



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way
February 13, 2018
6:00PM

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Mark Lowrey/BLM, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Curtis Keetch/USFS and Samantha Sorensen/Admin.

Guests attending the meeting were: Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, Jake Lewis/USFS, Stan Sjostrom, Jessica Counts/Moffat Co. and Trevor Balzer/CPW.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$91,766.50.

Old Business: The minutes from Sept. 12 & Nov. 14 were presented and approved as written.

Castor Gulch Spring Dev. Update: Stan explained that the goal was to reduce impact around the spring. Cattle have been dispersed and vegetation is growing back plus the area is holding elk later in the year. Overall the project was a success, may need to add another panel at some point.

New Business: Moffat County Weed Program: Jessica began by giving a brief overview of the program. Landowners turn in their applications to the county, and then they work with the Noxious Weed Advisory Board to determine high priority areas in which to spray. Asking HPP to cover half of the labor costs with landowners; Moffat Co. would bill HPP directly. Gary V. asked Jessica to provide before and after photos. Mark gave credit to Jessica for scaling back the proposal rather than asking HPP for more money. The county typically asks HPP for \$10k, this year they're asking for \$5k. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project.

Browns Park Timber Management Unit: Trevor explained that the area had been logged back in the 50s. Currently there is a lot of downed timber and 530 acres of contiguous lodgepole pine. Goal is to daylight young aspen and set forest succession back. Davey Cox quoted \$600/acre. Project is to take place on a State Wildlife Area which requires Pat's approval first and foremost. It was pointed out that habitat improvements on the SWA can help hold animals longer and solve conflicts on neighboring private. Trevor let everyone know that there's no grazing lease on the SWA currently but thinks there will be within the next 3 years. Looking to start work in July so funds would come out of next fiscal year. The committee approved \$24,000.00 for the project.

USFS Lost Park/South Fork/Williams Fork Weeds: Jake is working with Doug out of Yampa to eliminate administrative lines in order to tackle noxious weeds in the same area. Hounds tongue is prevalent throughout 3 active livestock allotments. There are additional funds pending from RMEF and the White

River HPP committee. Jake proposed HPP to pay for the contractor's labor to spray in the backcountry. Contract needs to be submitted by end of March then they'll go out for bid. Work is slated to start in July, so funds would come out of next fiscal year. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project contingent on approval of cooperator funding.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Samantha gave a brief update on conflict forms for fence vouchers. \$30,000.00 has been spoken for thus far.

Pat spoke about the Future Generations Bill. There's been a big rewrite and the ANS portion has been separated out into a separate bill. Proposing an \$8 increase then any future adjustments would be based on consumer price index each year.

Pat thanked members that were able to make it to the bi-annual conference.

Evan let everyone know they've only used 4 damage vouchers to date.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 7:00pm.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.