



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

August 22nd, 2018

Oscar's Restaurant

6:00 PM- 9:00 PM

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### Committee members Present:

- Ron Garcia, *USFWS Representative*
- Alvin Kunugi, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Mike Maldonado, *Sportsperson Representative*
- Paul Minow, *BLM Representative*
- Roy Oliver, *Livestock Growers Representative*
- Brian Bechaver, *CPW Representative*
- Ty Ryland, *Livestock Growers Representative*

**Administrators:** Hanna Cook

**Guest:** Kelli Poole (Tech), Conrad Albert (DWM), Jacob Robinson (Fence Contractor-Over The Top Fencing), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator)

### Budget Report

The 2019 budget report was reviewed.

### Old Business

Evaluations are due. If they are not entered by end of next week all committee operations will be put on hold.

Annual projects can be approved in advance. This will help to ensure that programs such as fence vouchers, contractors, etc. are not put on hold until the committee has their first meeting of the year, and instead they can begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### New Business

#### Project Application Proposals and Reviews

##### Fence Contractor-Jacob Robinson, Brian Bechaver

The committee would like to hire a fence contractor to repair fences on properties that are experiencing damage from big game. Landowners in need of fence repair will contact their local DWM, and the DWM will contact the fence contractor to go to that property. Jacob Robinson is the proposed contractor, and he has agreed that after receiving approval from the DWM he will contact the landowners before going on their property. When a DWM gives Jacob approval, they are verifying that the fence damage was caused by big game, and that it is a wildlife friendly fence (i.e. HPP funds will not pay for repair to exclusionary fences or fences deemed not wildlife friendly). This program is not intended to re-design fences. Jacob can install white

vinyl wire (provided by the committee) if the landowner agrees to it, but otherwise the fence will be repaired to its original design. Landowners who are interested in rebuilding their fences with a wildlife friendly design can contact the committee for funding and design assistance.

When Jacob contacts landowners to set up an appointment, he will ask them if they have any fencing materials that can be used for the repairs. If they do not have materials, then the committee will provide some. Jacob will be given a voucher that can be used at the Monte Vista Co-op to get necessary materials. Jacob will record on his time sheet whether committee materials were used or not. The committee agreed that the wages will be consistent with hunt coordinator wages, so Jacob will be paid \$25/hr plus allowable mileage. The committee requests that Jacob take before and after pictures that will be sent along with time sheets each month. The committee will create a contract that should be signed by Jacob and the committee chair before work begins.

**The project was approved for \$10,000, with the option to revisit it and increase the project amount once funds have been depleted.**

#### Forage Purchases-Conrad Albert

The committee continued previous discussions regarding forage purchases. The majority of the members of the committee feel that forage purchases through the HPP committee are currently the best way to solve landowner conflicts in his area, particularly the Columbian Ranch Forage Purchase that has been funded annually. Very large herds of elk frequent the area, and providing a refuge for them through a forage purchase reduces damage to neighboring properties. The committee agrees that other avenues should be explored where possible, but for now this is the best option while landowners, DWMs, and committee members explore new possibilities. Conrad agreed to visit the Columbian Ranch and he and the landowner will evaluate and discuss an appropriate dollar amount for this year's forage purchase. If the landowner and Conrad are able to come to an agreement for a reasonable amount, then Conrad will bring that proposal to the committee for approval. The committee has given Conrad approval to offer the landowner a forage purchase, contingent on the two of them coming to an agreement on a dollar amount. At that time, the committee will hold a conference call to vote on funding.

**The project has been tabled until a dollar amount is agreed on.**

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

The Hunt Coordinator contract needs to be updated to include fence repair duties. Per the discussion at the last meeting, hunt coordinators can now bill HPP for time spent repairing fences that were damaged as a result of dispersal hunts. Time stamped before and after photos will be required. A signature line will be added to time sheets for Conrad to approve time spent on fence repairs. Hunt coordinators will be expected to provide their own tools for fence repair.

The committee revisited its discussion regarding the requirement that all landowners attend meetings when they are requesting funding. Some projects (i.e. forage purchases) are a result of negotiations between the DWM and the landowner. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the committee does not feel that it is necessary to require landowner attendance for long-term projects that are conducted on an annual basis. The committee agrees that it is not necessary for landowners to come in if their projects are unchanged year to year. Pat Tucker agreed that this was appropriate, and approved this decision. In the case of forage purchases, fence vouchers, and other similar projects the committee will waive the landowner

attendance requirement and will rely on the DWM to negotiate dollar amounts before coming to the committee for funding. **The landowner and DWM are in agreement that negotiated amounts are contingent on committee approval, and are not guaranteed until the committee has heard the proposal and voted on it at a publicly noticed meeting.** The committee will still require that landowners attend meetings when requesting funding for new projects (i.e. projects that are not done annually, or annual projects that have changed).

White vinyl wire is still available at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Committee stockpile materials cannot be taken unless a voucher is filled out completely and sent to Hanna Cook.

Conrad has spoken to a landowner about getting a reimbursement from the committee for labor he completed on his own fence in the amount of \$375. This was not an approved project, and project funding needs to be requested from the committee before any work is done. Projects must be on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting in order to be voted on and funded. Though the current HMP contains language that allows it, there is currently no committee program in place that reimburses landowners for labor done on their own properties. However, Conrad can give him a fence voucher to get fence materials to help offset the cost. The committee agreed that Conrad will give the landowner a fence materials voucher for \$375.

**Next meeting: TBD**

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