain chair and Darrell offered to co-chair. Josh had previously thought the CPW rep could not be the chairman but he was mistaken, would appreciate a co-chair to fall back on. The committee approved the nominations.

Election of USFWS Board Member: Tara was asked if she would be interested in joining the committee, she happily accepted. The committee approved her appointment and Samantha will work with Tara on what information will be required for a nomination by the commission. Jimmer asked about the harvest on the refuge. Tara did not have numbers to report but they did harvest in all four seasons. She went on to say there's an access issue on the southern part of the refuge that they're trying to resolve.

Other Business: License Fee Increase: Josh and Kris explained to the committee that discussions surrounding the topic are ongoing and information is constantly changing. Nothing has been finalized and a bill still needs to go through legislature. Anyone with questions should contact Mike Porras the public information officer for the northwest region.

The next meeting will be held on March 31st so the committee can review stackyard and fence damage applications.

Roundtable:

Danny-Clover Valley status

Tara-Excited to be where she is

Jimmer-Will give update at Stockgrowers, already spoke with Samantha.

Zach-Graze allotments in the fire zone will be rested this year.

Kris-Happy to be on the West slope where the air is clean and there's plenty of open space. He also informed the committee that Josh Dilley had been awarded the prestigious John D. Hart Wildlife Officer of the Year, as well as a Life Saving Award for his contribution during two rescue operations.

Samantha-The State Council will hold their next meeting on April 4&5 where they plan to continue their discussion on which projects are/are not good HPP projects. The deadline for submitting purchase orders is May 23rd and the deadline for ordering Game Damage materials is June 1st.

Josh-HPP may be asked to comment on recreation development near the hay meadows area.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.