



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
BLM Field Office-2103 E. Park Ave. Kremmling, CO 80459
September 11, 2019
1:00 pm

Introductions: Members present: AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Doug Bruchez/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, GW Horine/Sportsperson, RC Lopez/BLM, John Mack/NPS and Admin. Samantha Sorensen.

Guests present: HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, DWM Gene Abrams, DWM Rachel Sralla, Conway Farrell, Bryan Lamont, Tiffany Rubalcaba/BLM, Ben Gallowich, DWM Jeff Behncke, Teresa Chapman, Catherine Schloegel, Michelle Cowardin, and Amy Sidener.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget was \$92,405.00.

Old Business: Approval of Minutes: Minutes from April 2 and August 14 were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Himebaugh Creek CE: Michelle explained that the local landowner would like to submit an application to Grand County for a purchased easement of 240 acres. Total costs are roughly \$640,000.00; Muley Fanatics partnering along with the county and landowner. The committee was asked if they would be interested in funding \$10k. Dave voiced concern over the landowner potentially making a profit. Michelle stated there is a chance the town of Hot Sulphur may purchase the property. It was made clear that HPP can only pay for transaction costs, and the reimbursement happens only after the CE has been signed and closed. Colorado Headwaters Trust would hold the easement and a closing date of June 2020 is the goal. A number of committee members also made it clear they would not be supportive of funding the CE if more than one building envelope were proposed. The property would be closed to public access unless purchased by the town; the town would entertain hunting or at least hunting access. Pat encouraged the committee to decide what they want protected. The committee approved \$10,000.00 for the project; payment will not be made until after review of the deed.

Summit County Aspen Promotion: Catherine stated they were with The Nature Conservancy, a non-partisan group. They're looking at forest management for wildlife and management for water. Teresa explained that over 8k acres of beetle kill have been clear cut for wildfire management. What they're seeing is either dense conifer coming back in or no generation at all

and what's left is a barren meadow. Their goal is to start engineering forest clear cuts and create aspen stands; which is made difficult due to browse and lack of water. Dave asked about aspen growth in the areas they're proposing and voiced concern that they might not thrive. Teresa explained that aspen are already growing within 60 meters of proposed plots and they would like aspen to get at least 6' high before removing the exclusionary fence; it's a way to jump start regrowth. Fence would be reused and moved from site to site. Dave would like annual updates. Lyle said it's a great way to diversify habitat without a lot of manipulation. GW had trouble with making conifer stands into aspen but he knows the area and understands diversity is good for wildlife. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project with the request they receive annual updates.

Herbicide Vouchers: A discussion took place regarding the issues Amy had rounding up interested landowners last year; some thought it was due to the late spring. As a result, there was a bit of a scramble to get everything ordered before fiscal year deadlines. The process behind the scene may change but vouchers will still be made available to landowners. The committee approved \$10,000.00 for the project.

Hunt Coordinator(s): Samantha let the committee know that Ted Zagone was interested in coordinating youth hunts for another year. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: MP Mule Deer Winter Range Enhancement-Conditions: There was some confusion as to why the topic was on the agenda; Samantha pointed out that during the last meeting the committee had said they wanted to discuss further weed control, monitoring and active allotments. RC said his concerns regarding weed control and monitoring had been answered. Tiffany just learned, however, that they won't be able to fertilize Wolford this fall because she didn't realize the area fell under allotments and NEPA had yet to be done. Junction Butte will still be treated and Sulphur Gulch will be put on the schedule for this year to replace Wolford, same acreage would be accomplished. Tiffany gave a presentation on monitoring. Chuck expressed that he would like to see Table Mountain treated; the area is included in the rotation. Dave didn't feel as though the project was proposed properly to which Rachel replied she tried to relay information from multiple agencies and also pointed out soil sampling. Doug encouraged earlier proposals to avoid a rush and Lyle mentioned they are laying the groundwork to do just that. Lyle asked Pat to explain to the committee why the project couldn't be added to the June agenda; Pat elaborated on why internal approval is needed prior to committee consideration when work is being done on state controlled properties.

Elk Collar Data: Bryan gave a presentation on data collected from the collars purchased by MPHPP for E-13 research. Members expressed how helpful the data is especially when considering future habitat projects. Lyle mentioned fertilizer for landowners to offset game damage and generate more tolerance for animals.

Distribution Management Plan-Draft Due March 1st: Samantha provided committee members with another DMP draft and explained that their plan needs to be revised and updated in time to get a finalized draft to Pat by March 1st. Pat pointed out that plans should include high level information and suggested the committee stay away from hard numbers that would lock them in. A work session was scheduled for January 22nd at 1pm in Hot Sulphur Springs.

Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting: Each committee can invite two guests to the statewide council meeting in December; their lodging would be paid for plus some meals will be provided. It could be someone they'd like to expose to the program or someone they've worked with in the past. Dave suggested Mark Volt and Doug suggested his brother.

November 26 Agenda Ideas: The committee changed the date of their next meeting to December 18th; Samantha will try to reserve the Granby USFS conference room. Future Agenda Items: Fence Vouchers, and 2020 meeting dates.

Roundtable: Lyle: It could be John's last HPP meeting since he was promoted and is no longer based in RMNP. The agency will select a replacement but there's a chance they may choose to keep John on HPP. The committee expressed that they would like John to remain in the interim if the Park Service agrees. Lyle also mentioned they are still without a USFS representative. Jon Morrissey is the Sulphur District Ranger and may attend the next HPP meeting. There are four districts in the MPHPP area but they've always, maybe by default, had a representative out of the Sulphur District.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:31 pm.