



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 27th, 2021 6:00 PM- 7:50 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Members Present: Mick Davis, Dale Gomez, Eduardo Duran, Brent Woodward, Mark Bechaver, Rick Davie, Carol Lee Dugan

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Guests: Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), David Topolewski (USFS), Tanner Dutton (USFS), Kelly Garcia (USFS), Sally Wier (RIGHT), Melissa Shawcroft (BLM), Patty Knupp (NRCS), Justin Rogers, Jorgan Holtcamp

Budget Report

The 2021 budget report was reviewed.

New Business

HPP Committee Maps

HPP has been working on creating maps for local committees to show where large projects are occurring each year. Committees should be able to use this to analyze where most of their money is spent and if there are any areas that may need more attention. The maps shown are a first draft, and any recommended changes can be sent to Hanna. The maps may see changes such as adding the impact areas from the committee plan to the project map to compare the high impact areas with where work is being done.

Committee Sportsperson Representative Announcement

Mick Davis will be retiring from the committee at the end of June, so the committee will need to select a new sportsperson representative. A preliminary public announcement has been posted, but Hanna will post another one with an application deadline of May 15th. The committee will then review the applications and decide if they would like to hold interviews.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Ortega Guzzler Project-David Topolewski

David is asking HPP for \$1,041 for a guzzler that will be installed in the Ortega area. The area has limited water for big game during the fall and spring migration seasons and Cat Creek is degraded by big game and cattle. The guzzlers will help provide water and spread out big game use in the area, and will help keep big game on public lands during migration seasons. The USFS will provide another guzzler and additional supplies, and will complete installation. This is a continuation of the guzzlers project that was done in a previous year with SLVHPP. The guzzlers installed for the last project were successful and they are being used by deer and elk.

The project was approved for \$1,041.

Nicomodes Water Development-Tanner Dutton

Tanner is asking HPP for \$4,000 for labor to bury pipeline to repair an existing FS/BLM water development that no longer functions due to leaking tanks and bad pipeline. Fixing the water development will improve wildlife habitat on public lands and improve grazing distribution. The USFS will pay for pipeline and tanks, BLM will pay for fittings, floats, plumbing parts, and pipeline, and the permittee will provide a backhoe to install tanks. Bringing water to an otherwise dry area will greatly improve big game habitat on public land. This project was brought to the committee before, but they were unable to get the archaeological clearance done in time. Everyone wants to see it done this year, they are glad to see the arch clearance done and have another opportunity to get the project completed.

The project was approved for \$4,000.

Bighorn Peak Water Development-Kelly Garcia

Kelly is asking HPP for \$25,000 for labor and supplies needed to install a precipitation collection system on USFS property. This water development will provide a reliable water source for big game and cattle in an area where water is otherwise scarce. The USFS will provide additional materials, tanks, and fencing, and the Cumbres-LaManga Cattle Association will provide additional labor to install fencing and tire tanks. The precipitation collection system will feed 5 tire tanks and two storage tanks that are buried underground. This area is very dry and will benefit from having a reliable water source. The committee suggests that they build an 8 ft fence to protect the structure from animals.

The project was approved for \$25,000.

FY22 Jasper Spring Conservation Easement-Sally Wier

Sally is asking HPP for \$20,000 for transaction costs for a conservation easement on the 54-acre Jasper Springs property. The conservation easement will prohibit subdivision of the property and other uses inconsistent with the existing wildlife habitat such as surface mining. RiGHT and the landowner will contribute additional funds. The property has very valuable wildlife habitat.

The project was approved for \$20,000 for FY 2022.

FY22 Antelope Census-Mick Davis

Jack has decided that he will be unable to complete the antelope census for the next fiscal year. However, the committee would like to keep the funding available in case they start getting complaints about antelope so that they can find someone else to take over. The data that Jack provided was helpful for CPW, so it would be nice to continue the program if someone can take over the census. Jack will finish out the antelope census for the 2021 fiscal year. *Mick Davis abstained from voting.

The project was approved for \$2,000 for FY 2022. Paid at \$16/hr plus allowable mileage.

FY22 English Valley Well Repairs-Mick Davis

It is helpful to have money approved for repairs to this water development so that repairs can be made right away when needed. This ensures that the water development continues to run properly and does not leave the area without water for too long in the event of a malfunction.

*Mick Davis abstained from voting.

The project was approved for \$2,000 for FY 2022.

FY22 Voucher Program Renewal

The committee voted to approve \$5,000 to be allocated to small fence repair projects in FY 2022. Landowners can discuss this with their DWM, and the DWM will bring the request to Brent Woodward. Brent can approve vouchers **up to \$500**. Anything above \$500 will need to go to the committee for approval. Approved projects will be allocated from this budget in the form of a reimbursement voucher. This budget can also be used to purchase fence materials (white wire, clips, and installation tools) to be kept in the SLVHPP stockpile. Each roll of white wire will come with two bags of fence clips. Installation tools have been purchased by the committee and will be loaned out to landowners as needed. All tools must be returned to the committee stockpile as soon as the landowner is done with them.

**The rules for the committee stockpile of white wire and clips will be the same as the fence vouchers. DWMs will bring landowner requests to Brent Woodward, and Brent can issue a voucher for up to 4 rolls of wire and clips from the committee stockpile. Any requests for additional rolls will go to the committee.

The project was approved for \$5,000 for FY 2022.

FY22 Committee Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses

The committee agreed to allocate \$500 for FY 2022 towards working meeting meal expenses. They also agreed to approve future committee recognition awards when needed per the HPP administrative directives, and will allocate \$200 to committee operating expenses.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee will make a decision on the new sportsperson representative at the next meeting.

There will be an article in the local paper about the Bear Creek Hand Thinning Project.

Next Meeting: May 20th, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

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