



## **HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**

**Walden Town Hall**

**February 15, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Introductions: Members present were:** DWM Josh Dilley/CPW, Danny Meyring/livestock grower, Blaine Evans/livestock grower, Jimmer Baller/livestock grower, Todd Peterson/sportsperson, Tara Wertz/USFWS, Tiffany Rubalcaba/BLM and Administrative Assistant Samantha Sorensen/CPW. **Guests present were:** DWM Jacob Way/CPW, DWM Zach Weaver/CPW and Jim Murphy.

**General Public Comments:** Jim Murphy presented members with a project idea but he was not on the agenda. He gave a summary of the proposal and since the project is to take place on a BLM lease committee members encouraged him to speak with RC Lopez (BLM) about additional funding before the next meeting.

**Budget:** Samantha provided committee members with a budget report, the remaining balance was \$75,000.00. \$5,000.00 had been encumbered for vinyl wire vouchers.

**Old Business:** Minutes: Members were provided with draft minutes from September 11th, which were approved as written.

**New Business:** Stateline Ranch/BLM Fertilization: Josh presented committee members with a proposal. The plan was to fertilize 39 acres to improve wintering sites primarily used by mule deer. Unfortunately Josh and Tiffany just discovered that a new BLM campsite and trail system was proposed for that same area; to be completed by the end of next year. The committee discussed whether or not the project would still be beneficial for wildlife. There were suggestions to move the treatment site either further west or north. Members also discussed the cost of fertilization versus other treatments; Tiffany pointed out that research has shown the North Park area to have great soils that respond well to most treatments. The committee agreed that HPP needs to be involved in the comment process and if the BLM decides not to relocate the proposed campsite and trails then the committee would entertain a new project proposal in a different location.

Ad for Stackyard & Fence Damage Applications: The committee approved their annual newspaper advertisement of stackyard and fence damage applications. It was determined that March 29<sup>th</sup> would be the application deadline.

Stackyard Cost Share & Sideboards: Committee members were provided with a material and labor cost breakdown along with a list of recorded stackyards in North Park dating back to 1996. Todd passed around his suggestion for future stackyard guidelines, which included a 30/70 cost share and 3 different scenarios. Blaine didn't want to see landowners paying more than 25% and even then it should remain flexible. Danny felt that landowners who agree to harbor wildlife shouldn't have to pay anything for a stackyard. Josh pointed out that the pendulum has swung to where everything is currently being paid for by the state with sportsman's dollars being used and doesn't feel that asking 30% is asking too much; to which Danny agreed. Todd didn't want to see the program become a hand-out organization. Jimmer asked when someone was going to ask the commission for more than 5% since the program continues to ask landowners to pitch in more and more and more. Josh pointed out that there have been a lot of programs developed since the inception of HPP that benefit landowners plus the program rarely spends its entire budget as is so it's very unlikely the legislature would approve an increase. Tara explained that she understands the cost to operate but wildlife adds a financial benefit to landowners and the economy of North Park. Josh added that a 30 year agreement costs approximately \$41.33/year to insure a stackyard and asked Danny if he thought there might be landowners who just refuse to build a stackyard and let elk eat it, Danny didn't think so. The committee agreed that cost share changes should go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020. The committee will continue the discussion of sideboards, specifically page 2, at the next meeting.

**Other Business:** T-Post Clips & Refuge Hunts: Tara said there were elk on the refuge throughout all four seasons. Almost everyone got a look or shot at elk. There was a 75% success rate during the disabled hunts. Josh Dilley gave Tara and Josh kudos for their hard work on the refuge. Tara then passed around fence clips, along with product information, and gave a demonstration on how they work. She explained that clips are an easier way to make fence more wildlife friendly; they've been a huge success on the refuge and they'll continue to install clips in other locations.

Report on Fall Hunts: Jacob began by pointing out he'd spent a lot of time during archery season working on getting access in other places for those impacted by the Ryan fire. There were 6 cases of moose shot in wrong units or misidentified; however it was less than in previous years. Hunters seemed to do well with elk during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> season and Jacob noticed a pile of elk in the burn area.

Committee Update for Stock Growers Meeting: Samantha provided committee members with a draft of the committee update; mad rabbit and stackyard cost share added to update.

NPHPP Project Tour with Larimer County: Request pulled.

FY20 Vinyl Wire from State Council: Samantha explained that the state council is willing to purchase \$5k worth of vinyl wire for each committee next fiscal year. Josh asked Sam to table the topic until the next meeting.

Select Next Meeting Date: April 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 1pm in the USFS conference room. Future Agenda Items: BLM/Murphy solar wells, stackyard sideboards, FY20 SC vinyl wire plus review of fence damage and stackyard applications.

**Roundtable:** N/A

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.