



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
USFS Ranger Station-100 Main Street, Walden
June 20, 2019
7:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: Todd Peterson/sportsperson, Jimmer Baller/livestock grower, Darrell Freeman/USFS, Tara Wertz/USFWS, DWM Jacob Way/CPW, Blaine Evans/livestock grower, and Administrative Assistant Samantha Sorensen/CPW.

Guests present were: None.

General Public Comments: Darrell let everyone know he is retiring on November 1st and moving back to Florida.

Budget: Samantha provided committee members with budget reports. The remaining balance for fiscal year 2019 was \$64,480.28 and FY20 \$59,500.00.

Old Business: Minutes: Members were provided with draft minutes from May 8 and 22, which were approved as written.

New Business: BLM Greater Sage Grouse/Wildlife Fence Improvements: Jacob presented the proposal on Tiffany's behalf. He explained that originally they had planned to include a section by McFarland but it was more expensive than anticipated so instead they're only doing the section by Independence. When asked about benefit between two properties Jacob said Independence was a higher priority plus they didn't get permission from all the private landowners by McFarland. The plan is to complete Indy this year and try for McFarland next year. Also, the Independence location was chosen because of the leks and CPW money needs to be used on grouse. Todd let Jacob know he didn't want the expense of McFarland to detract. Tara pointed out that Tiffany was probably considering her time frame too. The committee thought that Ty Wattenburg held the grazing lease, whom they've had conversations with regarding fence maintenance. State Land Board is contributing \$11k; Todd said usually getting SLB money is tough. The committee approved \$10,400.00 out of FY20; they would like to see the vinyl wire ordered through Timberline.

Select Contractor for 3 Stackyards: Jacob requested quotes from Desert Stone & Fence, Rocky Mountain Fence and Ace Fencing. Desert Stone & Fence was the only contractor to submit quotes for the construction of three NP stackyards. Tara struggled with the price/foot. The committee approved \$17,471.20 out of FY20 to pay for construction; materials will come from Game Damage. Sam mentioned the new bid process and pointed out she was happy to see that

the quote came in under \$25k. She thought it might be best for the committee to stop requesting stackyard applications all at once and just let landowners bring them throughout the year. Tara briefly explained the Feds bid process.

Vinyl Wire Vouchers: Samantha provided members with an example of a vinyl wire materials authorization form. Jimmer said he's worried about not ordering local. Sam stated that State Council had already ordered the wire and it should be delivered soon. Sam asked the committee if there would be a need for store vouchers since they'll have a stockpile to work with; pointed out Pat Tucker's request that committees only order what they think they'll use in a fiscal year. The committee decided to utilize the rolls provided by State Council for their voucher program. 25 rolls will be stored at the refuge. The rules will remain the same, no more than 4 rolls per voucher or 8 rolls per fiscal year without an application and committee approval.

Other Business: Guests for Statewide Meeting: Todd and Steve Porter have been working on a PowerPoint about how NPHPP got started; hope to have it finished in time for the next meeting. Todd spoke briefly about how State Council asked them if they were interested in an Owl Mountain Partnership. They traveled to Salt Lake to give a presentation and won. The committee can still invite one more guest to the statewide meeting in December.

Announcements/Applications: Tara thought the committee should try to make certain they are being fair to everyone. If the expectation is that applicants need to have an application ready in time for the meeting then it should be upheld. Samantha pointed out that applications are a requirement of the program and the announcement clearly states that requirement. The committee was in agreement they needed to be consistent. Samantha presented the committee with an announcement from Middle Park because they require applicants to meet with their local DWM if their project is a result of game damage. She asked if the committee would like to have a similar statement in their announcement to ensure the game damage qualifications have been sorted before a project is proposed. The committee agreed to the change.

Select Next Meeting Date: September 19th at 7pm in USFS building. Darrell reserved the room.

Future Agenda Items: Todd would like to show a PowerPoint on the history of the NP committee.

Roundtable: Sam-Jacob's nomination officially approved. The next State Council meeting will be held in Middle Park on July 30/31. Jimmer-Timberline can still get #9 wire, couldn't remember exact price but will look into it more. Todd-Told Darrell that sportsmen are interested in the forest management plan for the upper road of Owl Mountain. Darrell said they're trying to take out beetle kill and bring back lodgepoles and aspens. Todd mentioned there are some folks concerned about the scatter piles but Darrell explained they prevent snow scour. Darrell encouraged folks to attend public comment meetings.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.