



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call

June 16, 2020

7:00PM

Introductions: **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Toni Toelle/BLM, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** DWM Garrett Smith, Mary Beth Stepans, John Allen, Andy Misner, Mary Cunningham, Brian Holmes, DWM Johnathan Lambert, Kurt Frentress, HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, and Danielle Neumann.

General Public Comments: None

Budget Report: Samantha gave a report for both FY20 and FY21, she also shared that the State Council increased local committee budgets by 10% for the next two years.

Old Business: The minutes from April 28 were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Allen Ranch Pond Development: John explained that he's proposing two new ponds on his property. He recently converted wheat fields to grass and now he'd like some ponds to supply water for livestock and wildlife. Currently the closest water supply is a ¼ mile away in Big Gulch. Additional water would disperse wildlife. The property is leased to a guide but John also allows friends and family to hunt. Antelope are on the property year-round. The committee approved \$6,050.00 for the project.

Meadow Creek Wildlife Friendly Fence: Brian would like to replace approximately 2.7 miles of fence. The plan is to remove a six strand 50" tall fence and install a wildlife friendly four strand fence with jump outs. The property sees a lot of year-round use by 300+ elk, plus it's a calving area. Brian is seeking assistance with purchase of materials. Gary asked about white wire and Brian replied that they are leaning toward using it but he needs to check with the BLM first. The project has a higher cost due to the remote location and the jump outs. The committee approved \$1,650.00 for the project.

Z/C Ranch Fence: Andy explained that they see a lot of elk and antelope on the property. He would like to install 2 miles of four strand fence, no taller than 42" with the bottom wire at 16". White vinyl wire would be used as the top strand. Andy mentioned that the other two stretches of fence were not wildlife friendly and it really opened his eyes. He runs cattle but when they come out he opens all the gates. Sean recommended hotcote to keep cattle from reaching over the fence. The committee approved \$9,456.00 for the project.

USFS Lost Park/S. Fork Williams Fork Noxious Weeds: Mary began by stating that Lost Park is a large elk calving area. Hounds tongue is a problem and they've been spraying since the early 90s, starting to get a handle on it except along the rim and south side where it's aspen with a hounds tongue understory. After a lengthy discussion the committee decided they would like to see the application reworked to possibly include a cash contribution. Mary stated work typically begins in August so she has time to rewrite and resubmit an application for the committee to review. Tabled.

FY21 Herbicide Vouchers: Samantha went over FY20 numbers and the committee decided to continue with the herbicide voucher program; \$10,000.00 was approved.

FY21 Vinyl Wire Purchase: The committee decided they would like to purchase 50 more rolls of hotcote white vinyl wire.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Flanders Ranch 98 Acre Seeding: Mary Beth first thanked the committee then explained that they finished their 440 acre field but the 98 acre field didn't get done and still needs to get planted. It went from being too wet to too dry and they missed their planting window. The committee decided to fund the 98 acre portion of the project out of FY21.

Visintainer Scrub Brush Management: Gary explained that due to weather and NRCS restrictions they were unable to finish, let alone start the project. The committee decided to fund the project out of FY21.

Next Meeting: July 14th at 7pm as a video conference. Future Agenda Items: TBD

Roundtable: Pat further explained the 10% budget increase. Also mentioned that meetings will continue to proceed via video or call, the situation has been a moving target and there are orders the agency is obligated to follow. Thanked everyone.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:54pm.