



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

South Park Committee

January 6th, 2020

Lake George Community Center

Committee members present:

- John Woodward, Livestock grower
- Tyler Stoltzfus, CPW
- Webb Smith, Livestock grower
- Randy Tingle, Sports person
- Christine Cloninger, BLM
- Steve Allard, Livestock grower
- Sheila Lamb, USFS

Administrator: Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Meeting called to order by Steve Allard at 10:05 AM

Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed. All projects are still on track to be completed this fiscal year.

New Business

Hunting Requirements for Projects

The committee has specified that a “reasonable amount of hunting” is required for HPP projects, but the committee still needs to define what qualifies as a “reasonable amount”.

The committee recognizes that there will not necessarily be one specific definition. The amount of hunting needed or allowed on a property depends on several factors, such as landowner preferences, size of the property, location of the property, the extent of big game use or damage, etc. Still, hunting is a very valuable tool for big game management and the committee feels that it is important that some hunting is allowed on the property, as it shows that the landowner is serious about big game management and resolving conflicts. By allowing big game hunting (at any level), the landowner is showing that they agree with the overall philosophy of the committee and the program.

The committee has decided that projects and the hunting access granted will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and they will consider if the amount of hunting on that property is

reasonable based on the current and potential conflicts in the area. The committee reserves the right to verify hunting access on properties with SPHPP funded projects as needed.

The committee has discussed the Shelton fencing project regarding the question of hunting allowed on that property. After the last conference call, the committee sent Mr. Shelton a letter requesting verification of hunters allowed on the property. Mr. Shelton provided the names of two hunters that held big game licenses and had permission to hunt his property. Tyler verified that those two hunters did have the appropriate big game licenses, so the committee has agreed to pay the project balance to Mr. Shelton.

DMP Revisions

The South Park Distribution Management Plan (DMP) is due for renewal. The committee has gone through the old plan to make revisions and updates for the new plan. A new draft will be sent to the committee and the committee will vote on final approval at the next meeting. The final draft of the new plan will be submitted to Pat Tucker in December. The plan will then be reviewed by Pat, the HPP state council, and finally the wildlife commission for final approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 AM

The next meeting will be held on January 23rd at 10:00 AM as a conference call.

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