



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Gypsum Public Library, 47 Lundgren Blvd. Gypsum, CO
Thursday July 13, 2017
1:30pm

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: Hilary Boyd/BLM, DWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower, Phil Nyland/USFS, Rick Bumgardner/Sportsman and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting were:** DWM Brian Gray/CPW, DWM Brian Wodrich/CPW, Steve Hammer, Kristy Wallner/BLM and Fred Kuersten.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget Report: Samantha presented committee members with a fiscal year 2017 and 2018 budget report. Hilary gave an update on the Pump Gulch project.

Old Business: Minutes from the meeting held on May 10, 2017 were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Cedar Mountain Habitat Enhancement: Hilary Boyd and Brian Gray presented the proposal. The project site is located north of Rifle Gap and would include hydro-ax and lop and scatter treatments that would open up the area for big game. There are a lot of partners involved. Lop and scatter pre-bid tour was this AM and bids are due a week from Friday. This area is a lot denser, that's why it's \$400/acre. They could potentially have a crew in by August. The same company would be awarded both portions but they are not moving forward with hydro ax bids until they know how much they're getting for lop and scatter funding. Scot Doderer gave his proxy vote to Samantha and he was in support of the project. The committee approved \$50,185.00.

Canyon Creek Habitat Improvements: Proposal was not presented.

Piffer Fence: Proposal was not presented.

Basalt SWA Fence: Darren presented the proposal on behalf of Matt Yamashita and Chris Reiling. The old perimeter fence is in disrepair. Livestock are causing conflict when they leave the private parcel, travel through the neighboring USFS and then graze on the wildlife plots. They've impacted irrigation ditches and breached the dam. The contractor is losing ½ of the bigger bales when haying. The permittee tries to keep the cattle off but has been unsuccessful. Pat Tucker is on the fence but Perry Will and Ron Velarde were okay with it. Darren abstained. The committee approved \$14,190.00 for the project.

Powers Fence Phase III: Fred Kuersten presented the proposal. John Powers would like to build a fence on the property line bordering CMC. Fred mentioned he'd spoken with someone who said there was a grazing allotment on the neighboring BLM and without the fence cattle could trespass onto the Powers property via CMC. Hilary and Kristy were not aware of any grazing allotments in the area. Fred spoke with HP in Silt who said the allotment is grazed every couple of years. Darren read DWM Matt Yamashita's comments on the project. He asked the committee, "If there's no conflict then does the fence really help with management objectives?" Hilary stated that the best fence for wildlife is no fence and they've been taking out fences that are not needed, hard to imagine spending money on a new one that is not needed. Rick said he could see possibly paying \$2k to roll up old wire. Darren and Phil suggested Fred get together with Matt to see if the proposal could be reworked in order to get his backing. Consensus on the project could not be reached, the proposal was not approved. Kristy pointed out that fence materials are also available through the BLM.

Hales Flat Water Saver and Pond Maintenance: Kristy Wallner, Steve Hammer and Brian Wodrich presented the proposal to the committee. The project site is located in the Greenhorn Mountain and Upper Cottonwood area on the north end of the allotment. Steve drove Kristy around to see the ponds. Sage is growing in the water saver. There is close, easy access and it waters a big chunk of ground. Joe Johnson spring is still a reliable source. Plan to install infiltrators, change box, re-pipe, doze, and seed the area around the spring. Brian pointed out that the water table is drying up and it is getting harder for wildlife, water could improve habitat in the area. Steve stated that they are moving water away from the source to harder ground and plans to have a bigger holding pond than Red Dirt allotment. From the pond the water will go to a tire tank with a float. Pond and catchment will be fenced in, would also like to keep it locked. Phil suggested installing an escape route for animals. The committee approved \$13,592.00 for the project.

Fence and Herbicide Vouchers: The committee chose to approve the same amount for vouchers. \$11,200.00 for fence and \$10,000.00 for herbicide.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: HPP Expansion: Samantha provided committee members with a memo on the changes. There were no questions.

HMP Discussions: There were no suggestions for changes. DAUs will be presented to the committee in the fall.

FY17 Evaluations: Samantha let committee members know that she would send out evaluations via email once she receives them all, just waiting on one more.

The next meeting will be held on September 7th at 1:00pm in Glenwood Springs.

Roundtable: Samantha pointed out that HPP applications have changed and it's always best to download applications directly from the website rather than using versions that might be saved on a computer.

Phil might do a fall burn in Cattle Creek.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM.