



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Juan Basin HPP Committee

Southwest Region Office - 415 Turner Dr, Durango

August 29th, 2022

6:00 p.m.

San Juan Basin HPP Members Present: Anthony Garcia, USFS; Dan Huntington, Livestock Grower; Ty Smith, CPW; John Gardner, Sportsman; George Malarsie, Sportsman; Jesse Montoya, Livestock Grower; Mike Schmidt, BLM

Guests: Luke Clancy, Davin Montoya, Robert & Elena Simmons, Gloria Ryan

Introduction: Committee members and guests were introduced. The remaining budget at the beginning of the meeting was \$61,992.50.

Old Business:

1. The committee was updated on the Warmack solar well project. Drilling has been completed and water was struck at 220', which was slightly higher than estimated. The infrastructure will be completed within two weeks. The committee has discussed potentially increasing the amount of funding if/after drilling produced water. However, it does not appear at this time that costs will have significantly increased.

New Business:

1. Elena Simmons presented a second solar well refurbishment project. This well is located near a dry creek and regularly produces water, however the pump is not functional and there are no storage systems in place to store the pumped water. The project involves refurbishing the well and pump, and installing a capped stock tank below the well to retain the water. The pump will run from spring through fall, with a float valve to prevent overflow. Increasing water availability in the area will help improve big game and wildlife distribution, better utilization of habitat, and decreased competition between livestock and wildlife for water sources. The project was approved for 50% of costs up to \$8,177.25.
2. Davin Montoya presented a guzzler project. The project area is becoming increasingly dry due to drought and increased winds, resulting in landowners hauling water to livestock. This caused competition with wildlife for water sources and poor grazing distribution. The project consists of installing two guzzlers, which will primarily be filled with runoff. The guzzlers will increase water availability throughout the area,

and improve livestock and wildlife distribution and grazing pressure. The project was approved for \$5,760.00 for materials.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting November 7th @ 6:00pm