



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Upper Yampa River HPP Committee Meeting

May 8, 2023 at 5:30 pm

CPW- Steamboat Springs, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Kyle Bond - CPW
- Jeff Clyncke - Livestock Grower
- Larry Monger - Livestock Grower
- Nita Naugle - Livestock Grower
- Cedric Damby - Sportsperson
- Eric Scherff - BLM
- Baili Foster - USFS

Attendees Present:

- Eric VanNatta- CPW
- Cam Kuelthau- Applicant
- Laurie Kuelthau- Applicant
- Travis Milway- Applicant
- Rick Milway- Applicant

Administrative Assistant Present:

Marian Cole

Introductions

Committee members and attendees were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget was fully encumbered at the January 13th meeting. All additional budget encumbrances for through June 30, 2023 (FY23), will be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

Old Business

Minutes- The minutes from the January 13th meeting were approved as written.

Elk Mountain Ranch Pond Development- Cam Kuelthau and Laurie Kuelthau updated the committee on their project that was approved at the July 18th meeting. Unfortunately, due to scheduled construction falling through, the project was no longer able to be completed before the end of the fiscal year. The applicants 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 \$7,500.00 in FY24.

*Administrative note- \$7,500.00 was unencumbered from the committee's budget.

New Business

Milway Fertilizer- Rick Milway and Travis Milway presented a fertilizer project to offset game damage caused primarily from elk forage consumption. The Milway

property and neighboring landowners sustain a couple hundred elk which causes significant loss in hay production. The applicants have not applied for an HPP project or filed game damage claims in recent years. The committee posed questions about the Game Damage (GD) program and claim process. Committee discussion clarified that HPP and GD operate independently of each other and Game Damage has its own eligibility requirements. HPP funding does not limit the applicant's game damage eligibility or ability to file claims. Due to the extent of the damage and the fact that the landowner had not filed recent game damage claims or received HPP funding, the committee approved a onetime exception to fund 75% of project costs. The project was approved for up to \$7,312.50.

Remaining Committee Business

CPW Elk Collar Update- Eric VanNatta presented an update on elk collar data. This is an ongoing project that the committee has contributed funding towards in previous years as well as this fiscal year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 pm.