



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

### Northwest Colorado HPP Committee

Craig Chamber of Commerce - 775 Yampa Ave Craig, CO

September 12, 2022

6:00 pm

**Northwest Colorado HPP Members Present:** Evan Jones- CPW, Sean Durham- Livestock Grower, Chad Green- Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer- Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols- Sportsperson, Toni Toelle- BLM, Curtis Keetch- USFS

**Guests:** Debbie Warneke, Ian Duzik, Colton Murray, Allan Reishus

**Introductions:** Committee members and guests were introduced.

**Budget Report:** The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$74,866.00. Additional funds needed for this meeting would be funded with approval from Michael Blanck, HPP Manager.

**Old Business:** The minutes from the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

#### **New Business:**

1. Warneke Pond Lining- Debbie Warneke presented a pond lining project for a pond that naturally fills every spring. The pond holds a significant amount of water, however, the water is usually gone within a few weeks. The pond is located on private land surrounded by BLM, in an area with very little water availability. The project aims to line the pond to serve as a water source for wildlife and livestock in the area for a longer period of time. The project was approved for up to \$26,400.00.  
\*Administrative Note- \$9,791.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.
2. Duzik Well Development- Ian Duzik presented the same water development project from last fiscal year that would implement 2 new wells. Last year's project was unsuccessful and no HPP funds were utilized. The project is located in an area of the county that has very little water availability. The additional water sources would greatly benefit wildlife water accessibility and aid in the prevention of unnecessary highway crossing to access the limited water sources currently available. The project was approved for up to \$65,757.00, contingent upon successfully drilling producing wells.  
\*Administrative Note- \$20,000.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.
3. Soil Conservation District Seed- Colton Murray presented a brief overview of last year's project results and proposed a continuation project to purchase seed for distribution again this year. The implementation of better forage on expiring CRP lands should assist in the dispersal of big game herds to greater areas where quality forage wasn't previously available. The seed would be provided to landowners on a first come first serve basis for approximately 500 acres with eligibility requirements consisting of land located inside of the Committee boundary, hunting allowed on property, permitted access to Colorado First Conservation District for follow up work, and a preference for

fall drilling. CPW will provide a no-till seed drill for landowners to complete the seeding project. The project was approved for up to \$32,500.00.

\*Administrative Note- \$20,000.00 of project funding approved by the HPP Manager.

**Roundtable:** Evan informed the committee that a new District Wildlife Manager (DWM) had been hired to fill the reinstated Craig West District. With the implementation of this district, DWM district boundaries would be changing in the area.

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