



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
CPW Area Office-0088 Wildlife Way, Glenwood Springs, CO
March 4, 2020
1:00pm

Introductions: **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Rick Bumgardner/Sportsperson, Scot Dodero/Livestock Grower, Pat Luark/Livestock Grower, Hilary Boyd/BLM, Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW.

Guests attending the meeting were: Jessica Hernreich, DWM Dan Cacho, DWM Peter Boyatt, DWM Brian Gray, Jes Pettee, DWM Brian Wodrich, Kristy Wallner, HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, and DWM Craig Wescoatt.

General Public Comments: None.

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance at the beginning of the meeting was \$129,795.00.

Old Business: Hilary gave a brief update on Elk Ridge and Pump Gulch cultural surveys. Minutes from September 4th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: D8 Herd Management Plan Update: Darren gave a presentation on D8. A couple folks mentioned that they would like to see fourth season go away. Others expressed they would like to see doe tags reduced. Predators were also discussed; can't sell enough bear tags. Pat Luark stated that if you don't deal with predators now, we won't have any deer or elk. Samantha directed committee members to the draft comment letter; she'll send out an email so committee members can discuss further.

Royal Elk Ranch Water Development: Jessica let everyone know that she wasn't seeking funds just yet but wanted to get a preview in front of the committee. The ranch would like to grow wildlife but available water has been an issue. Last year after July 20th water no longer made it to the property via the ditch, due to seepage. Due to geography and geology they would like to pipe the water. Pat Luark stated he would be concerned the program would get bombarded if they decided to cost share on a pipeline, also not sure of the wildlife benefit. Craig mentioned that piping the 4 miles of ditch would reduce open water currently available to wildlife. Jessica pointed out that the ponds funded by HPP last year are not functioning at full potential as a result of the ditch issue. Guzzlers and plastic lining were discussed as options.

Royal Elk Ranch Aspen Treatments: Jessica explained that not a lot of resource management had been accomplished by the previous owner. They would like to clear understory overgrowth, and downed trees, etc. It's a multi-phased project that would start in July; the first phase would treat 60 acres. The area is too dense for mechanical and the work would be fully contracted out, that's

why the price per acre is so high. Dan pointed out that thinning the area would benefit deer and elk. The committee voiced concern over the price per acre. They suggested Jessica talk to the Gypsum plant as well as other potential vendors and revise her project proposal. Tabled.

Bull Gulch Water Development: Kristy said she would like to continue to maintain ponds, improve water and grazing. HPP funds would help pay for dozing labor. Kristy and Hilary spoke about BLM efforts to get work done on the ground. Hilary and Pat Luark recused themselves. The committee approved \$3,500.00 for the project.

Greenhorn Water Development/Mowing & Sage Improvements: The project would entail 40 acres of sage mowing and the construction of 12 new ponds. Kristy said the bid could be reduced if the equipment situation changes. There would be multiple vendors involved. Hilary and Pat Luark recused themselves. The committee approved \$26,036.00.

Mary Jane Spring Repair: Kristy looking to repair 400 feet of pipe and replace a fiberglass tank with a tire tank. HPP funds would help pay permittee for their labor. Pat Tucker asked what the permittee's contribution would be; it was determined they left out 20 in-kind hours as their contribution. Hilary recused herself. The committee approved \$2,000.00 for the project.

BLM/Sutey Ranch Goat Rx: The BLM acquired the ranch through a land exchange. The number one focus on the property will be wildlife habitat management. Currently there is a monoculture present, dead standing grass, and inconsistent water. The plan is to bring 1500 goats in over the course of 9 days for intense rotational grazing. Darren concerned about paying a higher cost just because the public might not be okay with traditional methods. Hilary disagreed, felt this approach was a better bang for the buck. Pat Tucker mentioned that similar projects were brought to two different committees in the SW. He doesn't want to see HPP contribute funding if game damage might also come into play. The committee would like to see how this project turns out and if it's successful then they may choose to assist with funding future projects. Darren asked if they'd considered spraying side by side to compare results. The committee may decide to tour the project area in the future.

Nieslanik Aerial Weed Spraying: Jim presented his proposal, it's similar to what he's done in years past. Mountain Air Spray would perform weed spraying the last week in June. Targeting mainly thistle and houndstongue. Jim recused himself. The committee approved \$4,000.00.

Diamond J, Cedar, & Blowout Water Saver Repair: The project would consist of repairing three water catchments, and the reconstruction of three existing ponds. Samantha reminded the committee of the new bid requirement. Pat Luark would be the vendor; Pat and Hilary recused themselves. The committee approved \$25,000.00 for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Water Development Guidelines/Cap/Etc.: Tabled. Tire Tank Escape Ramps: Pat mentioned that all HPP tire tank projects must have escape ramps so that animals trapped in the tank can get out.

Select Next Meeting Date: April 29th at 1pm on the Eagle side, location TBD.

Roundtable: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:43pm.