



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Northwest Colorado HPP Committee Meeting
February 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Craig, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Evan Jones - CPW
- Sean Durham - Livestock Grower
- Chad Green - Livestock Grower
- Gary Visintainer - Livestock (proxy)
- Gary Nichols - Sportsperson
- Vacant - BLM
- Curtis Keetch - USFS

Attendees Present:

Mike Swaro- CPW
John Gioia- CCALT
Jake Hume- Applicant
Jim Hume- Applicant
Jarrod Hume- Applicant

Administrative Assistant Present:

Marian Cole

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The remaining budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$1,752.50. The budget was fully encumbered at the September 12th meeting and the remaining balance was due to unencumbered funds from a project that was completed under budget. All additional budget encumbrances through June 30, 2023 (FY23), will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

Old Business

Minutes- The minutes from the October 26th and December 14th meetings were approved as written.

7 Springs Ranch Pond Lining- The project approved at the September 12th meeting is no longer able to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Due to materials and timing restrictions, the applicant requested if funding could be provided during the next fiscal year, July 2023- June 2024. The committee was in support of funding the project next fiscal year. The project was preapproved for up to \$26,400.00 in FY24.

*Administrative Note- \$9,791.00 of the original \$26,400.00 in project funding was provided by the HPP Manager. Therefore, \$16,609.00 was unencumbered from the committee's budget.

New Business

Hume Ranch Conservation Easement- John Gioia and the Hume family presented a perpetual conservation easement of approximately 975 acres of the family's working ranch east of Craig. The property is located in critical habitat and winter range for elk, deer, and pronghorn. Additionally, the location is in close proximity to state and federal lands and serves to aid in landscape connectivity. The project was approved for up to \$25,000.00.

*Administrative Note- \$25,000.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

Remaining Committee Business

FY23 Voucher Programs- At the August 11th meeting, the committee implemented a new tiered voucher system based on acreage for both the fence and herbicide voucher programs. Due to the tiers and increased voucher amounts, there is a need to increase the both voucher budget allocations. Additionally, the committee decided that fence and herbicide vouchers are available for owned acreage only. The following changes were made to each of the respective voucher programs:

- a. Fence Vouchers- The fence voucher budget allocation was increased from \$65,000.00 to \$90,000.00.
- b. Herbicide Vouchers- The herbicide voucher budget allocation was increased from \$20,000.00 to \$35,000.00.

*Administrative Note- \$11,638.50 of increased funding approved by the HPP Manager.

- c. Pond Vouchers- At the time of the meeting, no pond vouchers had been issued and considering the current winter conditions, the committee felt there may not be much need or utilization of the vouchers before the end of the fiscal year. For these reasons, the original pond voucher budget allocation of \$10,000.00 was unencumbered and applied towards the fence voucher budget allocation.

Winter Wildlife Update- Mike Swaro provided an update on winter conditions and associated wildlife conflict. HPP State Council contributed significant assistance to address conflict.

Stackyard Discussion- Tabled.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.