



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

June 3rd, 2020

Zoom Video Conference

6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

Committee members Present:

- Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- Scott Nilson, *BLM Representative*
- Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative*

Administrators: Hanna Cook

Guests: Shane Lancaster (Livestock Grower), Clayton BonDurant (DWM), Conrad Albert (DWM), Leon Martinez (DWM), Pam Rice (NPS), Robert Quintana (Landowner/Hunt Coordinator Board Member), Crystal Quintana (Landowner/Hunt Coordinator Board Member), Maclovio (Mack) Gallegos (Landowner/Hunt Coordinator Board Member), Gary Dickey (Landowner)

Budget Report

The 2020 and 2021 budget reports were reviewed. The committee budget has increased by 10% for the 2021 fiscal year.

Old Business

Alvin Kunugi has finished his fencing project.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Diamond D Ranch Fence Project-Gary Dickey, Clayton BonDurant

Gary and Clayton are asking HPP for \$4,202.95 to replace 1.07 miles of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. This section of fence is damaged frequently by elk crossing it. Gary will also install white vinyl wire on the top strand. Gary will provide labor and equipment to remove the old fence and install the new one.

The project was approved for \$4,202.95 plus 5 rolls of white vinyl wire and clips for FY 2021.

Fence Contractor- Brian Bechaver

Brian and Conrad let the committee know that the process with the fence contractor went well for the 2020 fiscal year. He was able to contact landowners quickly to get work done. He did not use very much of his budget this year, so Brian is proposing starting with \$5,000 for 2021, with the ability to increase the budget if needed.

The committee would like to continue the fence contractor program to help landowners with big game damage to fences. Landowners will notify their DWM of the damaged fence, and the DWM will contact the contractor (Jacob). Jacob will contact the landowner within 24 hours of DWM approval. If Jacob cannot get in touch with the landowner he will leave a voicemail or text message. If he does not hear back within 24 hours of leaving a message, he will then contact the initiating DWM to let them know. When a DWM gives the contractor approval, they are verifying that the fence damage was caused by big game, and that it is a wildlife friendly fence (i.e. HPP funds will not pay for repair to exclusionary fences or fences deemed not wildlife friendly). This program is not intended to re-design fences. The contractor can install white vinyl wire (provided by the committee) if the landowner agrees to it, but otherwise the fence will be repaired to its original design. Landowners who are interested in rebuilding their fences with a wildlife friendly design can contact the committee for funding and design assistance.

Jacob will be paid \$25/hour plus allowable mileage. The committee requests that Jacob take before and after pictures that will be sent along with time sheets each month.

The project was approved for \$5,000, billed at \$25/hr plus allowable mileage.

Hunt Coordinators-Conrad Albert

Conrad is proposing a continuation of the hunt coordinator program that the committee has funded annually. Andy Espinosa will still be the hunt coordinator for Northern Costilla County and Franklin Kuhn will be the hunt coordinator for South Costilla County. Hunt Coordinators will still be able to bill HPP for fence repair to fences that have been damaged as a result of dispersal hunts. The hunt coordinators often don't have time to repair fences right away while they are hunting, so they can still submit invoices to HPP for fence repair after the hunting season is over, as long as they still have funds in their budget and are working on fences with big game damage within the core project area. Hunt coordinators will be asked to submit time stamped before and after photos of the fences they worked on when billing HPP for fence repair duties. The suggested budget is \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for Franklin Kuhn.

The Hunt Coordinator program went very well for the 2020 fiscal year, and Conrad believes that it has helped a lot with game damage. The two hunt coordinators have worked together very well. The members of the Hunt Coordinator Board expressed concerns about increased elk numbers on the valley floor in the summer, and the potential for increased conflicts and a need for more time from the hunt coordinators. Conrad let them know that he has landowner vouchers and dispersal tags that can be used if conflicts start to increase. He will continue to monitor elk damage to determine if the extra dispersal tags are needed.

The committee approved the project for \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for Franklin Kuhn-hunt coordinators will be paid \$25/hour plus allowable mileage.

2021 Committee Operating Expenses and Meeting Meals

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$250 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

2021 Landowner Fencing Supply Program and Fence Vouchers

The committee would like to continue a fence voucher program for small fence projects. DWMs can give vouchers (Hanna can send them to DWMs as needed) to landowners who need a small amount of fence materials (i.e. \$1,200 or less) to repair big game damage. Voucher limits were \$800, but the committee would like to increase the amount to \$1,200. Landowners will purchase their materials and then send the receipt and the signed voucher to Hanna to request reimbursement. Landowners are responsible for any unapproved items or any expenses over the allowable voucher amount. This program will also pay for fence clips that will be kept with the white vinyl wire.

The committee approved the project for \$7,000 total, with a limit of \$1,200 per landowner.

The MBHPP committee has rolls of white wire to be given out to landowners to make fences more wildlife friendly. Landowners will receive 2 bags of clips per roll of white wire to allow them to build their fence in a way that the top wire can easily be dropped down when needed. Landowners that would like to receive white wire should discuss this with their DWM. DWMs will then call Brian Bechaver, who will review the request and issue a white wire voucher if the landowner is eligible.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Conrad has new fence projects to propose at the next meeting.

CPW has committed to providing hunt coordinators for the Sand Dunes National Park.

The Sand Dunes National Park has begun re-opening to the public in phases.

Next meeting: July 14th at 6:00 PM via video conference.

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