



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way
February 15, 2017
5:00PM

Introductions: **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Mark Lowrey/BLM, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, Darby Finley/CPW and Mark Voloshin.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented the committee with a starting budget of \$35,069.72. A number of projects have already been completed; evaluations were made available for members to review if interested.

Old Business: The minutes from January 10th were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Voloshin Ranch Spring Development: Mark Voloshin presented a pipeline project to the committee. His ranch is SE of Craig in unit 13 and he already has a well with good production. He'd like to build a pipeline and install two tanks so as to achieve better distribution of livestock and wildlife over his 1200 acres. Ideally after project completion the upper ranch would hold elk for as long as possible before they migrate to the West. Evan pointed out that the elk create issues around the golf course and CR35 when they decide to stay for the winter. The committee asked Mark to complete an application and bring maps to the meeting in March so they can vote on the project then.

Elk, Livestock, and Rangeland; A Collaborative Approach to Complex Issues: Darby Finley explained that he is currently working with Dinosaur National Monument on a collaring project that would determine livestock vs. elk distribution inside the monument. They're looking to collar 30 elk and 4 lead heifers to get an idea of range uses. Asking RMEF for \$25k and HPP for \$15k; HPP funds would cover capture costs. RMEF funds still pending and he's not certain what would happen if they fell through. The project would begin January of 2018. Pat said it sounds like a DNM grazing issue and the monument complicates things. Darby expressed that if they can demonstrate elk are using the area as a refuge they might push for licenses there. The committee expressed their concerns that the project might not be a good fit for HPP and that a conflict needed to be laid out.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Pat explained that there has been a lot of discussion surrounding HPP appropriate projects. The Council has been just as guilty of approving projects outside the program's scope. By July 1st the State Council would like to have clear guidelines laid out.

Darby informed members that they did capture enough elk to replace the 21 collars; back up to 135 collared animals. In April he'll do some more analysis and report back to the committee.

Fence Voucher Landowner List: Samantha let the committee know she'd been receiving updates and made the appropriate changes to the landowner list. She also presented members with a conflict form and verified the committees' desire to use the form moving forward. Samantha will rework the form to reflect the committees' requests.

Gary Nichols revisited the license fee increase since he was unable to attend the last meeting. Gary mentioned that the guys he'd been speaking with had expressed they would be against fees doubling all at once. Pat reassured him that that scenario was off the table. Gary went on to say he wished that Colorado would look at what other states are doing; for example the sales tax in Missouri supports conservation of fish, forest and wildlife.

Pat let the committee know December 5, 6 and 7 will be the annual State Council meeting in Grand Junction. HPP pays for attendees.

The next Northwest CO meeting was scheduled for March 14th at 6:00PM. Voloshin's spring development and Darby's collaring project may be revisited then.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:23PM.