



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 23rd, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Carnegie Library, Monte Vista

Members Present: Mick Davis, Dale Gomez, Suzanne Beauchaine, Brent Woodward, Carol-Lee Dugan, Eduardo Duran

Guests: Tanner Dutton (USFS), Dave Topolewski (USFS), Rock Paulson (Landowner), Terry Paulson (Landowner), Dani Gronhovd (RiGHT), Brian Bechaver (DWM)

Administrative Assistant: Hanna Cook

Budget Report

The 2019 budget report was reviewed.

Old Business

Water Development Updates-Tanner Dutton

The Seitz Creek Water Development project was previously approved by the committee for \$18,750, contingent on an agreement with the private landowner and confirmation of the well permit. An agreement has been signed and the permit has been obtained, so Tanner is moving forward with this project. The committee has seen the agreement and they are comfortable moving forward with this project. The Long Ridge Pipeline project will not be done this year.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Paulson Ranch Conservation Easement-Dani Gronhovd (RiGHT)

Dani is asking HPP for \$20,000 to pay for transaction costs for a 180 acre conservation easement on the Paulson Ranch. The conservation easement will allow the family to continue their agricultural operations and will protect important wildlife habitat. The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust will hold the easement. HPP will reimburse RiGHT for the appraisal, baseline and survey fees after the conservation easement has closed. The committee would like to make sure that RiGHT is looking at several different vendors to make sure they are getting the most competitive price instead of just using the same vendor every time. Dani will look into it.

The project was approved for \$20,000 for FY 2020.

Gallegos South Hydroaxe Project-Brian Bechaver

Brian is asking HPP for \$56,700 to treat 162 acres of public land in FY 2020. The project is on State Trust land, and the habitat is not suitable for wildlife, so big game have been staying on neighboring private lands and causing damage. Habitat treatments will improve habitat quality and should draw big game onto public lands and reduce wildlife conflict on private lands. SLB and RMEF will each contribute \$25,000, and CPW and CSFS will each contribute \$5,000.

The project was approved for \$56,700 for FY 2020.

Ortega Guzzler Project- David Topolewski

Dave is asking HPP for \$1020 for a 210 gallon guzzler and materials needed to install a water catchment system on USFS property. The creek on the property is being degraded by big game and livestock, so an additional water source will help to take pressure off of the riparian area and will improve distribution of big game and cattle. This pasture is not currently being grazed, so the addition of a water source will help to improve grazing management. The guzzler will be filled by natural precipitation. If this project goes well then Dave will install more guzzlers around the property to further improve grazing management.

The project was approved for \$1020.

Rock Creek Mastication Project 2020-Dale Gomez

Dale is asking HPP for \$20,650 to pay for 59 acres of hydroaxing on USFS property. The USFS will pay for an additional 63 acres. The habitat treatment will increase available forage for big game, which should draw elk onto USFS property and help to alleviate conflicts on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and neighboring private properties. A total of 122 acres will be treated in FY 2020, and this will be the first phase of a multi-year project (Rock Creek Vegetation Project) designed to improve big game habitat.

The project was approved for \$20,650 for FY 2020.

2020 Antelope Census-Mick Davis

Mick has talked to Brent Frankland and Brent Woodward and they have told him that the numbers from the antelope census are very helpful for game management. Mick suggests increasing the hourly wage by \$0.40, for a total of \$16/hr plus allowable mileage.

The project was approved for \$1700 for FY 2020. \$16/hr plus \$0.52/mile.

2020 English Valley Well Repair-Mick Davis

It is helpful for Mick Davis and Dale Gomez to have money approved for repairs to this water development so that they can order materials and make repairs right away when needed. This ensures that the water development continues to run properly and does not leave the area without water for too long in the event of a malfunction. Mick will contribute \$800 and Dale will contribute \$800.

The project was approved for \$1600 for FY 2020.

State Council White Wire Order

The HPP state council will be making a bulk order of white vinyl wire to distribute to local committees. Each committee will be allowed \$5,000 in white vinyl wire (24 rolls) if they would like it. The San Luis Valley committee would like to accept the \$5,000 worth of wire from state council. Each landowner will be allowed 4 rolls per year. If they need more rolls they can request an increase from the committee at a meeting. Landowners should contact Brent Woodward in order to pick up rolls.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

Committee Member Attendance

It is important that committee members attend meetings as often as possible, and that they RSVP for meetings. Hanna needs to make sure that there are enough committee members for quorum at the upcoming meeting, so sending her an RSVP is important.

State Council updates

Local committee budgets will remain the same for the next fiscal year.

The state council will start funding weed spraying and fencing projects on SWAs. Funds will be distributed to regional managers who will decide where to use them (within HPP boundaries), rather than coming to local committees for requests. Habitat projects will still go to local committees for approval.

The HPP statewide annual meeting will be happening on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Grand Junction, and the topic will be water.

New brochures are available. They have been passed out and will be at local offices. Hanna can provide more if needed.

The San Luis Valley committee plan (Distribution Management Plan) is due for renewal in March 2020. The committee needs to schedule a work session to go through the plan and make revisions.

Next Meeting: May 28th at 6:00 PM-DMP work session

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