



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**Zoom Video Conference**

**March 16, 2021**

**5:30pm**

**Introductions:** **Members present were:** DWM Bailey Franklin/CPW, Rich Parr/Sportsperson, Mary Taylor/BLM, Lenny Klingelsmith/Livestock Grower, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Jim Brennan/Livestock Grower, Angelo(Butch) Theos/Livestock Grower, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** HPP Coordinator Pat Fucker, Forrest Dabb, Parks & Wildlife Commissioner Marie Haskett, and NRCS McKayla.

**General Public Comments:** Wildlife conservation easement on Coal Creek discussed.

**Budget Report:** Committee members were provided with a current budget report.

**Old Business:** Minutes from Jan. 26 and Feb. 17 were approved as written.

**New Business:** LK Ranch Dryland Farming/Seeding: Lenny explained there are 18 acres west of his house that are not very palatable, snake weed is coming back in. Looking for a 50% cost share on seeding labor. HPP contributed to seed cost for other projects of Lenny's and he has seed left over that he'll use for the 18 acres. Need some moisture prior to seeding, if he can't plant this spring then he'd like to plant in the fall. Lenny recused himself. The committee approved \$612.00 for the project and will fund out of FY22 if Lenny can't seed before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Meeker Dome Water Well: Bailey pointed out that the area is very dry and mule deer are constantly crossing back and forth over highway to reach closest water source. Phase one of the project asks HPP to help fund 50% of the well. Member voiced concern over a dry well and the possibility of hitting Sulphur water; Bailey said in either case HPP would void any funding and the well would be capped if they hit Sulphur water. Phase two will be proposed at a later date and include a pipeline and three tire tanks. There were questions as to whether the county might pitch in since the project could reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions. The committee approved \$1,500.00 for the project.

M/R White River Ranch Lawson Mechanical Wildlife Seeding: The project includes two different seeding polygons, currently dominated by undesirable grasses. The goal is to go in with a custom seed mix this spring which will provide a high quality forage for deer and elk. Lenny leases property; he recused himself. The committee approved \$9,780.38 for the project.

Dabb Canyon Ranch Seeding: Forrest began by pointing out they'd like to seed three different plots. 10 acres irrigated already fenced to keep cattle out while seed gets established. Two other dryland pastures will be fenced eventually as well. Bailey voiced concern about wheat grass in dryland mix; not beneficial to wildlife. The committee partially funded the request, approving a 50/50 cost share up to \$500.00 for the 10 irrigated acres, tabling the dryland portion.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Select Next Meeting Date: TBD- Samantha will send out a Doodle Poll. Future Agenda Items: TBD.

**Roundtable:** Butch told Bailey that Dave Allen would be reaching out. Commission meeting starts tomorrow and the wolf update is at 1:30 on Thursday. Pat let everyone know State Council is still working to fill vacancies, total of 18 applicants ranked for round two.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.