



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way

October 29, 2019

7:00PM

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson, Toni Toelle/BLM, and (via phone) Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. Guests attending the meeting were: Steve Raftopoulos, DWM Johnathan Lambert, DWM Justin Pollock, Rebecca Burton, Michael St. Martin, Mary Beth Stepans, and Kirk Frentress.

General Public Comments: None.

Budget Report: Samantha reported that the remaining budget was \$68,936.16.

Old Business: The minutes from September 10th will be discussed at the January meeting.

New Business: Two Bar Sheep Co. Mtn. Scrub Brush: Steve presented each committee member with a copy of his application. The project would involve 297 acres of brush mastication in order to open things up in areas where the oak has gotten too thick for anything to use. The committee approved \$6,700.00 for the project.

Flanders Ranch 98 Acre Renovation: Justin explained the reason for two separate proposals. Both projects are conversions, and they fit within the Mule Deer Strategy. There have already been a few other treatments in the area. The hope is to hold more elk, improve the harvest, and prevent conflicts on neighboring properties. There is an access easement with CPW that allows for 8 public hunters each season. There is also a conservation easement on the property and The Nature Conservancy has already given their written approval of the proposed projects. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project.

Flanders Ranch 440 Acre Renovation: The discussion continued regarding the 440 acre project. Chad asked if they'd talked to Trevor Balzer or the NRCS regarding funding. He stated he liked the project but \$26k is a lot considering it doesn't include seeding. Mary Beth said they plan to come back to the committee next fiscal year to seek funding for the second phase. It was recommended that she look for additional cooperators for the seeding portion in order to reduce the cost for both her and HPP. The committee approved \$26,840.00 for the project.

State Council/BLM Cottonwood Mechanical Treatments: Toni explained that she would like to get permission from the local committee to seek funding from the State Council for additional work on the Cottonwood Mechanical Treatments. The money she was counting on from the Mule Deer Foundation fell through due to a conflict between them and the BLM grants department. Toni talked to Pat and found out the Habitat Improvement Grant was no longer available. The committee already granted \$13k for 52 acres of mechanical work on Dawn Nottingham's property. Toni would hate to see it fail with all the partners involved. When all is said and done 1100 acres will be accomplished. Samantha asked Gary

Visintainer if he thought the project would be palatable to the State Council considering the committee had \$30k remaining in their budget. Gary said he didn't mind either way how it was handled and if the State Council decided not to fund it then Toni could come back to the committee with a funding request. Then it was brought up that the project would not start until July of 2020 so funding would come out of HPP's FY2021 budget.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting: Samantha mentioned that Allan Reishus plans to attend the December conference and wondered if anyone had talked to Stan. Sean said Stan plans to attend. Samantha will send out formal invitations once they are ready.

Next Meeting: January 14th at 6pm. Future Agenda Items: Approve Fence Voucher LO List. The committee tentatively scheduled another meeting for February 11th at 6pm.

Roundtable: Sean mentioned that he'd received a draft agenda from Pat and asked if any of the committee members would like to review his presentation ahead of the conference.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:08pm.