



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Montelores HPP Committee Meeting

April 24, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Mancos, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Andy Brown - CPW
- Tanner Young - Livestock Grower
- George West - Livestock Grower
- Eldon Simmons - Livestock Grower
- John Sheek - Sportsman
- Nate West - BLM
- Ivan Messinger - USFS

Attendees Present:

Kevin McComb, Amber Shell
Becca DeVergie

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kale Watson

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The budget balance at the start of the meeting was \$63,865.00.

Old Business

The minutes from the February 21st meeting were approved as written.

New Business

Redwood Water Development- A water development project was presented to the committee on behalf of William Redwood. The project site sits in important big game habitat that elk and deer utilize year-round. The scope of the project entails creating three new ponds and repairing four existing ponds on the property, as they do not adequately hold water anymore. The seven ponds would serve as water sources for wildlife and livestock on dryland farms and pinyon-juniper rims and canyons on joining BLM and private lands. The committee was concerned about the number of water sources in this small area and requested Redwood and the DWM in his area to walk the property together. **The project was tabled upon DWM inspection of water source locations.**

FY24 Voucher Programs- The committee reviewed and approved voucher programs as follows:

- a) Pond Vouchers- The committee decided to do away with pond vouchers and have interested applicants come to the table with a project application.
- b) Fence Vouchers- **The committee approved \$3,000.00 for fence vouchers, distributed in \$300.00 increments to eligible landowners.**
- c) Fertilizer Vouchers- **The committee approved \$35,000.00 for fertilizer vouchers, with a \$4,000.00 cap.**

Remaining Committee Business

FY24 McComb Virtual Fence- Kevin McComb presented a future virtual fence project to the committee. McComb gave an overview of how the virtual fencing system works and how he wants to implement it on his property in the coming years. The committee expressed how they are open to and will welcome any virtual fence projects coming to the table. McComb plans to return to the committee in FY24 to formally present the project but wanted to get an idea of the committee's thoughts on virtual fencing beforehand.

Meeting Schedule- The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023, at the NRCS Building in Mancos.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.