



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Republican Rivers Committee
September 8, 2022, 6:00 pm
Grass Roots Community Center, Joes

Committee members present:

- Josh Melby, CPW-DWM
- Dustin Wise, Sportsman
- Chris Craig, Livestock Grower
- Don Fritzler, Livestock Grower
- Clayt Cooper, Livestock Grower

- Kimberly Berscheid, Administrative Assistant

Guests: John & MaryEllen Hardwick - Landowners, Tanya Fell - Yuma County Conservation District, Peyton Burt - Yuma County Pheasants Forever.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.

Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Hardwick Water Project - John Hardwick

John is asking HPP for \$6,000 for a tank and pipeline to install a water development on his property. The area has very limited water, and this project will provide a critical resource for deer and pronghorn, especially in the winter. John will leave the water running throughout the year to ensure availability.

The project was approved for \$6,000 for FY2023.

Welton Tree/Food Plot Project - Josh Melby

Josh is asking HPP for \$3,600 for trees, seeds, and planting supplies to add to an existing tree planting on Stan Welton's property. The project will help to provide additional cover and habitat for deer and other wildlife.

The project was approved for \$3,600 for FY2023.

Kimberly Berscheid, HPP Administrative Assistant
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719-227-5221
Kimberly.berscheid@state.co.us

Milestone Ranch Tree/Food Plot Project - Josh Melby

Josh is asking the committee for \$3,600 for trees, seeds, and planting supplies to plant trees along the Arikaree River to provide habitat and cover for wildlife.

The project was approved for \$3,600 for FY2023.

South Republican River State Wildlife Area, Grazing Mitigation Project - Tanya Fell

Tanya is asking HPP for \$6,027 for fencing materials to install a fence in the South Republican State Wildlife Area. The fence will contain livestock that will be utilized for a mob grazing project. The project will mitigate phreatophyte and noxious weeds in the riparian area of Bonny Reservoir. The mitigation will improve water quantity and distribution, restore habitat, reduce wildfire hazards and allow for the re-establishment of a desired plant community. NRCS and CSU will develop the grazing plan. A livestock cooperator will be selected through a bidding process and responsible for providing the cattle with electric fencing and water. It is anticipated that the grazing will begin in March.

The project was approved for \$6,027 for FY2023.

2023 Fencing and Guzzler Voucher Program

The committee will continue to provide vouchers for white vinyl wire and guzzlers. Vouchers can be approved by a DWM or a committee member and must be returned to Kim immediately upon delivery or pick up.

2023 Working Meeting Meals and Committee Operating Expenses

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$250 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee discussed options for increasing participation in HPP. Josh volunteered to write an ad for the newspaper.

The committee also agreed to purchase a spinning jenny for use when installing white vinyl wire. Landowners will be permitted to use the tool and required to return it once the project is complete. Kim will place the order.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The next meeting will be held on: January 19, 2023

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