



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

South Park Committee

July 22nd, 2019

Jefferson Community Civic Association

Committee members present:

- John Woodward, Livestock grower
- Tyler Stoltzfus, CPW
- Webb Smith, Livestock grower
- Randy Tingle, Sports person
- Christine Cloninger, BLM
- Steve Allard, Livestock grower
- Sheila Lamb, USFS

Administrator: Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Scott Sanborn (Timberline Forest Restoration), Vicki Russo (USFS), Sami Dinar (USFS), Josh Voorhis (USFS), Michele Allard (Landowner), Tom and Tracy Rautenkranz (Landowners)

Meeting called to order by John Woodward at 9:11 AM

Budget Report

The 2019 and 2020 Budget reports were reviewed.

New Business

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Shelton Fence Project-Steve Allard

Steve is asking HPP for \$4,752 and 4 rolls of white vinyl wire from the committee stockpile needed to replace 1 mile of old fence with new wildlife friendly fence. The fence is very old and is regularly damaged by elk and the landowner has to spend a lot of time on repairs. The landowner will pay a contractor to remove the old fence and install the new one.

The project was approved for \$4,752 plus 4 rolls of white vinyl wire.

Dead Willow Water Project-Steve Allard

Steve is asking HPP for \$940 for reimbursement for a tire tank and equipment rental needed to extend an existing spring development to the new tank. This will provide more water for wildlife and livestock on the Badger East Allotment. Steve will pay for pipeline and other materials needed to extend the spring development and install the tank.

The project was approved for \$940.

Rautenkranz Fencing Project-Tom Rautenkranz

Tom is asking HPP for \$8,800 and 8 rolls of white vinyl wire from the committee stockpile to replace an old horse fence with a new wildlife friendly fence around 160 acres. The old fence has electrical wire that needs to be removed. There is heavy pronghorn use on this property, and the landowners would like to continue to allow the pronghorn to access the pasture and water, but they are trying to keep trespass cattle off. The new wildlife friendly fence shouldn't get damaged as frequently, so time spent repairing fences will be reduced and trespass cattle should be kept off. The original design is a five strand fence, but the committee is requesting that the landowners redesign the fence to a four strand design to make it more wildlife friendly, which will also reduce the cost of materials. The bottom strand should be 18 inches from the ground, and the top strand should be white wire and no higher than 42 inches. The landowners have agreed to the modifications. The landowners will remove the old fence and install the new one. **The project was approved for \$6,500 plus 8 rolls of white vinyl wire.**

Wildlife Closure Gates-USFS (Sheila Lamb)

Sheila is asking HPP for \$10,000 for 5 seasonal closure gates that will help to close off certain roads on USFS property in order to protect important wintering habitat for big game. Each gate costs \$2,000, which includes construction and installation of the gate. The USFS will install fencing around the gates to ensure that no one can drive around them when they are closed. **The project was approved for \$10,000.**

Tire Tank Project-USFS (Sheila Lamb)

Sheila is asking HPP for \$4,860 to purchase 10 tire tanks that will be distributed to permittees to be installed on USFS property. The USFS does not have any tire tanks in stock currently, but there is a need to have a stockpile to allow permittees to install water developments when necessary. Having a stockpile will allow them to distribute tanks quickly. They have 3 areas designated for tanks for this year, and the other 7 tanks will be reserved to give to permittees when needed. There is concern among committee members about purchasing tire tanks with HPP funds when the tanks would not be under HPP control. They do not necessarily want to start keeping a stockpile of tire tanks, but they would like to know where the tanks were going if they were to pay for tanks for a USFS stockpile. It would be difficult to keep track of this and would add an extra process if the committee were to require permittees to come in with an application for any USFS tire tank issued. The committee decided that any permittee needing assistance with a tire tank should come to the committee with an application for funding, but they do not want to purchase a stockpile to be kept by USFS. **The project was denied.**

Noxious Weed Treatment-USFS (Vickie Russo)

Vickie is asking HPP for \$3,500 to pay a contractor to spray noxious weeds on USFS property. 4 high-priority areas have been identified for spraying, totaling approximately 50 acres of spot spraying at \$70/acre. The identified areas are in the Badger West, Badger East, Puma, and McQuaid USFS allotments. The USFS does not have enough personnel to do the spraying themselves, so they need help from the contractor. USFS will match \$3,500 for herbicide. Treating noxious weeds will help to improve the quality and quantity for forage for wildlife and livestock, and should help keep wildlife on public lands. **The project was approved for \$3,500.**

Voucher program renewal-Herbicide and Fence

Landowner fencing supply and reimbursement program

The South Park HPP committee would like to continue the landowner voucher program to supply fencing materials to landowners for small fence repair projects. DWMs will hand out

vouchers to eligible landowners, and landowners have the option of being reimbursed for purchases, or of picking up materials from the SPHPP stockpile. The committee will need to order more wire soon to replenish the stockpile.

The fencing supply and reimbursement voucher program will be renewed for FY 2020 with a total budget of \$8,000 with the following rules:

- Landowners must allow some hunting access
- Vouchers are good for either \$350 reimbursement or \$350 in materials from the stockpile. One roll of white wire from the stockpile may be added on to the voucher limit.
- Vouchers must be filled out for any landowner taking materials. Material vouchers can be signed by a committee member or a DWM.
- Landowners must have a minimum of 160 acres. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee at a noticed meeting.

\$1000 will be allocated to reimbursements, and \$7,000 will be allocated to the purchase of fence materials needed to replenish the stockpile as needed.

Herbicide Voucher Program

The South Park HPP committee would like to continue the landowner voucher program to reimburse landowners for herbicide purchases.

The herbicide voucher program will be renewed for FY 2020 with a total budget of \$2,500 with the following rules:

- Landowners can be reimbursed for herbicide purchases up to \$250
- Herbicide vouchers can be given out to eligible landowners after being signed by a DWM or a committee member
- Landowners must have a minimum of 160 acres. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee at a noticed meeting.
- Reimbursements are for herbicide only (no dyes, no application costs)

Meeting Meals/Operating Expenses

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$500 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion

- John Woodward announced that he would like to step down as chairman. The committee will vote for a new chairman at the next meeting.
- HPP will no longer be exempt from the state purchasing rules regarding bids. Any project(s) that pay more than \$25,000 to a single vendor will have to go out for bid. Reimbursements do not apply.
- The HPP statewide meeting will be on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Grand Junction.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 PM

A field tour of the Erb project site followed the meeting. The committee would like to thank Scott Sanborn for showing them around the project site and explaining the process for this treatment.

The next meeting will be held on September 26th at 10:00 AM at the Fairplay Fair Barn.