



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

San Luis Valley HPP Committee Meeting
August 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm
CPW Office - Monte Vista, CO

Committee Members Present:

- Brent Woodward - CPW
- Mark Bechaver - Livestock Grower
- Carol Lee Dugan - Livestock Grower
- Richard Davie - Livestock Grower
- Dale Gomez - Sports person
- Eduardo Duran - BLM
- Kevin Duda - USFS
- Dean Lee - USFWS

Administrative Assistant Present:

Kimberly Berscheid

Attendees Present:

Tyler Cerny - CPW
William Miedema - CPW
Susan Pierce-Platais - RGHLT
Bob Getz - Applicant
Cathy Hagan - BLM
Meg Shelley - USFS
Kevin Hanson - Applicant
Sam Schmidt - Applicant
Lynn Sutherland - Applicant

Introductions

Committee members and guests were introduced.

Budget Report

The remaining budget at the start of the meeting was \$106,000.

Old Business

The meeting minutes from May 23, 2023, were approved as written.

New Business

Picture Rock Ranch Fence Project - Kevin Hanson

Kevin asked the committee for \$5,500 for materials to replace 0.6 miles of fence and high-visibility tape to retrofit the fence on the Picture Rock Ranch. Elk crossings have damaged the fence and are no longer repairable. A high-visibility tape will be purchased and installed on the current fence lines to help prevent future damage. The new fence will be constructed with wildlife-friendly specs and include two designated wildlife crossings to reduce further entanglements and damage. The landowner will contribute labor and equipment to install the new fence.

The project was approved for up to \$5,500 for fence materials and two rolls of high-visibility wire from the committee inventory.

Sutherland Fence Project - Lynn Sutherland

Lynn is asking the committee for \$2,600 for materials to replace 0.5 miles of fence on her property. Big game crossing and flooding have decimated the existing fence beyond repair. The new fence will be constructed to wildlife-friendly specs to reduce entanglements and further damage. The landowner will contribute labor and equipment to build the new fence.

The project was approved for up to \$2,600 for fence materials and two rolls of high-visibility wire from the committee inventory.

Dugan Ranch Water Redevelopment - Carol Lee Dugan

Carol asked the committee for \$8,500 to pay a contractor to repair a water development on the Latter Pasture. A spring on the forest service property has provided water historically. However, the existing pipeline has been damaged and is no longer functional, leaving the pasture unusable in grazing rotations. The water development will provide a critical year-round source for livestock and big game in the area. The landowner, BLM, and Forest Service will contribute funding, materials, and labor to the project. **The project was approved for up to \$8,500 for labor and materials.**

North Tracy Pipeline Project- George Whitten

George asked the committee for \$14,190 for pipe to be installed on the BLM allotment. The existing pipeline is old and not functioning. Water is being hauled in to supply livestock and big game, and it is not sustainable in the long term. The project will improve livestock distribution and promote grazing use in forage areas that are not utilized. An additional stock tank will be added to increase availability. Overall, the pipeline project extends 5 miles. A portion will be replaced, and the remaining will be repaired. It will eliminate the historical reliance on a private spring nearby and ensure a viable water source. George will contribute \$13,750 in materials and labor to install. Front Range Grazing Advisory Board will contribute \$6,140 for materials. BLM will also contribute \$6,059 for materials. **The project was approved for up to \$14,190 for pipeline to be installed on the BLM allotment.**

August 16, 2023, Admin Note: The original quote was no longer valid, and the vendor advised of a \$3,570 increase for the materials. The committee approved the increase via email. The updated project amount is \$17,760.

Remaining Committee Business

Meeting Schedule -

The next SLV HPP Committee meeting is TBD.

Roundtable

Robert Getz and Susan Pierce-Platais brought a potential fencing project to the committee on an in-holding property that Robert recently purchased. Historically, the fencing has not been maintained, and they would like to install 2 miles of wildlife-friendly fence to restrict cattle on neighboring properties from entering. No hunting is allowed on the in-holding, and there are no known big game conflicts in the area.

Admin note: The project was mistakenly added to the earlier Mount Blanca meeting. Because of this error, the committee could not formally vote on the project. However, the committee did not support the project due to the lack of big game conflict and zero hunting access. Robert was recommended to monitor any big game conflicts and contact DWM Jeremy Gallegos for further assistance/recommendations.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m.