



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Northwest Colorado HPP Committee

Craig Chamber of Commerce - 775 Yampa Ave Craig, CO

August 11, 2022

6:00 pm

Northwest Colorado HPP Members Present: Evan Jones- CPW, Sean Durham- Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer- Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols- Sportsman, Curtis Keetch- USFS

Guests: Mike Swaro- CPW, John Allen, MaryLou Allen, Mary Beth Stephans, Stacy Gray

Introductions: Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report: The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$192,500.

Old Business: The minutes from the May 19th and July 12th meetings were approved as written.

New Business:

1. Allen Ranch Well Development- John Allen presented a well development project to implement irrigation in an existing dryland field. The committee was hesitant to fund a well development project intended solely for irrigation. Upon further review of the well permit, it was determined the well would only be permitted to irrigate 12 acres. The committee noted the high project costs for irrigation of 12 acres with only incidental use for livestock and wildlife. While the committee agreed it was a good project that would increase available forage, they could not support funding such costs for minimal application and utilization. The committee recommended approaching other funding sources for assistance and shared openness to considering the project in the future if the permitting was expanded. The project was denied.
2. SBRJWM Water Improvement- Stacy Gray presented a water improvement project to further develop two existing wells within the Lay Creek Ranch Ranching for Wildlife (RFW) property. The project would entail installing infrastructure such as pipe, pumps, and tanks to serve as functional water sources for livestock and wildlife. The addition of these water sources on different sections of the ranch would aid in wildlife distribution across the landscape and serve as a benefit to the hunting programs available on the ranch. The project was approved for up to \$11,000.
3. Flanders Ranch Seeding- Mary Beth Stephans presented a seeding project to plant cover crops on approximately 568 acres. Following the crop failure of the previously funded seeding project, soil samples showed that the soil was depleted. The project aims to improve soil health and fertility over the course of 3 years through the implementation of cover crops and rotational grazing. The committee was happy to see additional funding partnerships but also shared reservations about funding this project due to the previous project failure. The committee stated if this attempt was unsuccessful, the committee would not provide any further funding for this project. The project was

approved for up to \$10,634 with the noted stipulation.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:

1. Committee Guidelines- The committee would prefer future water project applications include a copy of water permits.
2. FY22 Review- The committee reviewed projects from the 2021-2022 fiscal year and recapped the July 12th tour. Projects that were not completed were discussed more in depth. One project in particular was not funded due to the project proponent turning down their approved reimbursement as they no longer wanted to do business with HPP after feeling disrespected by the committee. The committee communicated the need to be cognizant of tone and delivery when deliberating over project proposals.
3. FY23 Voucher Programs-
 - a. Fence Vouchers- Approved for up to \$65,000 with the following tiers:
 - 160-500 acres \$ 500
 - 501-1000 acres \$ 750
 - 1001+ acres \$ 1,000
 - b. Herbicide Vouchers- Approved for up to \$20,000 with the following tiers:
 - >160 acres \$ 250
 - 161-1000 acres \$ 600
 - 1001+ acres \$ 1,000
 - c. Pond Vouchers- Approved for up to \$10,000.
4. Distribution Management Hunts- The committee amended the program to include up to 200 hunts valid August 15- February 28th.
5. Moffat County Fair- The committee would like to participate in the 2023 Moffat County Fair with a sponsorship and booth to raise HPP awareness. The project was approved for up to \$1,000.
6. Upcoming Meeting- The committee tentatively scheduled the next meeting for September 12th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.