



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Northwest Colorado HPP Committee

Zoom Video Conference

April 13th, 2021

7:00 p.m.

NWCO HPP Members Present: Evan Jones, Gary Nichols, Chad Green, Sean Durham (by proxy), Toni Toelle, Curtis Keetch

Guests: Jesse Schroeder

Introduction: Committee members were introduced. The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$91,967.82.

Public Comments:

1. Samantha Sorensen has left CPW and is no longer the administrative assistant for the committee. Katie Richman will help fill in for the rest of the fiscal year. Additionally, committees will be limited to two more meetings before the end of the year to help accommodate the staffing issue.

Minutes: The March 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Project Application Proposals and Reviews:

2. Jesse Schroeder presented an herbicide cost share project for Moffat County. This is an annual project in which HPP purchases herbicide, and the county distributes the chemical to landowners on a cost-share basis to treat leafy spurge, whitetop, thistle, and knapweed on private lands with a minimum of 160 acres. In FY2020, 13 partnerships were accomplished along with some "filler" work, resulting in approximately 353 acres of weed treatment. This is more than double than what was accomplished in FY2019. This year, the drought has delayed implementation of further work; however Jesse will continue to monitor weed infestations throughout the spring.

The committee asked if the county could accomplish more work with additional funding or address projects from earlier seasons that were unable to be implemented at that time, however Jesse noted that the county is at capacity with the current operating model and funding levels. Additionally, the county is trying some new combinations of chemicals and timing of treatment implementation. The project was approved for \$5,000.00 for herbicide purchase.

Other Business:

1. The committee briefly discussed water well projects. Currently the committee does not pay for dry holes if drilling does not hit water, and prefers to fund infrastructure costs rather than drilling. However, the committee may fund drilling costs as a reimbursement if water is produced. Chad noted that the basin has been over-appointed, which may substantially increase drilling costs to meet engineer requirements. The committee discussed implementing a high-end cap; however the topic was tabled for the next meeting when Gary Visintainer and Sean could be on the call.

Next Meeting: May 4th @ 7:00pm