



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
USFS Ranger Station-100 Main Street, Walden
April 3, 2019
1:00pm

Introductions: Members present were: Blaine Evans/livestock grower, Jimmer Baller/livestock grower, Todd Peterson/sportsperson, Tara Wertz/USFWS, Tiffany Rubalcaba/BLM, Darrell Freeman/USFS and Administrative Assistant Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** DWM Jacob Way/CPW, Debbi Heeney/NRCS, Pat Van Valkenburg.

General Public Comments: Jacob Way's nomination will go in front of the commission in May. Debbi spoke about the NRCS equip. program and wondered if HPP would be interested in partnering on range land projects. Todd explained they would need to review and approve same as any other project. Darrell mentioned the need for a conflict or benefit to big game. Tara touched on the importance of a hunting component as well. Debbi was directed to the website for additional information and applications; her email will be added to notification list.

Budget: Samantha provided committee members with a budget report, the remaining balance was \$74,800.00. \$5,000.00 had been encumbered for vinyl wire vouchers and \$200.00 for newspaper advertisements.

Old Business: Minutes: Members were provided with draft minutes from February 15th, which were approved as written.

New Business: BLM Solar Water Pumping System: Tabled

Silver Spur Vinyl Wire: Tabled

Stackyard & Fence Damage Requests: The committee approved fence materials for the following landowners:

Chris VanValkenburg

**Ranches: VanValkenburg Cattle
Co., LLC/Wilcheck Ranch/Mossman Ranch**

-25 wood posts
-25 steel posts
-1 barbed wire
-1 roll twisted wire
-25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Dan Meyring

Meyring Livestock

-15 wood posts
-25 steel posts
-0 rolls barbed wire
-1 twisted wire
-25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Jim Baller**Ranches: Baller Ranch/Funk Ranch/Rocky Mtn. Ranch/Fairbanks Daily News**

- 10 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 1 rolls barbed wire
- 1 rolls twisted wire
- 50 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Pete VanValkenburg**VanValkenburg Family LLC**

- 15 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 1 roll barbed wire
- 1 roll twisted wire
- 40 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Blaine Evans**Evans Cattle Co. & Telck**

- 10 wood posts
- 40 steel posts
- 0 rolls barbed wire
- 2 rolls twisted wire
- 25 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Note: A vinyl wire voucher will be issued for 3 rolls.

Mark Hackleman**Loban Hackleman Olson LLC & Dunaway Livestock**

- 0 wood posts
- 25 steel posts
- 0 rolls barbed wire
- 0 roll twisted wire
- 5 lbs. 1 3/4" staples

Tara asked if there's any reason to add a different option for smooth wire on application. Todd asked Jimmer and Tara to speak with Timberline about options, pricing and packaging.

The only stackyard application was for Blaine Evans. Blaine explained that the 10 hours of in-kind would be for taking out the old 4 strand fence, which he might need to do in stages. He would like a contractor to construct it. The total size is 1980', which is a 330, 660 & 990 combined, including 2 16' gates. Blaine said the reason for the size is hay carry over and it's easier to get to in spring; serves 2-3 different meadows. Last year with a light winter the elk didn't hit as hard as they did this year. The committee approved Blaine's request, materials will come from game damage and HPP will pay for a contractor.

Pat Van Valkenburg did not fill out a stackyard application but Jimmer suggested he attend the meeting to see if the committee would entertain a proposal anyway. Pat explained that moose have taken up residence and 9 of them have been eating on bales. He charges hunting fees for elk but not moose. Todd asked if they could use panels or move hay out of the area sooner. They transport hay to the knob from multiple areas, then divert irrigation around knoll to keep hay dry. It was decided that game damage probably wouldn't provide materials since he charges for elk hunts. The committee decided they would entertain a proposal and asked Pat to come back with an application. Pat will submit an application to Sam; she will then send email the proposal to committee members and set up a conference call.

Other Business: Stackyard Sideboards Scenario II: After a lengthy discussion and debate the committee came to an agreement on qualifying factors that would determine a landowner's contribution could be anywhere from 10-25% for labor to construct a stackyard. Those factors are: 1) Property borders/is in the vicinity of identified impact areas or the refuge. 2) Damage hunts are not available when game damage is happening.

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 for use on larger projects only and will continue to use the voucher program.

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. Todd mentioned Steve Porter as a potential guest. The discussion will be continued.

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.

New Chairperson Discussion: Tabled.

Select Next Meeting Date: A conference call was scheduled for April 16th at 7pm to discuss Pat Van Valkenburg's stackyard request. The next regular meeting was scheduled for May 8th at 7pm. Future Agenda Items: Tabled items will be added to the May agenda. Blaine talked to the BLM/Hayworth and they may propose a similar well to Murphy's.

Roundtable: N/A

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.