



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**CPW Area Office-0088 Wildlife Way in Glenwood Springs, CO**  
**Thursday January 12, 2017**  
**1:00pm**

**Introductions:** Members attending the meeting were: Hilary Boyd/BLM, Darren Chacon/CPW, Pat Luark/Landowner, Scot Doderer/Landowner, Rick Bumgardner/Sportsperson and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Matt Yamashita/CPW, Brian Gray/CPW, Bob Timberman/USFWS, Pat Tucker/HPP Coordinator, Fred Kuersten and John Powers.

**General Public Comments:** N/A

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented a beginning budget of \$85,707.50. The committee was informed of completed projects and that evaluations were available for them to read if they were interested. Hilary Boyd gave a brief update on the BLM Pump Gulch PJ Removal; there was an appeal to the EA and they're waiting on the results before moving forward.

**Old Business:** The committee approved minutes from the September 8th, 2016 meeting.

Pat Luark's Aeration Proposal: The project was never proposed to the committee because it was to take place in sage grouse habitat and deemed non-beneficial by Liza Rossi. Pat Tucker explained that had they been dealing with Gunnison Sage Grouse it would have been a definitive no; projects need to be neutral to sage grouse. Pat Luark pointed out that the same had been said about hydro axe but they did the project anyway and it showed positive results. He chose to move forward with this project as well and will discuss the results with the committee come June.

**New Business:** Powers Fencing Phase II: Matt Yamashita began by introducing Bob Timberman, John Powers and Fred Kuersten. He went on to explain that the property falls within deer and elk winter range and definitely gets used; Fisher Creek is a major migration corridor. There are cattle on the property a portion of the year and John explained they're trying to improve forage for wildlife by keeping grazing cattle off public land. Darren explained that if the committee were to approve the project they could only provide materials at a maximum of \$1.25/foot. John explained that they were made aware of the cap but it just hadn't been changed on the application, Fred pointed out that the length of the fence is actually closer to 5,000 feet. Bob stated that USFWS agreed to contribute \$9200.00 toward the project and mentioned that the fence line will not be taken down to the soil like it had been on Phase I. Darren and Bob stressed that wildlife friendly specifications needed to be followed. The committee approved to reimburse John Powers up to \$6250.00 for 5,000 feet worth of fence materials.

All remaining projects on the agenda were tabled for a later date.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Darren informed the committee that member Brian Sewell was stepping down and since that would still leave them with 3 livestock grower representatives there would be no need to seek a replacement. However the Lower Colorado requires that 2 livestock grower representatives are needed in order to establish a quorum and therefore attendance will be that much more important moving forward. Rick made mention that he may need to step down at some point in the future due to a conflict of interest.

John Powers and Fred Kuersten left the meeting at 1:30PM.

**License Fee Increase:** Darren started the conversation by explaining the 3 possible options: leave resident fees as is and continue to make cuts, increase fees slightly to maintain current programs or increase fees to a point that would accommodate future programs. Public concerns included length of time in-between increases and separation of funds. Pat Luark stated his belief that there are places where cuts could be made but residents are getting a bargain. He added that non-resident license fees should be left alone since those hunters bring a lot of money into the state, Scot Doderer agreed. Pat Tucker pointed out that the increase would only pertain to resident licenses, there's nothing set yet but word got out that fees might double which is all hearsay. Legislature started yesterday and meetings were held around the state to allow for public comment. His guess is any increase would be gradual and tied to the cost of living index. Pat Luark asked if a letter could be written on the committee's behalf. Pat Tucker said he'd encourage individuals to write a letter instead and that this topic was placed on the agenda just to make everyone aware and that he'd keep them posted. Samantha will forward materials to committee members.

**Cedar Mountain Big Game Enhancement:** Brian Gray informed the committee that he and Hilary plan to submit a large project proposal in the near future. They hope to have additional funding in place before bringing the proposal to HPP next summer. They're looking to start in July sometime so funds would come out of fiscal year 2018.

**USFWS Funding:** Bob Timberman spoke about the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program as an additional funding source for habitat projects.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00pm in either Eagle or Gypsum.

**Roundtable:** Pat Tucker mentioned he's interested to see how many competing uses can go on the Crown. The State Council has discussed, as an emerging topic, whether funding projects in recreational areas are a good use of funds. Pat Luark stated that if you have habitat and improvements are made, it benefits wildlife period. Hilary Boyd expressed that she doesn't want to write an area off just because there's mountain biking; Hilary encouraged Pat Tucker to attend when Kristy presents her proposal. Pat Tucker added that they'll be hearing more from the State Council about the types of projects HPP should be funding; big game/ag conflicts need to be present.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.