



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
STATE COUNCIL MEETING  
September 23, 2019 Silverthorne, CO**

**Attendees:** Pat Tucker, Robbie LeValley, Sheila Lamb, Greg Jungman, Gary Visintainer, John Hardwick, Hunter Seim, Dean Riggs, Mick Davis, Teri Polley

**Absent:** Terry Everhart, Ken Morgan

**September 23 – 9 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Legal Update:** Pat updated the Council on a pending legal issue involving a landowner who submitted fake receipts for reimbursement and is currently moving thru the legal system. Since there are no suspension points involved as there is in CPW criminal violations, HPP does not have the ability to restrict or prohibit applicants from HPP projects if they previously had been caught cheating the system. The attorney general's office suggested HPP should request the Wildlife Commission to create a set of regulations so that if/when there is a problem, it can be addressed. This could also apply to many other CPW programs in similar situations. An issue paper has been written to begin this discussion through the regulatory process.

**Review/Approval of draft local HPP committee plans:**

These four plans are scheduled to go to the Commission at their meeting in November on the consent agenda. The plans follow the standardized format and have been reviewed by Pat. The State Council approved the San Luis Valley, Republican Rivers, Northwest Colorado and White River DMP's and these will be submitted to the P/W Commission for final approval in November. Following four plans are for the State Council's approval.

The Council thought these plans were well written and represent the issues the local committees deal with. The last group of plans will be ready for the councils review in March.

**BLM/FS Large Scale Habitat Project Update** – Since the large scale habitat project that Pat had been working on won't happen, HPP will continue to fund projects at the local level and Council level as we have been while continuing to look for large-scale project opportunities with the BLM and Forest Service.

**RMRI** – The National Wild Turkey Federation and the USFS have proposed the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative. This is intended for broad landscape projects for habitat restoration. There are three areas (Front Range, southwest Colorado and I70 corridor) under consideration to work with RMRI.

**State Meeting Update** – The water themed draft agenda was discussed and approved.

**HPP Statutes** – It is still unknown if we will be going to the State Legislature this year but the Council prefers to do it this year. The council requested Dean to carry the message to JT Romatzke, Northwest Regional Manager and the

Leadership Team. The draft statutes that the Council has been working on would maintain the financial aspects, clarify the purchasing rules and improve some program inefficiencies. The State Council would like to get some things back that the program has been practicing for twenty years; mainly the purchasing items along with efficiencies to the program to make it function better. HPP is listed under DNR, Executive Director, Dan Gibbs, CPW Division goals to improve land. The State Council would like to replace CSU person with Range expertise person in statute. The council discussed adding a person from the Park Service in statute but ultimately decided against this.

**GOCO/NWFW project update** – This stewardship effort was forced to go out to bid since it was for more than \$25,000. A proposal was written for this to go out for bid for \$250,000 to an entity to oversee habitat management projects. Other CPW and DNR funding may also be involved in this effort.

**SWA Fencing & Herbicide** – There was not as much response to this offer as was expected but more requests still may come in. The State Council approved \$250,000 for next fiscal year for fencing and herbicide on SWA's.

### **Roundtable**

- Greg – A lot of these issues influence the sportsman's part dramatically. I listen to sportsman on what they would like with HPP. Our number one goal is to look after the resource. Even if we have a governor that is enthusiastic about trails and the backcountry does not mean we should not be doing some pushback. Good meeting, we got done what we wanted to.
- Gary- With the proposed changes of the HPP statutes, is there any discussion about making projects with two-year money?
- Pat - HPP can currently do projects for two years. If we could do the statute change to where the projects on the books do not count against our bank account that would solve the problem. It is how the accountants treat the money. Burns are currently written for 2 years with the FS.
- Dean – There was minimal participation of weed and fencing with the money state council offered up last year; AWM's are struggling with match money; issues with GOCO, FS & BLM funding. Is the council prohibiting projects and is a smaller match a possibility?

**5% and Match Funding Discussion:** Dean's roundtable opened up a discussion about reducing the match to 25%. Pat reminded the Council that there isn't a set match amount requirement but that many/most committees either use 50/50 or materials/labor. Also suggested that HPP could increase HPP's share of the project cost for those projects the Council wanted to promote, ie. Water, etc. Much discussion about matches ranging from \$0 match to status quo, original intent was for partnerships, 'skin in the game', committee reactions, etc.

- Dean – I appreciate the discussion, thank you!
- John – Good meeting; plans look good. The time and effort that was put into them, very good job! Good discussions.
- Hunter – great meeting for a short meeting, BLM move is at a higher level. I don't foresee any changes at the state structure and field office structure. There has been talk in the news about another furlough starting Oct 1, but last week the house passed a CR. BLM budgets are positive.
- Mick – I have good records from 2007 to current and I think this should be shared at the State meeting. Good discussion – not fond of the zero match though.
- Teri – Good meeting...I will send you all the mileage forms and look forward to the December meeting.