



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2022

6:00pm

Video/Conference Call

Committee members present:

- Justin Foster, CPW
- Lars Larson, Livestock Growers
- Conrad Swanson, Livestock Growers
- Dale Oberlag, USFS
- Raechel Nelson, Livestock Growers
- Joe Straley, Sportsmen

Administrative Assistant: Kimberly Berscheid

Guests: Don Anderson, Ashlynn Rhodes, Travis Rollins, Al Johnson, Zach Thode, Rick Knight, Ray Aberle, Shawn Sabo, Eric Lowery.

Meeting was called to order at 5:03pm

Budget Report

The budget was reviewed.

Old Business

New Business

Wildlife Crossing and Elk Jump Project - Zach Thode

Zach is asking the committee for \$2,000 to purchase materials to retrofit an underpass for wildlife crossing and building an elk jump in an existing boundary fence. The underpass will help to eliminate wildlife collisions on a heavily trafficked highway by providing access through an existing underpass. The underpass will be retrofitted to allow the wildlife through while preventing cattle to pass. The elk jump will provide a crossing section that will help to eliminate entanglements and damage to the existing boundary fence. The current fence is consistently damaged during

hunting seasons by large herds of elk crossing allowing cattle to trespass on neighboring properties. Zach will be contributing his time to purchase the materials and providing an auger to drill holes. Colorado State University and Front Range Community College Students will be volunteering their time to install the materials. **The project was approved for up to \$2,000 to purchase materials for the project.**

Pivot Sprinkler Seeding Project - Alvin Johnson

Alvin is asking the committee for \$4,546 to pay for seed bed prep, leveling and planting 25 acres of alfalfa. The landowner will be closing off the current ditches and utilizing a pivot sprinkler to provide water to the section. The additional hay production will provide forage for wildlife in the area while reducing the amount of game damage on neighboring properties. The landowner has fenced the section off from livestock and will not be grazing until the seed has fully established. Alvin will be providing labor to remove vegetation, seed bed prep, purchasing the smooth brome seed, dirt work as well as hiring a contractor to seed and run a dirt loader for ground prep.

The project was approved for up to \$4,546 to reimburse the landowner for the project.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

The committee discussed the need to address price increases on materials and how that is affecting our current voucher program. It was requested that an agenda item is added to the next committee meeting to decide how that should be addressed with the FY23 Voucher Program.

Roundtable

Kimberly Berscheid discussed her leave and directed the committee on who to contact during this time. Marian Cole was able to join the meeting and introduce herself.

Joe Straley mentioned that the Mule Deer Foundation has money to contribute to projects.

Next meeting: April 11, 2022 at 5:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55p