



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2021
Blanca Forestry Products
6:00 PM

Committee members Present:

- ☒ Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- ☒ Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- ☒ Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- ☒ Shane Lancaster, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- ☒ Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- ☒ Scott Nilson, *BLM Representative CALL IN*
- ☒ Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative*

Administrators: Kimberly Berscheid

Guests: Michael Blanck (HPP Manager), William Miedema (DWM), Conrad Albert (DWM), Gary Dickey (Landowner).

Budget Report

The 2022 budget report was reviewed.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Taylor Fence Project - Conrad Albert

Julian Taylor is asking HPP for \$6,141.39 for materials needed to replace 2 miles of old fence with a new wildlife friendly fence. Additionally, he is requesting 9 rolls of white vinyl wire and 27 bags of fence clips. The existing fence is constantly damaged by elk and needs to be replaced. The fence is a boundary between 2 landowners, Taylor and Martinez. The landowner has agreed to lower the white wire when it is not in use to reduce damage especially in high traffic areas.

The project was approved for \$6,141.39 plus 9 rolls of white vinyl wire and 27 bags of fence clips from the stockpile.

Dickey Fence - William Miedema

Gary Dickey is asking HPP for \$2,870.36 for materials needed to replace $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. Additionally, he is requesting 2 rolls of white vinyl wire and 6 bags of fence clips. Gary has provided 2 applications, 1 with steel posts and 1 with wood. He would prefer to go with the steel posts as they hold up better especially in the location of the fence. He anticipates that the new fence will mitigate damage from elk, thereby holding cattle better and reducing elk entanglement issues. The new wildlife friendly fence will be functional for both wildlife and livestock. This fence project will tie into the fence that was done last year. Gary will provide the labor to remove the old fence, provide additional materials, pay to rent a welder, provide a skid steer and labor to install the new fence.

The project was approved for \$2,870.36 plus 2 rolls of white vinyl wire and 6 bags of clips from the stockpile.

Brown 2021 Fence - William Miedema

Clint Brown is asking HPP for \$5,277.24 for materials needed to replace 1.25 miles of old fence with a new wildlife friendly fence. Additionally, he is requesting 5 rolls of white vinyl wire and 15 bags of fence clips. The existing fence is old and not visible to wildlife therefore causing damage and injuries. The property has a lot of elk and does receive vouchers. There is a lot of movement across the property. William has done outreach hunts on the property in the past. Clint has agreed to drop the white wire in high traffic areas to reduce further damage.

The project was approved for \$5,277.24 plus 5 rolls of white vinyl wire and 15 bags of clips from the stockpile.

Columbian Ranch Forage- Conrad Albert

Conrad would like to continue the forage purchase on the Columbian Ranch. The committee still feels this is the most effective option to alleviate conflicts on the ranch and neighboring properties. This will allow for forage all winter long. The forage provides extreme cost savings compared to Game Damage claims. The proposal is for 240 tons of forage at \$100/ton for a total of \$24,000. Conrad will monitor the property and report on the actual amount of elk utilizing the forage.

The project was approved for \$24,000

Hunt Coordinators Kuhn & Espinosa - Conrad Albert

Conrad is proposing a continuation of the hunt coordinator program that the committee has funded annually. Andy Espinosa will still be the coordinator for North Costilla County and Franklin Kuhn will be the coordinator for South Costilla County. Both coordinators have built relationships and established trust with the landowners. The committee still feels the coordinators solve many issues, allows for safe/controlled hunts and reduces conflict. The coordinators will have the ability to report and repair any fence damage. Materials are purchased using vouchers. The suggested budget is \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for Franklin Kuhn. This amount will include \$25 per hour plus allowable mileage up to the requested amounts.

The committee approved the project for \$15,000 for Andy Espinosa and \$10,000 for Franklin Kuhn - Hunt Coordinators will be paid \$25 per hour plus allowable mileage at the current State approved rate.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee discussed the need for a materials order and agreed to schedule a conference call.

Next meeting: September 14, 2021 via video conference.

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