



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
RMNP Kawuneeche Visitor Center-Grand Lake, CO
April 2, 2019
1:00 pm

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

Guests present: DWM Gene Abrams, DWM Rachel Sralla, Buck McNichols, Shawn and Conway Farrell.

General Public Comments: N/A

Budget: Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget was \$70,650.80. Doug wondered if there was a better way to communicate the PO deadline; it was decided that a short announcement at stock grower's meetings and word of mouth would work best. Chuck voiced some confusion over the budget report; fellow committee members gave him an explanation.

Old Business: Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 12 were presented and approved with two minor corrections from Doreen.

New Business: Shadow Creek Ranch Fencing: Buck McNichols presented committee members with applications and explained that he'd partnered with the USFS on clear cutting approximately 100 acres. Prior to the timber removal there had been too much dead fall for livestock to navigate; but now they need a fence to prevent livestock from trespassing onto USFS property. Buck asked for funding to build approximately 3500 feet of lay down fence; there are natural barriers on both ends of proposed fence line. Rachel touched on Buck's commitment to make fence wildlife friendly. There was a question as to whether the Forest Service would help fund the project but Doreen pointed out that the agency doesn't help pay for boundary fences. The committee approved a 50/50 cost share not to exceed \$15,000.00. Lyle mentioned that it might be a good project to tour with the State Council in July.

Gore Pass Ranch Tire Tanks: Conway Farrell distributed maps to committee members. He explained the need for water in the area, near Buffalo Park, especially in dry years. The project would include the installation of 6 tire tanks in 3 different locations. His plan would be to run water as long as possible and use a bypass in the winter. Entire project would take place on private property and Gene stated the benefits for wildlife. The committee approved up to

\$5,000/site not to exceed \$15,000.00. Lyle mentioned that CPW has a conservation easement on the property.

Herbicide Vouchers: Lyle explained that the program is a committee initiated project that has been done for years. The vouchers have a 640 acre minimum but neighbors can partner together to reach the minimum requirements. Doreen felt it continues to be a great program and has been a benefit to a lot of people. Doug asked about partnering with other ditch owners to collaborate on an herbicide voucher; Lyle encouraged him to talk with Amy. The committee approved \$15,000.00 for the project.

Advertisement for Reclamation Seed Giveaway: Samantha explained that at the last meeting it was mentioned that the committee may want to advertise the reclamation seed. Lyle stated that Katlin already had.

RMNP Elk Poaching Reward: Dave and Chuck had proposed contributing to the reward to try incentivizing someone to come forward with information. Lyle explained that the poaching, while unfortunate, is not an HPP issue and that the program is focused on fence and forage. The NPS is an entity of its own; ultimate authority. Operation Game Thief offers reward money and in fact offered \$500 for tips that contribute to solving the case; reward currently at \$2,000. GW said he would speak to the state field director to see if there is anything they could do. Lyle thought a larger reward may discourage the guilty party to speak about the incident. The elk poaching is still an open case.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Elk Collar Update: Tabled.

State Council Updates/Next Meeting: Samantha touched on the major highlights from the State Council meeting in March. The State Council is going to start funding weed and fence projects on SWAs. The next meeting will take place in Middle Park on July 30/31.

FY20 State Council Vinyl Wire: The State Council is willing to provide local committees with \$5k worth of hotcote vinyl wire, if the committee wants it. It would be available starting July 1, 2019. Rolls would need to be picked up from regional office and stored locally. The committee agreed to accept the wire. Details will be worked out at a later date.

Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting: Samantha reminded committee members of the biannual statewide meeting scheduled to take place in Grand Junction December 3-5th. The topic will be water. Same as last time each local committee is encouraged to invite 2 guests. A few names were mentioned but the discussion will be continued at a later date.

PO/FY Deadlines: Samantha reminded committee members of purchase order and fiscal year deadlines.

RSVP/Proxy/Applications: Samantha asked committee members to be sure they RSVP for future meetings by the agenda deadline; if a quorum cannot be established by then the meeting will need to be rescheduled or cancelled. She also reiterated how proxy voting works and let everyone know that HPP applications should be downloaded directly from the website to ensure the most current form is being used.

June 12 Agenda Ideas: Bryan Lamont will give his collar update. Gene and Rachel may have a FY20 Fertilizer project to propose.

Roundtable: Lyle: Doreen will not be in attendance at the June meeting because she will be in DC to accept the Jack Adams award.

John: The moose project is still ongoing. The NPS will continue to collar more animals until they reach their sample size.

Chuck: Asked is the gray wolf is going to be delisted. Unknown but they remain under federal regulation unless delisted.

Doreen: RMEF did fund their Backcountry Weeds project again. HPP's contribution is now at \$7,000. Also, there's been a permit transfer from Skylark Ranch to Pat Shaw.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:08 pm.