



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Colorado Parks & Wildlife 925 Weiss Drive, Steamboat Springs
June 11, 2018
5:30pm

Introductions: **Members attending meeting:** Darren Ebaugh/Sportsperson, AWM Kris Middendorf, Kathy McKinstry/BLM, Larry Monger/Livestock Grower and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW (via phone).

Guests attending the meeting: Ben Lindsley/USFS and HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker/CPW.

General Public Comments: Pat explained to Ben that he will become an official member with the ability to vote as soon as he receives his welcome packet.

Budget Report: Samantha had emailed committee members a budget report and Kris gave the report which showed a remaining balance of \$21,734.55. Pat explained where the leftover funds go and how they've been trying to work with the BLM and USFS to spend more money on larger projects. All of the committees struggle with the fact the low hanging fruit has been picked.

Old Business: Minutes from May 7th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Thorpe Mountain Conservation Easement: Tabled

Wolf Creek Habitat Improvement: Tabled

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Fence Materials Cap: The committee has been seeing an increase in expensive fence requests, the most recent being the Peltier Properties fence request. Pat explained that the Lower Colorado River HPP committee was going down an expensive road and decided to set a \$1.25/foot cap on what they were willing to contribute toward fence projects. Kris expressed his ideas and said he'd be fine considering projects on a case by case basis. Larry wanted to see property used if HPP were to help fund a fence. Kathy agreed that there should be a list of certain things they'd like to see but every project would still be considered on a case by case basis. Kris summarized what the committee came up with for tentative guidelines pertaining to fencing:

Pay for materials only, @ \$1.50 per foot.

Wood only posts to minimize sinking in the ground.

High visibility wire – willing to provide.

Wildlife Friendly Fence specifications (CPW).

The land is being used for some purpose where the fence is needed.

Flexibility in wood only posts depending on soils and geology – if approved for steel posts, \$1.25/foot.

\$5k maximum spending per project.

Committee retains the flexibility to go outside of these guidelines or deny a project for any other reasons.

The committee agreed to continue the discussion.

Pat asked to talk about the Cow Creek Cattleguard project. He knew that a discussion was had but he wanted to hear how the committee reached the decision to approve. Kathy explained that she was asked to present the project on Hunter and Dale's behalf. Pat explained that it was the first time he'd seen HPP pay for a cattleguard on a county road and he struggled with why HPP was paying the county to buy and install a cattleguard on their road. Everyone discussed how they could handle a similar project differently in the future.

Pat asked about Tom Rossi and how he was doing. He asked the committee if they were trying to get a handle on whether or not he was planning on coming back and how they planned to handle it. If Tom decides he doesn't think he can continue then there's no harm, no foul. It's up to the committee as to whether they want to give him more time. Larry volunteered to have a conversation with him. Darren thought their internet might be spotty at the house so Sam will start mailing meeting announcements to Tom.

The group brainstormed about future project ideas that would benefit wildlife and still meet HPP guidelines. Larry might have a water project to bring forward. Someone mentioned weeds and Pat pointed out that everyone acknowledges that weeds are a problem but it's not always an HPP problem.

Select Next Meeting Date: July 9th at 5:30pm, same location.

Roundtable:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:04pm.