



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way**  
**July 31, 2018**  
**7:00PM**

**Introductions: Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Asst. AWM Mike Swaro/CPW, DWM Johnathan Lambert/CPW, Colton Murray/CPW, Tory Van Tassel, Nick Chew, and Kendall Smith/NRCS.

**General Public Comments:** N/A

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$132,275.50.

**Old Business:** The minutes from June 12th were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** McIntyre Ranch Fence: No show.

**Chew Ranch Fencing:** Nick Chew expressed that they would like to replace their northern boundary fence, which borders State Land Board property, with wildlife friendly fence. The fence would be 1.25 miles long with 3 strands of barbed wire and vinyl wire on top not to exceed 42". The ranch holds a lot of deer year-round, elk in the winter and fall plus antelope in spring, summer and fall. The State Land Board has agreed to reimburse them for labor. Originally they had planned to build a heavy duty fence to keep elk out. Colton Murray was able to work with them and encouraged seeking funds from HPP to build a wildlife friendly fence instead. The only game damage they've ever asked for is hog panels. The committee approved \$6,000.00 to pay for game damage materials and 6 rolls of vinyl wire.

**Spring Gulch Ranch Hydro-axe:** The goal of their hydro-axe project would be to provide better forage and browse in order to hold elk in higher country to keep them out of stackyards in lower country. HPP has assisted with other projects in the vicinity, their property borders Glass and Hamill. The project would also help to create a good complex for elk during migration. Davy Cox would be the contractor and has done good work for HPP in the past; he has a GPS which he follows to a T. The life of the project is typically 4-8 years dependent on grazing. They have a grazing plan in place on the property but grazing will be deferred the first year after treatment. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share up to \$2,969.50.

**Van Tassel Spring Development:** The spring development would take place on a 444 acre property acquired by the Van Tassel's which is currently infested with weeds such as white top, bindweed, cheat grass, knapweed, Canadian thistle, etc. Trevor Balzer created a map to indicate where Mountain Air Spray will treat. Approximately 100 acres on the property is pretty clean and will just need some spot

spray treatments or mowing. Eventually the project will help draw big game away from neighboring properties. Mountain Air Spray recommended that they spray in the spring since it'll be too dry this fall for plants to take up poison. NRCS has done work on a neighboring property. Eventually they hope to use the land for hay and livestock, there is no seeding or water included in the application but they will look into both later on down the road. They also plan to allow hunting, mostly for family, no outfitting or guiding. The committee approved \$8,157.10 for the project.

MJK/Murdochs Fence Vouchers: The committee approved \$44,000.00 for fence vouchers. It was agreed that landowners need to continue submitting a conflict form each year in order to receive a voucher.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Distribution Management Plan: Samantha and Evan will work together on updating the plan which is due to expire in November of 2019. A draft will be presented to the committee for approval, and then it will need to go in front of the State Council followed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Select Next Meeting Date: The committee will conduct a project tour at 9am on August 21<sup>st</sup>; the meeting will take place the same day at 7pm.

**Roundtable:** N/A

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25PM.