



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**South Park Committee**  
**January 26th, 2017**  
**Fairplay Fair Barn**

**Committee members present:**

- John Woodward, Livestock grower (via phone)
- Tyler Stoltzfus, CPW
- Webb Smith, Livestock grower
- Randy Tingle, Sports person
- Christine Cloninger, BLM
- Steve Allard, Livestock grower
- Sheila Lamb, USFS

**Administrator:** Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

**Guests:** Dennis Springer (Landowner), Karl Copeman (Wildlife Technician), Ty Anderson (Wildlife Technician), Daniele Garner (Landowner), Ian Petkash (DWM), Scott Murdoch (DWM),

Meeting called to order by John Woodward at 10:00 AM

**General Public Comments**

None

**Budget Report**

2017 budget report was reviewed

**Old Business**

Outstanding projects were reviewed. All projects are still projected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Fence material stockpile is still relatively full, so the committee may not need to order many more materials for this fiscal year.

**New Business**

**Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

**Update on license fee increase discussion-Tyler Stoltzfus, Randy Tingle**

There have been no license fee increases yet, but CPW has held public meetings and discussions involving the possibility of a license fee increase to cover the rising cost of operations. The topic has made the Governor's agenda for legislation this year. CPW is still in the process of finding a sponsor for the bill. License fees have not been increased since 2005. Part of the discussion is whether or not the bill should include a

change to the process of adjusting license fees. Currently this can only be done through legislation, but it may be more beneficial to allow the wildlife commission to make the decision to increase or decrease a license fee. The decision on whether or not to increase fees and how much to increase them will be up to the legislature, not CPW.

### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

#### **Fence project-Dennis Springer, Tyler Stoltzfus**

Denis Springer is asking HPP for \$4,697 for fencing materials that will be used to construct two miles of new fence. Dennis has corner posts already (\$420 value) and will be constructing the fence himself (~80 hrs labor). HPP will pay for the cost of t-posts and rolls of wire. Dennis is leasing this plot of land from State Land Board, but there are no reliable water sources in the area. State Land Board has agreed to split the cost of a new well on the leased property, contingent on Dennis building a perimeter fence. The new well will improve grazing management and wildlife distribution, and will reduce the need for wildlife to cross the road to access water. SLB has agreed to drill the well, and Dennis will install the fence, solar panels, pump, tank, and any other necessary equipment.

The committee voiced concerns about wildlife getting stuck in the fences while trying to access the new water source. There are mostly Pronghorn on the property, but occasionally they will get elk. The committee will require the fence to be wildlife friendly with the following parameters: smooth bottom wire at least 18" off of the ground with three rows of barbed wire above; top two wires should have 12" of spacing between them; fence should be no more than 42" high. Dennis has agreed to these parameters.

**The project was approved for \$4,697 contingent on the completion of the well. Dennis has agreed to the contingency and will purchase the fencing materials, and will only be reimbursed on completion of the well.**

#### **South Park Ranger District Fence Removal-Sheila Lamb**

This project aims to remove 5 miles of old fence from the Buffalo Peaks area. The fence is hazardous for wildlife and they have been getting tangled in the old barbed wire. There is 30 miles of mapped fence that needs to be removed, so this smaller section will be the first phase. The USFS will apply for a large grant (\$10K) from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, but they need to get a commitment from HPP as a cooperator before returning the grant application. Sheila is asking HPP for \$5,000 that would be used in fiscal year 2018. USFS will also contribute \$5,000 to the project. The funds would be used to pay a contractor for removal of old wire and fence posts where applicable. The cost is estimated at \$0.75/foot and includes labor, vehicles, and hauling.

**The project was approved for \$5,000 for fiscal year 2018, contingent on approval of funding from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. A formal HPP application will be completed upon approval from RMEF.**

#### **Pettee Ranch Fencing project-Daniele Garner, Tyler Stoltzfus**

Daniele is asking HPP for \$2,000 for fencing materials (t-posts, barbed wire, white vinyl wire and wood stays) and labor to replace ¼ mile of fence. There is a section of old fence on the property that needs to be replaced. There have been so many patches on the fence that it is over 5 ft tall in some areas and is not wildlife friendly. Daniele Garner will remove all old fence posts and wire, and Rafael Esparza will be contracted to install new H-braces. Rafael will charge \$200/h-brace, and there are 3

h-braces that need to be replaced. Elk cross this fence often, so the fence will have high visibility top wire and wood stays to prevent the Yaks on the property from pushing the fence up and escaping. Daniele will provide labor for removing the old fence and building the new one (~48 hrs). She still has some fence supplies leftover from a previous project and will use what she has left for the new fence. HPP can pay for \$600 for the contractor to install h-braces, \$600 for t-posts and barbed wire, and will supply white vinyl wire and wood stays from the SPHPP stockpile (\$460 value). The committee requires that the fence is no more than 42” high with high visibility wire on top. They also recommend using insulators on the high visibility wire so that the height can be adjusted in necessary. **The project was approved for \$1,200 reimbursed to Daniele plus white vinyl wire and wood stays from the SPHPP stockpile (approximately \$460 value).**

#### **Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion**

The committee has a spinning jenny that can be checked out by landowners for fence work. The committee is unsure who currently has it, but Tyler Stoltzfus will figure out where it is.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM

The next meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Fairplay Community Center

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