



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**RMNP Kawuneeche Visitor Center in Grand Lake, CO**  
**March 14, 2018**  
**1:00 pm**

**Introductions:** **Members present:** Doreen Sumerlin/USFS, Chuck Alexander/Livestock Grower, Dave Hammer/Livestock Grower, Doug Bruchez/Livestock Grower, AWM Lyle Sidener/CPW, Barry Smith/Sportsperson, John Mack/NPS, RC Lopez/BLM and Samantha Sorensen/Admin.

**Guests present:** Amy Sidener/GCDNR, Katlin Miller/MPCD, DWM Rachel Sralla, DWM Gene Abrams, DWM Jeff Behncke and DWM Jeromy Huntington.

**General Public Comments:** N/A

**Budget:** Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance was \$48,640.85.

**Old Business:** Minutes: Minutes from December 13<sup>th</sup> were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** Clover Seeding: Katlin reminded the committee that they've been doing this project since 2009. HPP pays for the seed and MPCD passes it out to landowners. They've always used their entire inventory. Seed comes in the first week of April and landowners start calling, they've never had to advertise. Katlin was given the green light to order whatever she felt was most appropriate. It was pointed out that the program continues to be a benefit to sage grouse and big game. Doug felt that after the committee spends \$20k plus on weeds each year that the seed giveaway is a no brainer since it encourages landowners to seed areas they've disturbed. Ultimately the committee decided to approve \$7,500.00 for the project.

Herbicide Vouchers: Amy Sidener presented committee members with a voucher report from last fiscal year. She reminded committee members that the 640 acre minimum was a new requirement as of last year. As a result there were some individuals who had qualified in years past but were now no longer eligible. The committee stated that multiple properties may partner together to reach the 640 acre minimum. Amy explained that it's convenient to send landowners to Northwest because she doesn't have the room to store the additional herbicide. The committee approved \$15,000.00 for the project.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Pronghorn DAU Comment Letter: Tabled. Samantha asked Lyle to let her know when it to include the topic on a future agenda.

Sportsperson Representative: Barry is still unsure of when he'll be leaving Hot Sulphur Springs. The committee decided to hold off on advertising a vacancy until after Barry has solidified his plans. There were a few individuals named who had expressed interest in joining the committee.

Fence Voucher Procedures/Concerns: Chuck pointed out to his fellow committee members that the same individuals were receiving and redeeming a \$500 voucher every year. He wanted to know if game damage is verified or if the handouts have become automatic. Jeff indicated that it varies depending on the situation. Doug pointed out that the extra voucher amount helps to offset the labor involved. Landowners would file more game damage claims without access to the vouchers. Dave felt it was fine that the vouchers had become automatic; it's a good way for the agency to make peace. Gene chimed in that if a landowner like Dave calls then he wouldn't even question giving him a voucher.

Agenda Items for 6/13 Meeting: Reclamation Seeding Program, MPCD Weed Brochures, Dixie Harrow post-treatment results. Food will be served at the June meeting. There was talk of possibly doing another project tour as well.

**Roundtable:** Chuck asked about Middle Park gates and whether or not they were still being utilized. Jim Yust was the last person to receive one but they're still an option for projects.

Committee agreed that lay down fence is a good addition to fence projects and that they should promote them moving forward.

John let everyone know that they will begin collaring moose inside the park. 20 collars will be used. He also mentioned that they are meeting objectives for elk.

Dave gave everyone a quick rundown of the wolf meeting.

Lyle mentioned that Kirk Oldham's collars are out and collecting data. They are still trying to fill his position.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:27pm.