



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 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), Zach Thode (Landowner)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

### Budget Report

The 2019 budget report was reviewed.

### New Business

#### Water Development Guidelines

The committee would like to make sure that landowners who want to install a spring development have enough resources to help them design an efficient and effective project. Landowners can contact NRCS for assistance with water development projects. NRCS can help to survey the area and determine the best design and location for the development. Every spring development can be very different, so there is not one single way to design them. The committee will also post some documents that can help guide anyone that would like to install a water development. Documents and NRCS contact information will be posted on the committee information page, and can also be obtained by contacting Hanna, the Larimer County Administrative Assistant. The committee strongly suggests that landowners have their water development designs reviewed by NRCS or other agency/professional experts (i.e. USFS). Projects that have been designed or reviewed by experts will be given priority over those that have not.

### **Elk Management Plan Discussion-Zach Thode**

Zach let the committee know that there are a lot of Elk in the area and they have been regularly causing damage to fences and crops. Pepper agrees that there have been a lot of conflicts with elk on private lands in that area. Zach is hoping that all of the affected landowners can come up with a solution together to make sure that the conflicts are resolved for everyone in the area. He is interested in working with a biologist external to CPW to design an effective management plan for the area that will help alleviate conflicts. The committee asked if Zach and the other affected landowners have tried other methods recommended by CPW, such as laydown and/or wildlife friendly fences, or if they have consulted with NRCS to see if they can help with a private land management plan. This has not been done yet, so the committee would like to see the landowners try some alternatives before HPP looks at paying for an external consultant. The committee is willing and eager to work with landowners on projects such as fencing, habitat enhancement, water developments, and hunt coordinators, but they do not want to purchase a plan until it has been shown that landowners are fully committed and have tried other resources to help alleviate conflicts and come up with a plan that will work for the whole area. If the landowners would like to get together to pay for a consultant to write a plan, then the committee will be happy to help implement the plan by funding a portion of the corresponding projects.

### **2020 Vouchers:**

**The fencing voucher program will be renewed for FY 2020 with a total budget of \$12,000 with the following rules:**

- Applicants must own the land the fence is on and they must own a minimum of 160 acres.
- Only eligible materials can be reimbursed. Eligible materials are listed on vouchers.
- Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher that is good at Poudre Valley Co-op only. Voucher amounts are based on acreage as follows:
  - 160-600 acres = \$200 voucher
  - 600-1000 acres = \$300 voucher
  - 1,000 + acres = \$550 voucher

**The herbicide voucher program will be renewed for FY 2020 with a total budget of \$3,000 with the following rules:**

- Applicant must own a minimum of 35 acres
- Qualifying landowners will receive a voucher that is good at Larimer County Weed District only. Landowners must use LCWD recommendations.
- HPP will pay 50% of the cost of herbicide only, up to the voucher limit. Voucher limits are based on acreage as follows:
  - 35-160 acres = \$100 voucher
  - 160-400 acres = \$200 voucher
  - 400-1000 acres = \$300 voucher
  - 1000 + acres = \$400 voucher

**The fertilizer voucher program will be renewed for FY 2020 with a total budget of \$7,500 with the following rules:**

- Landowners can get a rebate of 20% of the total bill up to \$750, excluding taxes and application fees.
- Fertilizer must be applied to hay lands

-Eligible landowners must own a minimum of 160 acres

#### 2020 Meals/operating expenses

The committee is allowed \$500 for working meeting meals. The committee would also like to allocate \$500 for committee operating expenses, which will include expenses for committee member recognition.

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

The committee would like to purchase two splicing tools to help assist landowners with installation of white vinyl wire. Landowners will be able to borrow these tools along with the spinning Jenny, but they must be returned to the committee stockpile after installation is complete. The funds for the new tools will come from the Committee Operating Expenses Budget.

Clayton Brossart has several landowners in area 2 that are interested in installing white vinyl wire on their properties, but it is difficult to get up to Fort Collins to pick it up. He would like to keep some rolls and tools at Lon Hagler SWA so that landowners/DWMs in Southern Larimer County have easier access to them. The committee agrees to split the white vinyl wire/tools between the two locations. Clayton will be responsible for keeping track of the wire and tools. All landowners who get wire need to fill out a white wire voucher, which must be returned to Hanna Cook as soon as possible.

The committee would like to do a field tour and visit some of the recent project sites at their next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM**

**Next meeting: Field Tour-Date TBD**

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