



## HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

CPW Area Office – 73485 Hwy 64

April 18, 2019

7:00pm

**Introductions:** Members present were: DWM Bailey Franklin/CPW, Jim Brennan/livestock grower, Mary Taylor/BLM, Curtis Keetch/USFS, Butch Theos/livestock grower, Lenny Klingsmith/livestock grower and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** AWM Bill deVergie/CPW, Deirdre Macnab, Bill Stewart, Troy Osborn, DWM Ross McGee/CPW, and Jake Lewis/USFS.

**General Public Comments:** N/A

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented committee members with a budget report. The remaining budget for FY19 was \$29,118.64. She explained there's still a lot of encumbered money that remains unspent; the day prior she sent a reminder email to everyone with ongoing projects. Bailey let the committee know that Pat Tucker had given his blessing to spend above and beyond their remaining budget and that the State Council would fund additional projects.

**Old Business:** Minutes from October 2, 2018 were approved as written.

**New Business:** FY 20 USFS Lost Park/Salt Park Noxious Weeds: Jake presented members with a new application along with an evaluation from last year's project. He explained that with White River's contribution it would be a 60 acre project down from 120 since the RMEF funds fell through. Curtis mentioned that there might be a permittee who would be willing to contribute a couple thousand. The project area is spreading further west and there will not be any retreatments so treated acreage is expanding. Currently there's no permit for Salt Creek because it's too dirty but once it's cleaned up Doug Myhre would like to open it back up. Bailey asked the committee if they'd be willing to kick in more since the RMEF funds fell through. Curtis recused himself. The committee approved \$10,000.00 for the project.

4M Ranch Irrigated Ag Seeding: Deirdre began by explaining they'd purchased the ranch a few years ago and unfortunately there had been little to no weed control done on tamarisk and Russian olive. She hopes to encourage other landowners to participate in weed control later on down the road. 4M Ranch would pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of treatment and they'd ask HPP to pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Briefly spoke about leafy spurge and beetles; Curtis explained that beetles might not be effective on spotty infestations. Troy recommended Quinn Star but it's not certified for BLM use yet. Lenny wondered if the CO River District would help fund the project but Deirdre explained they weren't offering any grants at this time. The primary goal of the

project would be to improve habitat for deer and elk. They'd like to plant cottonwoods eventually but they need to wait a year after using chemical. Lenny inquired about youth hunts and the landowners will speak with their outfitter about it. The committee approved \$9,300.00 for the project.

4M Ranch Riparian Restoration/Weed Control: Bill and Deirdre would like to interseed 100 acres of irrigated fields and asked HPP to reimburse them for the seed mix. The committee approved \$3,262.00 for the project.

Etchart/Sloan Dryland Ag Seeding: Bailey explained they'd like to seed two different fields with the standard seed mix. Landowner does a ton of youth hunts and the seeding would provide a huge benefit to deer. The committee approved \$5,996.00 for the project.

L Bar Slash/Sheridan Ranch Dryland Ag Interseeding: Existing dryland fields are not producing as well as desired. Proposal includes seeding approximately 38 acres using a tandem drum Lawson aerator, which is great for shallow soils. The plan is to fence off the area for a season or two with the temporary electric fencing. The committee approved \$3,378 for the project.

M/R-K/K Ranch Cross Fencing: Sagebrush reclamation was done a few years back but grasses came back so selective herbicide treatments were completed along with temporary fencing and water projects. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of using temporary electric fence, which has worked well but it's labor intensive and fence is needed on other projects. A permanent fence is needed to continue intensive rotational grazing. Mary asked if 4 pastures are still necessary or if 2 would work. Lenny thought they could move to 2 pastures eventually but not quite yet. The committee approved \$19,812.00 for the project.

M/R Upper Baker Pasture Cross Fencing: Lenny's old property, which was sold to Rob Walton, has a 1750 pasture that needs to be split in half. Proposal includes building 1.7 miles of 3 wire high tensile fence to continue rotational grazing. The committee approved \$8,811.00 for the project.

Boettcher BDL Ranch Dryland Ag Seeding: Boettcher owns 244 acres and would like to propose the same work that's been done on Etchart's; John will farm it for him. Mary asked about jointed goat grass but Bailey wasn't aware of any in the area. The project site is located a ways off the highway so as not to draw deer to the road. The committee approved \$1,600.75 for the project.

LK Ranch Water Improvement: Lenny described the pasture on Lime Kiln which doesn't have a lot of water. He would like to pump water up from East Flag to a pond and tire tank. Explained that a propane generator is cheaper, also worries that a solar panel would get vandalized that close to the road. Lenny recused himself. The committee approved \$7,074.28 for the project.

FY20 Landscape Scale Weed Control: Troy provided a map for committee members to pass around; it gave an overview of the project size in years 2017 and 2018. He feels it continues to be a huge benefit to follow up after projects with herbicide. Spoke about interactions with landowners and his future strategy. The committee approved \$28,000.00 for the project.

FY20 Landscape Scale Habitat Monitoring Contract RAP: Bailey reminded committee members of the May 9<sup>th</sup> presentation. The new proposal includes 5 new sites and 49 re-reads. Website is almost ready to roll. The committee approved \$46,200.00 for the project.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Distribution Management Plan Update/Timeline: Samantha let the committee know that a finalized draft of their DMP will need to be submitted to Pat Tucker by September 1<sup>st</sup>; everyone's input is important.

State Council Updates/Next Meeting/Vinyl Wire: 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. 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.

Potential Guests for Statewide Meeting: Samantha reminded committee members of the biannual statewide meeting scheduled to take place in Grand Junction December 3-5<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be water. Same as last time each local committee is encouraged to invite 2 guests.

FY Deadlines/RSVP/Proxy/Applications: Samantha reminded committee members of fiscal year deadlines. She also asked committee members to be sure they RSVP for future meetings by the agenda deadline; so a quorum can be established a week out. 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.

Select Next Meeting Date: TBD

**Roundtable:** Bailey mentioned that Commissioner Marie Haskett was proud of White River for spending their money and encouraged local committees to spend their budgets and the State Council's. Bailey asked if there were any BLM or USFS projects in the works. Curtis stated they were working on NEPA for the Yellow jacket timber harvest and Mary thought she might have a few that might qualify.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.