



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES
Craig Chamber of Commerce-360 East Victory Way
August 13, 2019
7:00PM

Introductions: Members attending the meeting were: DWM Evan Jones/CPW, Chad Green/Livestock Grower, Gary Visintainer/Livestock Grower, Gary Nichols/Sportsperson, Sean Durham/Livestock Grower, Toni Toelle/BLM, and Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests attending the meeting were:** William Green, Tory Van Tassel, and Allan Reishus.

General Public Comments: None.

Budget Report: Samantha provided committee members with a budget report, the remaining balance was \$165,316.00.

Old Business: The minutes from July 23rd were presented and approved as written.

New Business: Sjorstrom Water Development: N/A

Van Tassel Seeding Phase II: Tory explained that he would like HPP to purchase the seed mix minus the winter wheat. His plan is to borrow a no-till drill from Trevor and Wayne Counts estimated it would cost \$35/acre in labor. Tory said there is still some weed control that needs to be done, which was not included on the application but could count toward in-kind contributions. Sean thought Wayne's quote was low and a couple other members agreed; they felt Tory's in-kind would be closer to a 50/50 match. The goal of the project is to make great hay and to also draw animals in. Tory allows hunting and plans to take out three newbies this year. He's also working on a water project with NRCS. The committee approved \$13,230.00 for the project.

Little Bear Ranch Seeding: Bill would like to obtain funds for seed which will be used on both irrigated and dryland. There is a lot of game in the area and they allow friends and family to hunt as well as youth. Chad explained that the former owners planted smooth brome. He went on to say they'd done some other reseeding 3 falls ago down south; this project is the same concept. The plan is to plant this fall if they get the moisture. The committee approved \$4,500.00 for the project.

Ida Gordon/Jerry Powell Seeding: N/A

Visintainer Scrub Brush Management: Gary proposed a brush mastication project up in Little Bear. 252 of 508 acres were identified for this phase. The NRCS will contribute \$77k and Gary asked HPP to split the remaining cost. Davy Cox estimated the cost at \$350/acre. Gary will need to defer grazing for 1 year. His property is enrolled in Ranching for Wildlife. The plan is to start this winter; to the east they did 3-400 acres a few years ago. The committee approved \$5,650.00 for the project.

MJK/Murdochs Fence Vouchers-Bid vs. Reimbursement: Samantha explained the changes to HPP's purchasing rules and how that might affect the committee's fence voucher program. The committee decided it would be best to switch to landowner reimbursements to avoid the bid process and any chance of being forced to use a vendor outside the local area. The committee approved \$44k for the project and agreed to reimburse landowners for any tax paid. Samantha will contact MJK and Murdoch's, as well as send a letter to those on the mailing list, explaining the change.

Herbicide Vouchers: Samantha provided committee members with examples of herbicide vouchers from other committees. The committee approved \$20k for herbicide vouchers and agreed to use a version similar to Upper Yampa's but instead of a list of noxious weeds it would include the link used on the Lower Colorado version.

White Vinyl Wire Purchase: Evan explained that the 25 rolls of vinyl wire provided by State Council have already been spoken for and he would like to order 50 more rolls and continue to use the voucher program. The committee agreed that they shouldn't set an acreage requirement and approved the purchase of 50 rolls of white hotcote vinyl wire.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion: Distribution Management Plan Revisions: Pat Tucker had reviewed the committee's draft DMP and asked if they would like to elaborate on Greater Sage Grouse as well as mention how Wild Horses might affect how they do business. The committee agreed to expand on the Greater Sage Grouse statement and mentioned that the presence of wild horses may displace elk trying to winter in the area.

Select Next Meeting Date: September 10th at 7pm. Future Agenda Items: N/A

Roundtable: Gary Nichols mentioned that he would like to see applicants allow public hunters, not just family and friends. He is concerned about sportsmen's dollars going to land that's not accessible. Evan mentioned that the agency is all about opportunity. Samantha pointed out that other committees will hire a hunt coordinator to organize youth hunts on properties that have benefited from HPP funding.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.