



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
BLM Field Office in Kremmling, CO
March 15th, 2017
1:00 pm

Introductions: Members present: Doreen Sumerlin/USFS, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, Duane Scholl/Chairman, AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Barry Smith/Sportsperson, RC Lopez/BLM and Samantha Sorensen/Admin. **Guests present:** DWM Jeromy Huntington, DWM Rachel Sralla, DWM Gene Abrams, Toni Toelle/BLM, Kirk Oldham/CPW, Amy Sidener/Grand Co. DNR, Han Smith, Chris and Dave Sammons.

It was pointed out that RC had been officially nominated as the new BLM representative.

General Public Comments: Barry made mention that he may not be a Grand County resident for much longer and might step down in six months or so.

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report that indicated there was \$77,655.65 remaining. However there would be \$82,655.65 remaining if the \$5,000.00 allocated to the second hunt coordinator were unencumbered, non-opposed.

Old Business: Minutes: Minutes from the meeting held on December 7th, 2016 were presented to committee members and approved as written.

Clover Survey Summary: Tabled

New Business: Pronghorn DAU Plan: Kirk Oldham gave a presentation on Middle Park's pronghorn DAU plan. After beginning with a brief historical overview Kirk explained that they're looking to incorporate 15, 26 and 231 into the DAU. 70% of pronghorn are on private property. 630 animals was the goal, currently at 850. Kirk would like to see pressure increase on private lands to help manage the population. Pronghorn's choice of forage may explain lack of game damage claims. Kirk explained that they are trying to determine where to go from here and he briefly went over results from public meetings, surveys and postcards; he also discussed some of the alternatives. The committee decided to give their official stance at the June meeting.

Rusty Spurr Ranch Water Development: Han Smith presented applications to the committee and explained that he'd been working with Mark Volt on the proposal. Han asked the

committee for funding assistance on a water development project that would offer year-round water for wildlife and seasonal water for livestock. The tire tank would provide a continuous source for deer and elk in the winter when human activity is non-existent, while storing back flow in the pond provides a more appealing, sheltered watering spot for wildlife when more human activity is present. Lyle voiced his support for the project and it was pointed out that Mark had already prepped the committee at the last meeting. The committee approved \$5,400.00 for the project.

2017 MPCD Clover Seeding: Samantha provided committee members with copies of an application Mark Volt had completed. Lyle explained to the committee that Mark was asking for funding to do his annual clover seeding project. Duane voiced that he believed it was one of the most cost effective projects. The committee approved \$5,000.00 for the project.

BLM Programmatic Rx Burn: Toni Toelle presented the committee with a project summary, and explained that she'd been in front of two other committees already; NWCO gave their approval on January 10th and White River on January 18th. "The intent of asking for State funding and not local committee contribution is solely based on the concept that the money could be used on any of the six prescribed burn locations depending upon which comes into prescription during the two year period the funding is available." She plans to ask State Council for 41%, BLM would cover the rest. Middle Park prescribed burns would include Dry Gulch and Inspiration Point; they're getting ready to move forward on Dry Gulch next month. Toni also explained that depending on what the council decides and which burns move forward she may need to return to the local committees to ask for funding. The committee unanimously approved Toni's request to seek funding from the HPP State Council.

Hartman Divide PJ Removal: Toni explained that she'd taken over the project after Darren Long left. Because of where they're at with NEPA she's not willing to commit as much money and so she did not apply for the HPP grant. She presented the committee with an application that requested \$20,000 from HPP instead of the \$15,000 Darren had already received approval for. Kirk voiced his support for a mosaic pattern. Toni confirmed that the other contributors were all established. Doreen pointed out that it could be good to present the project's results at a future statewide meeting if Toni were willing. The committee approved \$20,000.00 for the project out of next year's budget, fiscal year 2018.

Barry Smith left the meeting at 2:55PM.

Grand County Noxious Weed Control: Amy gave a brief rundown of 2016. She had 3 seasonal employees and she took care of mapping. Total wetted amounted to approximately 400 acres and they sprayed everything twice. They started some treatments in late April and sprayed through October. The committee agreed that the program has been successful and 49% of the work is contracted by other partners. The committee approved \$17,000.00 for the project.

Herbicide Vouchers: Amy explained that the herbicide giveaway went 3 months longer and fall is the best time to treat Canada thistle. They used 1,730 gallons of product, up 500 gallons from previous year. She pointed out that there are no other counties in Colorado that conduct a giveaway like they do. They no longer rent out equipment however the chemical is clearly labeled and they do provide landowners with instructions and warnings, etc. Duane is the biggest proponent of vouchers. The committee approved \$15,000 for the project.

Chris Sammons Winter Forage Conflict: Chris and Dave Sammons came to the committee for guidance and support on a winter forage conflict. Chris explained that their property neighbors BLM land that is poorly managed and as a result they've experience game damage from elk and geese. It was made clear that CPW and HPP are not liable for goose damage. In the winter they've had elk damage their fence but the BLM has already rebuilt the fence. In the summer they experience forage loss from geese. No consensus has been reached on forage management and their ultimate goal is to partner with the BLM. They asked the committee for their support in encouraging the BLM to better manage the forage so they don't bear the brunt of game damage. It was mentioned that HPP could help facilitate and RC could verbalize committee support. Dave Hammer left at 3:35PM but first voiced his support. Lyle offered to write a letter and get Duane's signature.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Deadlines-End of Fiscal Year: Samantha pointed out that purchase orders need to be submitted by May 23rd, game damage materials need to be ordered by June 1st and the fiscal year ends June 30th.

Dixie Harrow: It was decided that the topic no longer needed to be discussed.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Livestock Grower Interviews.

Roundtable: Chuck pointed out that he talked with Monte Linke about a stackyard request. Lyle explained that it's a game damage issue that needs to be dealt with by the agency. Lyle told Monte that he'd ask if game damage would be willing to provide gates and posts only. Chuck voiced concern about how the committee is to know for certain whether chemical/fence made it on to applicant's property. He also asked Amy if there is a 640 acre minimum for herbicide vouchers; she said no but that they could start verifying acreage with the assessor's office.

General discussion on stackyards and distribution hunts.

Doreen provided the committee with a treatment graph from Doug Myhre's Oxeye Daisy project. She explained that moving forward he'd probably only seek funding from the committee every other year. Doreen asked Samantha to email the graph to the other committee members. Samantha had already emailed the graph to members on 3/7/17.

Duane will be stepping down after serving on the committee since 1990. Chuck asked who they can ask to replace Duane and Lyle explained that they need to be a Livestock Grower.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15pm.