



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**County Building-500 Broadway, Eagle CO**  
**September 4, 2019**  
**1:00pm**

**Introductions: Members attending the meeting were:** DWM Darren Chacon/CPW, Rick Bumgardner/Sportsperson, Scot Dodero/Livestock Grower, Pat Luark/Livestock Grower, Phil Nyland/USFS, Jim Nieslanik/Livestock Grower & Admin. Samantha Sorensen/CPW.

**Guests attending the meeting were:** John Hildebrant, DWM Peter Boyatt, DWM Craig Wescoatt, Jim Daus, Landyn Mills, Markian Feduschak, Scott Schlosser, Gina Van Hekken, DWM Brian Gray, Peter Suneson, Wayne Pollard, and Nicholas Krick.

**General Public Comments:** Samantha reminded the committee that members need to abstain from voting in any instance where a conflict of interest may be interpreted.

**Budget Report:** Samantha presented committee members with a budget report; the remaining balance at the beginning of the meeting was \$158,698.07.

**Old Business:** Minutes from July 11th were presented and approved as written.

**New Business:** Ridgway Ranch Conservation Easement: Peter began by explaining that the Charlie Ridgway inholding is the last large parcel of open space in the area. The plan is to place half of the property in a CE and the other half would remain private property. When asked about the trail running through the proposed CE he explained that it's to allow access to BLM; there will be no development. They anticipate closing on the CE in April of 2020. The county is purchasing the property and EVLT will hold the CE. Authorized hunts have not happened yet but hunting is written into the management plan. Property will remain in Ag, water stays with property. Fences are too many but the county is working with GOCO to remove old fence. The committee approved up to \$10,000.00 for the project.

Puma Paw Water Development: Property is currently underutilized by wildlife due to intermittent water. The well is already in place so John proposed installing a new pump, waterline, and tank. There's a possibility of catching water below the tire tank. John explained that he only had deer and elk on the property until May 1<sup>st</sup> and then everything dried up. Scot said anytime you can develop water it's a good thing. The committee approved up to \$6,075.00 for the project.

Clinetop Pond Cleanouts: Nicholas started by letting everyone know that the allotment is difficult to access. Unfortunately the ponds have been neglected for a long time and he would like to better distribute livestock, and provide water for wildlife. He explained that work will need to happen in the fall because there's no access in the spring. He'd be performing existing

pond maintenance so he has the okay from the Forest Service. Pat Luark wondered if the FS has seed to contribute for reseeding disturbed areas. Phil encouraged Nick to reach out to Lydia with the FS regarding seed. Nick plans to follow-up with weed treatments. The committee approved up to \$4,925.00 for the project.

Clark Ridge Pond Cleanouts: Wayne gave everyone an update on the Government Creek Ponds that were approved last year. He said the ponds were put in just in time this spring; they had a storm come through and fill everything up. The Clark Ridge ponds were completely silted in this spring. All of the ponds are spring fed and held sufficient water during drought last year. They need to be cleaned out before hunting season. The committee approved up to \$4,000.00 for the project.

WMSC Sweetwater Habitat Restoration: Walking Mountains Science Center purchased 224 acres from Vail Mountain School in 2015; the property is located near Anderson Camp. Markian met with DWM Dan Cacho and the potential contractor to talk about habitat improvements. The plan is to thin approximately 8 acres, utilizing a mosaic pattern to allow growth of natural forage, and then conduct broadcast seeding. No till seeding and spot spray treatments will be done in the existing meadow which is approximately 1.5 acres. Trees will be chipped and spread. Darren encouraged WMSC to look into the Juniper Valley prison crew. When asked about hunting they mentioned Dan Cacho would like to conduct youth hunts on the property, they've also allowed staff to hunt there in the past. Concerns were raised about the price but Phil reminded everyone it's a smaller scale project, needs to be worth it for the contractor. Landyn mentioned that the proposal does not include the broadcast seeding. DWM Craig Wescoatt mentioned that small acreage made too palatable will be eaten to the ground by wildlife. The committee approved \$400/acre for hand thinning and \$50/acre for seeding not to exceed \$3,850.00 for the project.

Elk Ridge Cultural Survey: Hilary began by stating that after Cedar Mountain was finished Scot had an idea on what to do next. The project site is north of the hogback and the plan is to conduct hand thinning and mastication to improve forage. Normally the BLM would approach HPP after the cultural survey is done but they couldn't use the MDF funds because of internal issues. Hilary explained that if she can get the survey done and results back this fall, NEPA could be done this winter and she could be in a position to apply for implementation funding. She feels there is an extremely high probability she'll receive funding for implementation, which would take place next summer. HPP is being asked to pay a contractor to do the cultural survey. Brian pointed out that Hilary has an excellent track record. NEPA would remain in place for at least 10 years. Darren pointed out that he wasn't entirely comfortable with the idea but he'd like it if they were to prove him wrong. The committee approved up to \$6,480.00 for the project.

Pump Gulch Phase II Cultural Survey: Hilary explained that this project was similar to Elk Ridge in that they're asking HPP to pay for the cultural survey and work would be scheduled to take place next summer. She assumed that Pat Luark would probably be the one doing the work. The committee approved up to \$2,320.00 for the project. Darren mentioned that even though the committee decided to approve both of Hilary's projects, Pat Tucker may not allow HPP to pay for the cultural surveys.

**Remaining Committee Business/Other Discussion:** Guests for Statewide Meeting: Committee members agreed to invite Stephen Jaouen with the NRCS and Kristy Wallner with the BLM to the Statewide meeting in December.

Select Next Meeting Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm in the GWS CPW office. Future Agenda Items: Pat would like to talk about setting limits and/or guidelines for water development projects.

**Roundtable:** Hilary-Might come to HPP for funding in January for a water development project. Phil-The Forest Service is looking to burn 2500 acres this fall in the Cattle Creek/Braderich Creek area. They already have enough partner money in place to pay for this one.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:25pm.