



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Republican Rivers Committee

March 11, 2020

Bank of Colorado, Yuma

Committee members present:

- Josh Melby, CPW-DWM
 - Dustin Wise, Sportsman
 - Chris Craig, Livestock Grower
 - Don Fritzler, Livestock Grower
 - Clayt Cooper, Livestock Grower
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- Hanna Cook, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Larry Conger (CPW DWM), Ben Meier (CPW-DWM), Chris Stults (Landowner), Todd Schmidt (CPW-AWM)

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

Budget Report

The 2020 budget report was reviewed. All projects are still on track to be completed this fiscal year.

New Business

D54 and D44 Updates-Marty Stratman

Josh let the committee know that the Wildlife Commission asked Marty to lower the buck to doe ratio in D-44 and D-54 even more than he had originally planned in order to reduce CWD prevalence. The buck to doe ratio was originally proposed at 35:40, but it is being reduced to 30:35. CPW will spend the next 5 years working to reduce the buck:doe ratio, and then they will implement another round of mandatory testing. This will allow them to determine if changing the sex ratio alone reduces CWD prevalence, or if more changes are needed. The committee supports lowering the sex ratio further in D-44 and D-54 in order to help get CWD prevalence under control in the area.

Expansion of RR HPP committee area

Josh is proposing to expand the committee boundary to include all of area 3. The committee has heard that there are people interested in doing HPP projects that are just outside of the committee area, so the expansion may bring in more projects. The committee does not feel that there is enough interest to warrant forming a new committee, so they feel that the expansion is the best option. The third option for the committee is to wait for legislature to

allow the State Council to pay for projects outside of committee areas, but as they are unsure if or when that will happen, they would like to pursue the expansion to include all of area 3. The proposal will go to Pat Tucker and the State Council for discussion and approval before it progresses.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Chris Stults Fencing and Water Project-Josh Melby, Chris Stults

Chris is asking HPP for \$44,670.72 for fencing materials needed to build 20 miles of fence, plus two tire tanks. Chris recently installed white wire on some sections of fence, and it worked very well, so he would like to re-build all of his fences to be wildlife friendly. This will help to increase the amount of rotational grazing they can do. So far, rotational grazing has been helping to greatly increase quality wildlife habitat in an area with otherwise very limited habitat for deer and pronghorn. This is also a good opportunity to showcase HPP projects in the area. The landowner will complete the labor to install the fence, and a contractor will install the tanks and pipeline. Chris is willing to do this project as a reimbursement, but the amount will push the committee over budget and over Pat Tucker's discretionary limit for additional funds. Chris is willing to split the project up into two fiscal years to help with budgeting if necessary. This project will have to be reviewed by Pat and the State Council for additional funding before proceeding.

The project was approved for \$44,670.72, pending approval from Pat Tucker/State Council.

****Update: The HPP State Council worked with Chris and Josh to update the project. HPP will now pay for t-posts and insulators/fasteners to build wildlife friendly fence in areas with high big game crossing activity, and one of the two tire tanks for a total of \$11,500.**

Don Richards Tree Project-Josh Melby

Josh and Don are asking HPP for \$966 to replace trees that have been damage by deer. Don planted and maintained several large tree rows on a portion of his farm, and about 100 of them were destroyed by deer last fall. DWM Ben Meier will provide fencing materials to the landowner so that he can protect the trees from future deer damage with an electric fence. The landowner will plant the trees and install the fence. This project should help with game damage issues on this property.

The project was approved for \$966.00.

Sean Brenner Tree Project-Benjamin Meier

Ben and Sean are asking HPP for \$1,408 for trees and shrubs for a tree plot on this property. The tree plot will provide good habitat for big game and other wildlife, and should help to draw deer away from crops where they are causing damage. Pheasants Forever will provide equipment to plant the trees, and the landowner will install a drip line to ensure the tree's survival. CPW will also help with some planting. The landowner does not have livestock on the property currently, but he has agreed that is he does start grazing he will install a fence around the tree plot to protect it from cattle. The species being planted are deer resistant species, so they are not worried about damage from deer.

The project was approved for \$1,408.

Guzzlers for committee stockpile

The committee would like to purchase a truck load (12) of guzzlers that would be installed in-ground. This will replenish the stockpile of tanks that is kept at the Wray fish hatchery, as the committee has already distributed almost all of the available guzzlers. The guzzlers that have been installed have been very successful.

Landowners will be required to install the tanks themselves and ensure that the tanks are full year round. They will also be required to install a wildlife friendly fence around the tanks to keep livestock away. The Yuma County Pheasants Forever chapter will provide trail cameras for each tank, and the landowner will be responsible for monitoring the cameras and reporting back to the committee to determine the effectiveness of the tanks. Landowners must allow a reasonable amount of hunting on their property to qualify for this program.

The project was approved for \$ 21,560.

2021 Meeting Meals and Committee Operating Expenses

The committee voted to allocate \$500 for working meeting meals and \$250 for committee operating expenses, including committee member recognition.

2021 White Wire and Guzzlers Vouchers

The committee now has white vinyl wire in a stockpile at the Wray Fish Hatchery. Anyone who would like a roll needs to have a voucher approved by a DWM or committee member. The voucher needs to be sent to Hanna right away upon pick up of the wire. The committee will not set a limit on the number of rolls each landowner can have. Requests will be approved on a case by case basis.

The committee will also have guzzlers available to landowners as soon as the delivery is made. Eligible landowners (see above) must have a voucher approved by a DWM or committee member. The voucher must be returned to Hanna right away upon delivery or pick up.

The next meeting will be held on June 10th at 6:00 PM location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Hanna Cook, HPP Administrative Assistant
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
719-227-5221
hanna.cook@state.co.us