



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call

April 27, 2020

7:00pm

Introductions: Participants introduced themselves as they joined the conference call. **Members present were:** Tara Wertz/USFWS, Danny Meyring/Livestock Grower, DWM Jacob Way/CPW, Blaine Evans/Livestock Grower, Todd Peterson/Sportsperson, Tiffany Rubalcaba/BLM, Jimmer Baller/Livestock Grower and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** Sharon Harvat, Marti Aitken, and DWM Zach Weaver.

General Public Comments: None

Budget Report: Members were provided with a budget report. The remaining budget for FY2020 was reported as \$55,840.96.

Old Business: Draft minutes from January 13th were approved as written.

New Business: Stackyard and Fence Damage Requests: The committee approved fence materials for the following landowners:

Jimmer Baller (recused)

Baller, Funk, & Singleton (RMR & YRH)

- 10 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 1 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Blaine Evans (recused)

Evans Land Co LLC

- 10 wood posts
- 30 steel posts
- 0 barbed wire
- 2 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Clinton Russell

**Russell Ranch, NP Reg. Herford,
Fuqus Ranch, Crossby Creek Ranch**

- 30 wood posts
- 0 steel posts
- 1 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 1 single strand wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Mark Hackleman

Loban Hackleman Olsen, Dunaway

- 0 wood posts
- 20 steel posts
- 0 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 10 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

April Cochrane

- 0 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 0 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Danny Meyring (recused)**Meyring Livestock**

- 20 wood posts
- 30 steel posts
- 0 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 1 single strand wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Jack Lewis**Deer Creek, Hell Creek**

- 20 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 1 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 10 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

**Chris VanValkenburg-Home Place,
Indian Creek, Wilcheck, Mossman**

- 25 wood posts
- 30 steel posts
- 1 barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 0 single strand wire
- 50 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Samantha asked the committee how they felt about issuing the vouchers as reimbursements this year, in the interest of time. Todd didn't like the idea that reimbursements would allow for shopping outside the local area, but he was open to trying it for 1 year. Jacob asked if a letter could be included requesting that they shop local and Samantha didn't think that would be allowed. The committee agreed to issue this year's fence vouchers as reimbursements and Sam will report back on where the recipients chose to shop.

Four stackyard applications were submitted and the committee agreed this would be the first year they utilized the new stackyard funding guidelines. The Harvat/Lucky Penny request was for a 300' x 75' layout including 6 double gates. Sharon explained that the stackyard they have now has just as many gates due to the location. Jacob suggested that the number of gates were more of a convenience rather than a necessity. It was agreed that 4 gates would suffice. The Harvat's qualify for game damage so they will work on requesting the materials. The committee agreed to pay up to 75% of the cost to construct the stackyard.

The Grizzly Ranch request was for a 330'A and 990'A combined. Zach explained that they experienced damage this winter and are not eligible for materials through game damage. There was some discussion regarding the history of damage and whether damage hunts could be a solution. Jimmer mentioned that the committee has funded stackyards in the past without a history of damage. Blaine said it's hard to say if elk will be an issue again next year. The committee decided to table the request and wait one more year to see if damage occurs again.

The Owl Mountain Ranch request was for a 990' and 660' combo. Samantha looked up the new HPP Stackyard Materials request form so she could report on current cost estimates, but she pointed out that they are still subject to change. The ranch is not eligible for materials through game damage. The committee agreed to pay up to 50% for materials.

The VanValkenburg Ranch request was for a 300' x 480' stackyard. Moose were not as much of a problem but elk came into the yard this year. The committee agreed to pay up to 50% of materials.

Jimmer suggested asking landowners if they want in on construction bid. Samantha said she would look into it. She also suggested that the committee consider revamping their stackyard application since it seems like the same questions kept coming up with each proposal. Sam will work with Tara on some suggestions to present at a later date.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: SC-Escape Ramps, Arch Surveys, Tamarisk: Samantha passed along State Council updates. As a matter of practice, all HPP water tank projects must have escape ramps. Required clearances are the responsibility of the proposing agency, however it may be appropriate to solicit money from HPP if the agency can immediately implement the project after the HPP clearance work is completed. Lastly, while controlling tamarisk may be desirable, such control is outside of HPP's purpose for big game/ag conflicts or game mgmt. objectives. The State Council tentatively has a meeting scheduled for June 23 and 24, location to be determined.

Select Next Meeting Date: The next two meetings were scheduled for May 7th at 7pm and June 18th at 7pm. Future Agenda Items: Zach has another stackyard application, they are eligible for game damage and would be looking for construction assistance.

Roundtable: Jimmer pointed out that it's important to stick to application deadlines, especially when it comes to fence damage.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9pm.