



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
RMNP Kawuneeche Visitor Center in Grand Lake, CO
March 11, 2020
1:00 pm

Introductions: Members present: AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, Doug Bruchez/Livestock Grower, GW Horine/Sportsperson, Tiffany Rubalcaba/BLM, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen.

Guests present: Bryan Lamont, Chip Stark, DWM Jeff Behncke, Conway Farrell, Ben Carter, Tim Thomson, Matt Schiltz, Mitch Biekert, Jes Pettee, Patricia Hesch, Bev Tillotson, Terry Pratt, DWM Gene Abram, DWM Rachel Sralla, Amy Sidener, and DWM Jeromy Huntington.

General Public Comments: None.

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget was \$14,905.00.

Old Business: Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 18 and January 22 were presented and approved as written.

Funding Update for Shadow Creek Ranch Fence: Buck McNichols was unable to attend but sent Samantha an update via email. He had heard back from Spring Creek and they are working on the extent of their participation. He will report back to the committee once he knows more.

New Business: Tillotson Weed Spraying: The ranch has a huge problem with daisies. It's the first property to get water from the ditch, and when the lakes get low the seed bank increases and gets washed down the ditch to the property. The Tillotson's do not qualify for the county program since they have less than 640 acres. The request was for \$1k; the committee approved \$2,000.00 for the project.

Sheephorn USFS Allotment Boundary Fence: Jes explained that they're looking to rebuild one mile of fence. The plan is to convert four strand barbed to four strand smooth and relocate the fence into an open meadow where it will be more visible. The project would not start until July, request is for FY2021. Requesting HPP assist with labor and provide vinyl wire top strand. The committee approved \$6,512.00 and 4 rolls of vinyl wire for the project. Rachel Sralla will deliver the wire.

Tyler Mountain Forest Restoration & Recovery: Matt said the project would involve aspen mastication in order to stimulate regeneration, some areas of beetle kill would be converted to aspen as well. The project is a multi-year project, they wanted to go big to avoid overwhelming browsing pressure. All of the property is deeded, benefiting habitat on private for private use such as guided hunting. The project may also mean less conflict for neighbors. Looking to start

in early summer. The project would benefit elk and Ag. The original request was for \$250,000.00. The committee approved \$25,000.00 out of FY2021 and would also support a request for additional funding from HPP State Council.

Carterado South Fence Reimbursement: Ben explained that he decided to build a new wildlife friendly fence along the proper property line. The fence has already been completed, he was unaware of the proper process. The land is a private inholding with major wildlife activity and entanglement issues. Doug leases the property and recused himself. Samantha let everyone know that reimbursements after the fact is not how the program typically does business but Ben's project doesn't require a PO and the materials were purchased in the same fiscal year; if that had not been the case then HPP would not have had the option to participate. The committee approved \$2,000.00 and 2 rolls of vinyl wire for the project. Rachel will deliver rolls.

D8 Herd Management Plan Update/Comment Letter: Bryan Lamont gave a presentation on current herd management objectives and the proposed alternatives for the new plan. The committee supported CPW's preferred alternatives for both population objective and sex ratio; Sam will draft up a comment letter. Lyle added that the herd objective used to be double what it is, development has had a big impact.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Harvest Summary: Bryan also gave an update on the number of animals harvested during the latest hunting season.

HPP Distribution Management Hunts: Chip Stark explained that he's used HPP tags over the last 30 years. His property is located in the center of a migration route but he has less than 640 acres so he no longer qualifies for HPP distribution vouchers. He voiced that over the counter tags are not as effective of a tool. Chip asked the committee to make an exception. Lyle explained that MPHPP's managing document states the committee will focus on properties that are 640 acres or larger and agricultural. HPP has always asked AWM to administer program. The committee granted Chip permission to utilize HPP's distribution management vouchers. They also encouraged smaller properties to work together to meet the minimum when possible. Lyle was told he could use his discretion when deciding who to issue distribution management vouchers to.

Tire Tank Escape Ramps: Samantha stated that Pat Tucker recently realized escape ramps for tire tanks were not as common as he used to think. All HPP funded tire tank projects are required to have escape ramps installed.

Committee Member Compensation: Chuck had requested the topic be added to the agenda. Lyle handed each committee member a letter from HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker. Lyle summarized that committee reps have always been a voluntary position. The program tries to thank them for their time through meeting meals and the bi-annual HPP conference.

Next Meeting Date: June 10th Future Agenda Items: Sportsman Rep. Interviews & SRD Backcountry Weeds. GW asked to add Green Mtn. Reservoir Fertilizer to the June agenda.

Roundtable: Patricia Hesch introduced herself as the Acting District Ranger for the Sulphur Ranger District.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45pm.