



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

CPW Area Office – 73485 Hwy 64

August 7, 2019

7:00pm

Introductions: **Members present were:** DWM Bailey Franklin/CPW, Jim Brennan/livestock grower, Mary Taylor/BLM, Rich Parr/sportsperson, Butch Theos/livestock grower, Lenny Klingsmith/livestock grower and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker/CPW, Trevor Balzer/CPW, Darby Finley/CPW, Troy Osborn, Nicky Shriver, Lyle McKee, Tawny Halandras.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Committee members were presented with FY19 & FY20 budget reports. Bailey explained that a lot of FY19 water projects were cancelled or didn't get completed. Shawn Bolton never initiated his paperwork and Collins will come back for future funding.

Old Business: Minutes from April 18, May 1, 9, & 29 were approved as written.

New Business: Oak Ridge SWA Aerial Brush Control: Trevor explained that the project would involve aerial herbicide application in order to promote basal sprouting of young browse that is critical for mule deer and elk. They've already received internal approval. Also mentioned there's a second proposal for the same area and it would be his preference if the committee would consider them as one project. The committee agreed to hear the second proposal and if approved would be funded as one project.

Oak Ridge SWA Banner Basin Sagebrush Conversion: Banner Basin was described as a big sagebrush bowl. The plan would be to use a Lawson aerator and mowing to convert 160 acres of poor quality sagebrush into high quality spring and fall forage for deer and elk. It was pointed out that the aerial spray didn't get done so that may drop off and the seed mix might change a little. The committee approved up to \$46,628.80 for both Oak Ridge projects.

Sorghum Scandard Mechanical: Trevor proposed to hydro axe a total of 1492 acres during this phase. Trevor estimated the cost would equal out to approximately \$225.00/acre. HPP's contribution would pay for roughly 200 acres. Once all of the phases are complete some 5,000 acres will have been treated, HPP funds were not used for previous phases. Jim mentioned that most creeks up there have water all summer. Trevor explained they plan to hydro-axe pinyon-juniper in the north and tall serviceberry to the south. The committee approved \$40,000.00 for the project.

Lyle McKee Water Improvement: Lyle would like to tie two existing water sources together and install two tire tanks that would service a pasture and a corral, hoping to offset conflicts. Fall is the only time they utilize the pasture so deer and elk would water there too. Eventually he would like to continue water up the grade. Butch asked if the water development would increase the problem but Bailey stated the elk would be there regardless of any project. A discussion took place regarding the 75/25 cost share. Lyle does not qualify for game damage, he takes his own hunters. The committee approved up to \$7,432.50, not to exceed 75% of the total project cost.

Halandras Water Improvement: Tawny explained the location is on the backside of RH Ranch and would be the third and final phase. Plan is to build a connecting line with four tanks which would provide water on the north side of the ranch. BLM backs up to the west side so water would service a lot of public too. Total project cost is \$63k, asking HPP for \$20,850.00. Almost an identical ask to last year only this year they are tying into an existing well. Mary voiced that she would be more comfortable with a 50/50 cost share of the remaining balance. She explained that while one could argue there is public access it would take a very motivated individual. The committee approved up to \$14,489.86, not to exceed 50% of remaining costs after the NRCS contribution.

Halandras RH Ranch Seeding: The project area is 40 acres total. Would like to increase forage for mule deer and elk; hold more animals. The area would be sprayed, treated with the Lawson aerator and reseeded in the spring of 2020. Might be able to accomplish the treatment with only 2 passes but will not know for sure until this spring. The committee approved up to \$6,038.75.

Shriver Water Improvement: Nicky explained that the spring is located on Jensen's but she has the water right and would like to pipe the water down to her property. Travis and Rocky have already put a road in and are fine with it. The water would be piped into a storage tank and tire tank, might have enough for overflow to reach an existing pond. Goal is to provide a water source for deer and elk. Mary expressed that it would be great if overflow could be piped into the pond. The committee approved \$4,256.25 for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Distribution Management Plan Update/Timeline: Committee members were provided with hard copies of a draft DMP for them to review. Bailey asked them to either email or have edits and suggestions ready for the next meeting. A finalized draft needs to be submitted to Pat by September 1st.

Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting: Samantha reminded committee members of the biannual statewide meeting scheduled to take place in Grand Junction December 3-5th. The topic will be water. Same as last time each local committee is encouraged to invite 2 guests.

Select Next Meeting Date: August 26th at 6:00pm in the CPW Meeker Service Center.

Roundtable: Troy gave an update on various herbicide treatments around the committee area. Bailey asked the committee if they would like to continue the bulk herbicide project. Samantha will provide committee members with herbicide voucher examples. Pat mentioned the concern over HPP paying for projects on SWAs; reason why internal approval required first.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.