



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2019

CPW Fort Collins Office

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### 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:** Pepper Canterbury (DWM), Justin Foster (DWM, proxy vote for Ty Petersburg), Travis Rollins (Larimer County Natural Resources), Ellie Jones (Landowner), Shannon Schaller (CPW Senior Wildlife Biologist), Angelique Curtis (CPW Wildlife Biologist)

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM

### Budget Report

The 2019 budget report was reviewed.

### Old Business

Lars had a chance to go look at the Carpenter Spring project with Pepper and Brock. The existing water development needs a lot of work before they bring a proposal back to the committee.

### Water Development Guidelines

The committee feels that it is important to provide guidelines to landowners who are designing water developments and would like to work with HPP for funding. Previous guidelines were approved by the committee in 2011, but they are having trouble finding the original document so they will make an updated one. They will work on an outline of water development guidelines to post on the website along with committee information. This will be worked on at the next meeting.

### “After the Fact” Project Requests

The committee has received some requests to reimburse landowners for projects that have already been completed. These requests are problematic because the committee does not have

a chance to make recommendations to ensure that the project is designed with the best interest of wildlife and agriculture in mind. The committee has decided that they will not consider funding for “after the fact” projects (i.e. projects that have been started or completed before coming before the committee for approval).

### **Elk Collar Updates-Angelique Curtis**

Angelique Curtis and Shannon Schaller updated the committee on the elk collaring project. The elk collars have been purchased and are ready to go for capture. However, they had issues with weather and scheduling with the helicopter contractor. In addition, helicopter elk capture was halted statewide this year due to elk mortality in other parts of the state. Due to those setbacks they were unable to get the collars out this year. The project is still a priority and they are working on plans to ensure that the collars are all used as soon as possible. They are looking into multiple helicopter contractors to reduce scheduling conflicts and are making plans to do some ground capture with clover traps this summer. Helicopter capture is still the most efficient method, but they will look at other methods as well to get the collars out. They hope to be completely done and have all of the collars out by February 2020.

## **New Business**

### **Jones Fencing Project**

Ellie Jones is asking HPP for \$568.75 to replace an old section of fence with new wildlife friendly fence. She will use white wire and is hoping that the new section of fence will encourage neighbors to also replace their fences with wildlife friendly fences. They have a tree stand near a spring that provides good wildlife habitat, so big game often cross this fence to access the spring and the tree stand. HPP funds would go towards fence materials and payment to a contractor to assist with labor. Ellie will be providing additional labor and equipment to remove the old fence and install the new fence. This project should be a good example of how big game conflicts can be alleviated in the area.

**The project was approved for \$570 as a reimbursement to the landowner.**

### **Spring Development Project**

Ellie Jones has an existing spring, stock tank, and spring box on her property that are currently non-functional. Cattle have been knocking her fence down to access the spring, so she wants to move the water farther away from the fence. However the project design is not ready yet, so it has been tabled until Ellie has more information.

### **State Council White Wire Order**

The HPP state council will be making a bulk order of white vinyl wire to distribute to local committees. Each committee will be allowed \$5,000 in white vinyl wire (24 rolls) if they would like it. The Larimer County committee would like to accept the \$5,000 worth of wire from state council. The rules for white wire will be the same as the fence voucher rules. Each landowner will be allowed 1 roll per year. Requests for additional rolls or other circumstances (i.e. not qualifying under voucher rules) can be brought to the committee for approval at a meeting.

## **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

### **Committee Member Attendance**

It is important that committee members attend meetings as often as possible, and that they RSVP for meetings. Hanna needs to make sure that there are enough committee members for quorum at the upcoming meeting, so sending her an RSVP is important.

**State Council updates**

Local committee budgets will remain the same for the next fiscal year.

The state council will start funding weed spraying and fencing projects on SWAs. Funds will be distributed to regional managers who will decide where to use them (within HPP boundaries), rather than coming to local committees for requests. Habitat projects will still go to local committees for approval.

The HPP statewide annual meeting will be happening on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction, and the topic will be water.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM**

**Next meeting: May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at CPW Fort Collins Office**

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