



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

HPP State Council Meeting
February 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm
Virtual

Committee Members Present:

- Casey Cooley - CPW
- Gary Visintainer - Livestock Grower
- Ty Bevan - Livestock Grower
- Riley May - Livestock Grower
- Todd Peterson - Sports person
- Greg Jung - Sports person
- Robbie LeValley - CSU Extension
- Hunter Seim - BLM
- Shelia Lamb - USFS

Attendees Present:

HPP Staff Present:

Michael Blanck - Program Manager
Kim Berscheid - NE/SE Admin
Kale Watson - SW Admin

Introductions

Committee members and HPP staff were introduced.

New Business

FY25 Committee Budget Allocations-

State Council discussed FY25 committee budget allocations and approved FY25 base budgets for all 19 HPP committees.

The project was approved at \$2,201,500 for FY25.

FY25-27 State Wildlife Area Funds-

Michael Blanck, proposed that the State Council approve SWA Funds for another three fiscal years. SWAs across the state have been utilizing these funds and have had great success with projects. The State Council approved extending this funding for FY25-27.

The project was approved at \$249,000.00 for FY25-27.

FY25 Game Damage Materials Delivery-

Michael Blanck shared with the State Council that future materials ordered from the Game Damage Unit will incur a delivery fee. Blanck proposed that the State Council help committees pay for that delivery fee.

The project was approved for \$5,000.00 for FY24.

Remaining Committee Business

CPW Reorganization-

Michael Blanck updated the State Council on the recent CPW reorganization. Historically, HPP was based in the Northwest Region under the Private Lands Program but will now be transferred to a new branch, Outdoor Recreation & Lands, based in the Denver office. An Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation & Lands has been created, and the vacancy has been posted.

HPP Staff Vacancies-

Michael Blanck shared that the NW Region Administrative Assistant and Program Assistant positions are currently vacant. He is working to re-hire the Administrative Assistant position. However, the Program Assistant will not be replaced; the FTE is staying within the NW Region.

HPP RESTORE Participation-

The State Council discussed HPP's participation in RESTORE. The Council recognized significant funding of the NW winter operation and subsequent hunting license cuts will impact the HPP budget. They chose to focus funding on higher priorities this fiscal year. The Council may consider future participation RESTORE.

HPP Committee Representative Term Limit Policy-

Michael Blanck shared that the committees have not been following Term Limit requirements and will need to do so moving forward. He presented his Draft Term Limit Policy of 4-year term limits with unlimited terms served and an implementation plan for which positions will expire each year. The committee discussed the importance of historical knowledge held by longstanding committee members and the need to be mindful during the policy's execution.

Roundtable

Michael Blanck-

Michael updated the committee on his activities since the last meeting. He attended the SE Region Sportsperson's Caucus with Garrett Watson and Ray Aberle. They discussed the region's needs and where/how HPP can assist.

He attended a Habitat Tour in the NE and SE Regions with Trent Verquer, Josh Melby, Tanya Fell, Kim Berscheid, and Partner Biologists. The tour was very beneficial and provided further understanding of the area's unique needs.

Additionally, he attended the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs. HPP and CPW staff were allowed to present on the program, which generated interest from the attendees.

Kim Berscheid-

Kim Berscheid discussed the possibility of an HPP-sponsored Agriculture Short Course, allowing CPW employees to learn more about agricultural operations.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.