



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way**  
**July 18, 2017**  
**6:00PM**

**Introductions:** **Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson, Curtis Keetch/USFS and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests attending the meeting were:** Mike Swaro/CPW, Stan Sjostrom, Sean Durham, Trevor Balzer/CPW and John Charchalis.

**General Public Comments:** N/A

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented committee members with a fiscal year 2017 and 2018 budget report.

**Old Business:** The minutes from March 14th were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** Interview/Elect Livestock Grower Applicant Sean Durham: Sean explained to the committee that he has a strong sportsmen and Ag interest. He understands that conflicts exist, interested in what's going on and mitigating those conflicts. He's a CPA where most of his work is with area ranchers or farmers, also ranches with his Dad. The meeting schedule would work with his, plus he lives close by. The committee nominated Sean as a livestock grower representative.

Lynch Creek Hydro-axe: Trevor Balzer presented the proposal to the committee. He explained that the project site is up Morapos. Davy Cox provided him with a hydro-axe quote, there's not very easy access. CPW Habitat money is from Auction & Raffle. Public hunting is allowed through Wounded Warriors plus Kids, Cancer & Cowboys. The habitat treatment would likely attract big game and take pressure off of meadows. The committee approved \$9,375.00 for the project.

West Axial Winter Range Enhancement Phase II/Ken B: Board members did not feel it was necessary to have Trevor explain his proposal since it's the same concept as last year. Nick Charchalis will do all of the disking on Bekedahl's place. The committee approved \$3,900.00 for the project.

East Axial Winter Range Enhancement Phase II/John C: Trevor Balzer presented the project to the committee, proposing the same thing as last year. Disking and seeding will take place on 425 acres this year. The Mule Deer Strategy contributing \$38k. It will be three to four years before results will start to show. The goal is to bring the mule deer population up. Currently there are huge fields of grass with no cover. John Charchalis plans to do all of the disking and seeding this year. The committee approved \$13,972.50 for the project.

East Axial Winter Range Enhancement Phase II/Nick C: Board members did not feel it was necessary to have Trevor explain his proposal since it's the same concept as last year. The committee approved \$6,355.00 for the project.

Elkhead Ranch Brush Mastication: Proposal was not presented.

Castor Gulch Spring Development Phase III: Stan presented the proposal to the committee, which is the third and final phase of the project. Tanks have been running for 2 years and they've already noticed a change in distribution. Seasonally feeding off Jake's spring for now but eventually will be stand alone and will stay on for wildlife. Stan guessed that Jake's lease is for 10 years. Stan will be the one doing all the work, HPP would reimburse Kenny Glass. Evan mentioned that there are some resident elk and that he's had several growing hay claims in the area. It would be good to see the project to the end. Sean felt it would benefit public land and hunting as well. The committee approved \$10,500.00 for the project.

MJK/Murdochs Fence Vouchers: The committee approved up to \$45,000.00 for vouchers this year. For the next meeting Samantha was asked to provide members with the last 5 years of spending history and a list of landowners who did not redeem vouchers in FY17. Samantha let everyone know she's already been receiving a lot of conflict forms for this year's vouchers. She had a question regarding acreage and the committee decided that the 160 acre minimum pertains to private land but that any questionable forms should be brought to a meeting for discussion.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** HPP Expansion: Committee members were provided with a memo outlining the changes and there was a brief discussion on management objectives and the state council's reasoning for the expansion.

Everyone received completed FY17 evaluations via email and decided there was no need to discuss any further.

**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.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.