



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Conference Call

April 28, 2020

7:00PM

**Introductions:** **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Chad Green/Livestock Grower (7:17pm), and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** DWM Jeff Goncalves, HPP Coordinator Pat Tucker, Darby Finley, and AWM Bill deVergie.

**General Public Comments:** None

**Budget Report:** Samantha reported that the budget was \$2,644.82. Toni's project quote ended up being less than what was approved, so that's why there are funds remaining.

**Old Business:** The minutes from March 10 were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** Irish Lake Water Enhancement & Gee Lake Water Enhancement: Jeff explained that he's proposing two solar well projects on Cold Springs Mountain State Trust Land but separated them into two different applications since he will be seeking State Land Board enhancement funding. There are antelope in the area but they leave after water dries up. Both projects would include drilling a well and installing a tire tank. CPW holds the hunting lease, therefore public hunting is allowed. Gary Visintainer asked who owns the water rights, who would be responsible for maintenance, and why isn't CPW contributing? Jeff mentioned that the Dickenson's may take over maintenance but that hasn't been confirmed; SLB will get the water permit. Bill deVergie said the Area can contribute \$1k per well and will look elsewhere for additional funds. Sean asked what would happen in the event of a dry well. Gary V. pointed out that HPP is not willing to fund the drilling, only materials after the fact. The committee approved \$7,191.25 for each FY21 well project under the condition that CPW contribute \$1k for each well and that a maintenance agreement can be reached. Jeff will return to the committee with an update.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Bull Elk Dist. In GMUs 1, 2, & 201 as It Relates To the Presence of Wolves: Darby stated that wolves have been spotted in the NW corner and they would like to get ahead of the game before wolves are either reintroduced or more animals make their way into the state. This study would enable CPW to quantify and describe any changes to bull elk distribution. The question is would HPP be interested in possibly funding the project if a proposal were brought forward. Gary V. said HPP could help with collars or initial capture costs only, with the guarantee that other funding would cover the rest. Pat pointed out that he and Bill spoke and the take home is we need to think about. Is it

appropriate for HPP to get involved with wolves? He's not sure, and he hasn't discussed it with State Council yet. The committee was willing to continue the discussion.

SC-Arch Surveys, Tamarisk, June Meeting: Pat passed along State Council updates. Required clearances are the responsibility of the proposing agency, however it may be appropriate to solicit money from HPP if the agency can immediately implement the project after the HPP clearance work is completed. While controlling tamarisk may be desirable, such control is outside of HPP's purpose for big game/ag conflicts or game mgmt. objectives. The State Council tentatively has a meeting scheduled for June 23 and 24, Fairplay if in person but a phone or video conference is more likely.

Next Meeting: May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Future Agenda Items: TBD

**Roundtable:** Pat brought up the fact that everyone is struggling with phone and video conferences. In person meetings are a ways down the road. He asked the committee their thoughts and pointed out they don't need to schedule meetings every week. Zoom was mentioned as a possibility, and it has call-in capability.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:06pm.