



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Zoom Video Conference**  
**January 13, 2021**  
**1:00pm**

**Introductions:** **Members attending the meeting were:** AAWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Scot Dodero/Livestock Grower, Hilary Boyd/BLM, Phil Nyland/USFS, Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Kristy Wallner, DWM Brian Gray, AWM Matt Yamashita, DWM Brian Wodrich, DWM Dan Cacho, Deborah Fitch, Ray Aberle, Gary Skelton, Markian Feduschak, John Hilderbrandt, Jen Prusse, Peter Suneson, Jessica Foulis, Stephanie Pitt, Brian Lieberman, HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, Allison Hearne, Stephen Jaouen, Kyle Stubblefield, Erin Leinfeld, Ike Pittman, Laria Lovec, Steve and Melinda Hammer, Frank Wooten, Loyd Gerard, Natalie Clark, and Sami Dinar.

**General Public Comments:** Hilary shared with the committee that NEPA has been completed on Elk Ridge and she's optimistic work will begin come summer. AWM Matt Yamashita announced that Darren Chacon had been promoted to Assistant Area Wildlife Manager. He also pointed out that the Commission meeting is taking place today and tomorrow, wolves will be a topic of discussion.

**Budget Report:** Samantha provided committee members with a current budget report.

**Old Business:** Minutes from August 27th were presented and approved with a minor edit.

**New Business:** State Council Livestock Grower & Sportsman Applicants-John Hilderbrandt - Livestock Grower: John gave a summary of his background, experience, and interest in the program. DWM Brian Gray and Hilary Boyd both vouched for him. The committee granted him their support.

Pat Luark also expressed interest in the opening, but because he was not on the agenda another meeting will need to take place to discuss his potential nomination. He also mentioned he'd like to see Kristy nominated as the Sportsman, it was determined she didn't qualify since she doesn't purchase big game licenses.

Precourt Sweetwater Campus Conservation Easement: Walking Mountains owns the property, it's a satellite for educational programming. Special hunting allowances exist. Eight acre building envelope for small building, septic, irrigation, etc. Pedestrian only campus. DWM Dan Cacho pointed out the property is a major movement corridor for deer and elk, there are some south facing aspects where animals winter. The committee approved \$10,000.00 for transaction costs.

BLM Pump Gulch II Sagebrush Restoration: Hilary explained they are looking to hydro ax 50 acres in an area adjacent to a 2018 hydro ax and hand thin treatment. Cultural survey and NEPA has been completed. BLM paying a little more than half. HPP funding would be used to hydro ax 40 acres of encroaching pinyon and juniper. Hilary and Pat abstained. The committee approved \$10,001.00 for the project.

BLM Hunter Camp/Greenhorn Water Saver Recon: Kristy stated that a complete rebuild is needed. Hunter Camp would help distance domestic and wild sheep from one another. Landscape scale effort to improve grazing and wildlife management. HPP ask would include the purchase of a liner and \$22k in labor. Pat Luark is the lessee. Pat and Hilary abstained. The committee approved a total of \$33,899.00 for the project.

BLM Cottonwood Cattle Guard Install: BLM asking HPP for labor funding to assist in installation of two cattle guards in a heavily recreated area. Mowing has been done and the goal is to rest it, which the cattle guards would help with. Kristy ties every user group to it, though it's not reflected on the application; which Darren expressed he would like to see in the future. Hilary abstained. The committee approved \$4,725.00 for the project.

BLM Blue Bonnet Fence Removal Discussion: No proposal, Hilary just wanted to run her idea by the committee. She explained the potential project and Scot encouraged she bring a proposal to the next meeting. Phil mentioned it should include though on taking out posts.

TOE Fence Removal Discussion: Brian Lieberman had to jump of the call but Darren explained there's an old fence south of Eagle and TOE wondering if HPP would entertain funding removal.

Vinyl Wire Purchase/Vouchers: The committee approved \$5,000 to order 25 more rolls of wire.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Vence Fencing Presentation: Frank Wooten gave an overview of Vence fencing and answered questions.

Select Next Meeting Date: State Council Applicants will be considered at a special meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The next regular meeting will take place on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm.

**Roundtable:** Darren Chacon: At sportsmen's caucus the sportsmen were mostly silent, encouraged participation at the commission meeting. Pat Tucker: HPP interest in Vence, other competitive businesses out there; Gunnison committee doing something similar. Pat Luark: Wants Vence back on March agenda. Hilary: Asked how does HPP want to play regarding Vence? Melinda Hammer: Anyway to tie Vence project into Hilary's? Scot: Put together a proposal for March meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:08pm.