



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

June 4th, 2018

CPW Fort Collins Office

Committee members present:

- Ty Petersburg, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Dale Oberlag, USFS
- Raechel Nelson, Livestock Growers
- Joe Straley, Sportsmen

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Tom Hewson (Landowner), Mike Salaz (Landowner), Travis Rollins (Larimer County), Angelique Curtis (CPW- Biologist), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Pepper Canterbury (CPW- DWM), Dan Miller (Landowner), Eric Lowery (CPW-DWM)

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM

Budget Report

The 2018 and 2019 budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

The Larimer County Distribution Management Plan was approved by the commission. The plan is valid for 10 years.

Joe Straley and Raechel Nelson's committee appointments still need to be approved by the commission. This will likely be done during the June commission meeting.

New Business

Elk Collaring Project-Angelique Curtis

Angelique is requesting \$21,000 from HPP to buy GPS collars for elk that will help to provide population data for CPW. There is minimal data on elk populations in the area and migration patterns are not well known. This makes it difficult to set tag allocations each year. The collaring study will allow CPW to get baseline data, and will make it easier to find herds during flights to get additional population data and will help to set tag allocations. 30 cow elk would be collared. Angelique has applied for grant with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to help pay for helicopters and other resources needed to capture elk and distribute collars. CPW will contribute labor to

capture elk and put the collars on, conduct flights, and analyze data. HPP would make a one-time payment for collars only.

The project was approved for \$21,000 for FY 2019.

Dan Miller Fencing Project-Dan Miller, Pepper Canterbury

Dan Miller completed a project with HPP in the last fiscal year to install elk jumps on his property. The jumps have been successful with small groups of elk, but there are usually large herds coming through the property and only a few elk can get through at a time. This is pushing the rest to jump over the surrounding fencing and damage is still occurring. The jumps need to be expanded to allow more elk through, which will prevent them from needing to jump over surrounding fence. Dan will need additional materials to expand the jumps.

The project was approved for \$895.

Big Thompson Hemp fencing project discussion-Tom Hewson

Tom Hewson is requesting funding to help with an exclusionary fence that has been recently built around his industrial hemp field. Tom is concerned about elk going into the hemp field to find shade, which could cause damage to the crop. HPP does not fund exclusionary fences, and the current policy is that the program will not fund projects on hemp and hops fields. There is not a clear conflict between wildlife and hemp and hop farming, so until it is apparent that there is a need for it, HPP will not fund those projects. However, the committee is willing to fund other projects that may help to draw elk away from the landowner's hemp field, such as fertilizing the surrounding hay field or establishing a tree stand and/or a food plot to draw them away from crops. The landowner has been encouraged to discuss other options with DWMs, and come back to the committee if there is another viable solution to keep elk away from the hemp field. **The project was denied.**

Fertilizer Voucher Program Discussion

It has been unclear on existing fertilizer vouchers whether the committee intends to reimburse landowners for fertilizer only, or if the reimbursements should include application costs. Most of the committee agreed that the program was intended to assist with the cost of fertilizer only, which matches the herbicide program rules that HPP will pay for herbicide only, and not application costs. Application costs will not be reimbursed on fertilizer vouchers. The vouchers will be updated to ensure that the rule is clearly stated.

The fertilizer voucher program will be renewed for FY 2019 with a total budget of \$7,500 with the following rules:

- Landowners can get a rebate of 20% of the total bill up to \$750, excluding taxes and application fees.
- Fertilizer must be applied to hay lands
- Eligible landowners must own a minimum of 160 acres

Voucher program renewals

The fencing voucher program will be renewed for FY 2019 with a total budget of \$12,000 with the following rules:

- Applicants must own the land the fence is on and they must own a minimum of 160 acres.
- Only eligible materials can be reimbursed. Eligible materials are listed on vouchers.

-Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher that is good at Poudre Valley Co-op only. Voucher amounts are based on acreage as follows:

- 160-600 acres = \$200 voucher
- 600-1000 acres = \$300 voucher
- 1,000 + acres = \$550 voucher

The herbicide voucher program will be renewed for FY 2019 with a total budget of \$3,000 with the following rules:

- Applicant must own a minimum of 35 acres
- Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher that is good at Larimer County Weed District only. Landowners must use LCWD recommendations.
- HPP will pay 50% of the cost of herbicide only, up to the voucher limit. Voucher limits are based on acreage as follows:
 - 35-160 acres = \$100 voucher
 - 160-400 acres = \$200 voucher
 - 400-1000 acres = \$300 voucher
 - 1000 + acres = \$400 voucher

Committee White Wire Stockpile

The Larimer County HPP committee would like to keep a stockpile of white vinyl wire that can be distributed to landowners. Landowners will also be able to borrow a spinning Jenny to assist with installation of the wire. The stockpile will be kept at a CPW facility. Landowners will be required to have a voucher in order to obtain wire. Vouchers must be approved by a DWM or committee member.

The project was approved for an order of white wire and 2 spinning jennys, not to exceed \$5,000.

Committee meals and operating expenses

The committee is allowed \$500 for working meeting meals. The committee would also like to allocate \$500 for committee operating expenses, which will include expenses for committee member recognition.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee would like to thank Scott Hampel for his time on the committee as the sportsman's representative, so they plan to hold a dinner or BBQ for him following the next committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Next meeting: TBD

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