



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 4th, 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, proxy vote for Ty Petersburg), Eric Lowery (DWM), Sally Ross (TNC), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Travis Rollins (Larimer County Natural Resources)

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM

### Budget Report

The 2019 budget report was reviewed.

### Old Business

#### Spring Gulch Water Development Update-Pepper Canterbury

Pepper is requesting to see a management plan that would include habitat, grazing, and wildlife management goals and conditions of the ranch as well as a copy of the current Conservation Easement binding the Roberts Ranch property prior to any other projects on this property being presented to the committee. She feels that it is important for DWMs to have a chance to review the goals of any ranch to ensure that the project will benefit both wildlife and landowners. This fits with the committee's requirement that all projects be reviewed and approved by a DWM before being presented to the committee. In addition, it is important that projects on any property under a conservation easement are not violating the terms of the conservation easement. While HPP is just a funding source, the program shouldn't be accused or suspected of promoting work that infringes on a conservation easement. A section will be added to new applications that asks if the property is held under a conservation easement, and if so they will need to mark whether the easement holder has reviewed and supports the project. Committees can request a letter from the easement holder if they feel it is necessary.

## **New Business**

### **Carpenter Spring Project-Sally Ross**

The spring on the Carpenter's ranch is used heavily by livestock, and the cattle traffic has been causing erosion at the head of the spring and degrading water and habitat quality. The landowners would like to protect the spring and the riparian area, so they have started on a spring development. They have hired Zach Thode, who has installed a collection box at the spring head and buried pipeline to divert water to a livestock tank. The hope is that this will draw cattle away from the spring and allow for regeneration of the riparian habitat and protect an important water source for wildlife. Seeding will be completed if needed to restore native vegetation. The committee is concerned that the tank alone will not be enough to keep cattle away from the spring. They would like to see a wildlife friendly fence around the spring to keep cattle out. In addition, they would like to see a fence around the collection box, a fence or panels around the tank to keep cattle from damaging the tank itself, and an escape ramp for smaller wildlife that could fall into the tank. They also suggest putting gravel around the tank to protect the ground around it. They would like to see pipeline extending back to the riparian area so that draining water is returned to the spring. Finally, the committee would like to know what the flow rate on the spring is.

The committee feels that it is important that anyone asking for HPP funding approach the committee before the project is started so that design suggestions or requirements can be worked out before the work is done. They are not comfortable with funding this project after the fact, especially because there are different features that they would like to see on this spring development to make it as effective as possible. Spring developments should draw livestock off the riparian area as much as possible, and these suggestions will help to ensure that. Sally will bring these suggestions back to the Carpenters, and if they agree to the additional features, they will create a new proposal and bring it to the committee to get funding assistance with the fence and additional pipeline. A conference call will be scheduled to discuss funding for "phase 2" of the project as soon as the landowners are ready with the new proposal.

**The project was denied, pending a new application for "phase 2".**

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

The committee has purchased white vinyl wire and it is available to any landowner in the committee area who would like to install it to make their fences more wildlife friendly. The wire is kept in a stockpile at the bird farm in Fort Collins. Landowners who would like to take advantage of this program should contact their local DWM. Materials vouchers are required to be filled out and sent to Hanna anytime a roll is taken from the stockpile.

The committee would like to thank Scott Hampel for his years on the HPP committee. They presented him with an award and invited him to dinner to thank him for his dedication.

New HPP brochures are now available. They are being distributed to offices, and Hanna can distribute more to committee members, DWMs, and landowners as needed.

Pepper suggested that it could be beneficial to get landowners and committee members from this area together with other HPP areas (specifically North Park) to look at past projects and get ideas for what could work in the Larimer County committee area. The committee members were interested, but there is some concern that landowner attendance would not be very high. They will continue to discuss the idea and figure out if and how it would work.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM**

**Next meeting: April 22nd at 5:00 PM at the CPW Fort Collins Office. A conference call will be scheduled when if/when the Carpenters are ready for another phase of their project.**

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