



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Republican Rivers Committee February 6th, 2018
Yuma Community Center

Committee members present:

- Josh Melby, CPW-DWM
- Kenny Rogers, Livestock grower
- Dustin Wise, Sportsman
- Chris Craig, Livestock Grower
- Don Fritzler, Livestock Grower

- Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Marty Stratman (CPW Biologist), Kyle Gordon (CPW), John Hardwick (HPP State Council), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Cory Bullen (Wildlife Tech)

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Old Business

The D55 DAU plan is on the next Commission agenda and should be finalized soon.

New Business

HPP Expansion

HPP committees currently focus on funding projects that solve agricultural/big game conflict, particularly relating to deer, elk, pronghorn, and moose. The State Council has agreed that it will be beneficial for committees to also consider the other objective listed in the statute, which is helping the division (CPW) meet game management objectives. In the past, committees have turned down projects because there is not a direct agricultural conflict. However, the State Council has decided to expand the scope of acceptable projects to include those that help achieve game management objectives, even if there is not a direct agricultural conflict. Committees should still focus on resolving agricultural conflicts, but they will now be able to fund projects concerning game management objectives at their discretion. This expansion went into effect as of July 1st, and new research applications are available on the HPP website.

D54 DAU Plan revision-Marty Stratman

Marty is currently working on the DAU plan revision for D54. Public meetings will be held and surveys will be sent out before the draft is written. The current deer population is above objective, so if the objectives are increased then CPW can maintain the population as is. There have been minimal complaints from landowners and there is enough quality habitat to support the current population, so maintaining these population levels will likely be the ideal alternative. Marty anticipates that he

will have a draft ready this summer, and the committee will then be asked to review the plan and vote on a letter of support that will go to the commission.

Projects

Cottonwood, Jean K Tool, Elliot SWA Habitat Project-Josh Melby

This is the second phase of last year's project on the South Platte. This project is aimed at improving deer habitat on Cottonwood, Elliot, and Jean K Tool SWAs. A food plot has been created and they are working to get a native grass stand established which should help native plants outcompete noxious weeds, such as Canadian Thistle. Funding for the project will be used to purchase a grass conversion seed mix to increase available forage, and trees that will be planted in order to provide more cover for deer. This will create very favorable habitat for deer and should reduce game damage claims to nearby corn fields. Once the project is completed it will serve as an example for neighboring landowners, and will hopefully encourage landowners to do similar projects in the area. **The project was approved for \$9,000.**

Wieser Tree Planting-Josh Melby

This project was approved last year, but the landowner was unable to get it done within the fiscal year. He has confirmed that he will be able to complete it this year. Native trees and shrubs will be planted on this property in order to improve habitat for deer and livestock. Woven wire fences will be placed around the newly planted trees to protect them and increase the survival rate. Pheasants Forever and CPW will complete some of the labor and the landowner will provide labor and equipment. The landowner is asking HPP for \$2,987.25 to pay for trees, tree fabric, and fencing. **The project was approved for \$2,987.25**

Dennis Wieser-Corn Damage

The landowner has had damage to corn fields from deer. The affected corn fields provide an important food source for the deer in this general area, and it is in the best interest of CPW and sportsmen to maintain the current deer numbers while trying to offset the financial burden on landowners. The pre-harvest cost of damage was determined by Colorado State University at \$531.76 per acre for irrigated corn. 0.76 acres were damaged. The landowner is asking HPP for \$404.14.

The project was approved for \$404.14

Jeff Hurlburt-Corn Damage

The landowner has had damage to corn fields from deer. The affected corn fields provide an important food source for the deer in this general area, and it is in the best interest of CPW and sportsmen to maintain the current deer numbers while trying to offset the financial burden on landowners. The pre-harvest cost of damage was determined by Colorado State University at \$191.39 per acre for dryland corn. 2.8 acres were damaged. The landowner is asking HPP for \$535.89.

The project was approved for \$535.89

Steve Hayes-Corn Damage

The landowner has had damage to corn fields from deer. The affected corn fields provide an important food source for the deer in this general area, and it is in the best interest of CPW and sportsmen to maintain the current deer numbers while trying to offset the financial burden on landowners. The pre-harvest cost of damage was determined by Colorado State University at \$531.76 per acre for irrigated corn. 2.73 acres were damaged. The landowner is asking HPP for \$1,451.70

The project was approved for \$1,451.70

Jory Drager Water Project-Josh Melby

Water is scarce in this area and both big game and livestock rely on stock tanks as a water source. The landowner would like to install pipeline leading to a new tank. The tank will be placed away from crops and the landowner will establish a new food plot to help minimize crop damage while still providing a year round water source. The landowner will trench and install the pipeline and tank, and will establish a food plot. He is asking HPP for \$4,363 for pipeline and materials.

The project was approved for \$4,363.00

Youth Water Fest

The Youth Water Fest is an event put on each year to teach children about habitat management and water resources. They look for sponsorship every year and the committee feels it is an important event to support. The State of Colorado has increased regulations on donations and sponsorships, so the committee will not be able to give the Youth Water Fest a donation. However, HPP can help by purchasing something for the festival directly (i.e. notebooks, food, water, etc.). Josh will speak to the festival organizers to see what supplies they are in need of and what HPP can help with. **The committee approved \$700 to be spent directly on materials, food, or water needed to run the festival.**

Meeting meals/committee expenses/recognition

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals, and will pay for committee member recognition awards as needed. The committee would like to present Gary Campfield and Justin Blach with plaques to thank them for their dedication to the Republican Rivers HPP committee.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Committee Chair

Dustin Wise was nominated as the committee chair.

Chris Craig requested that in the future HPP move the bi-annual meeting to a later date in December to avoid conflict with the late rifle season. They want to attend but it conflicts with late rifle season (Dec 1st-14th) so they are unable to go.

Pat Tucker updated the committee that a new license fee bill (The Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act) has been introduced. It will be heard in the Senate Finance Committee on February 13th. More information at:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Future-Generations-Act.aspx>

The committee would like to hold a barbeque this summer and invite landowners in order to increase awareness about the program.

The next meeting will be held on July 18th in Wray 6:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

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