



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

April 20th, 2021

Zoom Video Call

Committee Members present:

- Mike Trujillo, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Terry Everhart, Livestock Grower
- Kenn Lutz, Livestock Grower
- John Stroh II, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Outhier, USFS
- Glenda Torres, BLM

Administrative Assistant:

- Hanna Cook

Guests: Kim woodruff (CPW-DWM), Paul Coe (Landowner), Allen Vitt (CPW-Biologist), Justin Krall (CPW-DWM), Destiny Chapman (USFS), Linnea Laurila (Landowner), Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), Patty Knupp (NRCS)

Meeting called to order by John Stroh at 10:06 AM

Budget Report

The budget report was reviewed. The inmate hand-thinning project could not be done this year due to COVID restrictions. All other projects are on track to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

New Business

Committee Sportsman Representative

The committee was very saddened to hear of the passing of Dwaine Robey. Dwaine has been an invaluable member of the committee and the community for many years, and he is sorely missed. The committee will purchase a committee member recognition award in Dwaine's memory to give to his family.

The committee will need to select a sportsman's representative in the near future, so Hanna will put an announcement out to the committee mailing list. The announcement can be posted in offices and passed along to any interested parties. The deadline to send applications to

Hanna will be July 15th. The committee will request a resume and a statement of interest, and all applicants will be required to attend the next meeting for a brief interview.

HPP Committee Maps

HPP has been working on creating maps for local committees to show where large projects are occurring each year. Committees should be able to use this to analyze where most of their money is spent and if there are any areas that may need more attention. The maps shown are a first draft, and any recommended changes can be sent to Hanna. The maps may see changes such as adding the impact areas from the committee plan to the project map to compare the high impact areas with where work is being done.

Project Application Proposals and Reviews

Macey Creek Ranch II Habitat Project Project-Linnea Laurila, Justin Krall

Linnea is asking HPP for \$4,800 for hand thinning on half an acre of riparian habitat. The creek area is overgrown and covered with downed trees that are hard to remove, and clearing the area will provide great benefits for the riparian habitat. The costs are higher than usual for hand thinning due to the difficult terrain and volume of material that needs to be cleared. This will be visible to neighboring landowners, so it may also serve to bring more projects to the table for the committee.

Jeff Outhier told the committee that the USFS has done a similar clearing project on Alvarado Creek, and they had impressive results. However, the committee has concerns about the small size of the project. They would like to see more than ½ an acre treated, and have asked Linnea if more landowners would be willing to get involved to make this a larger scale project, and potentially reduce the cost per acre. Linnea has agreed to talk to her neighbors, and Jeff has offered to show them the work done on Alvarado Creek to give an example of the kinds of benefits the landowners would see. The committee has asked Linnea to revisit the project and come back to them with a new proposal for a larger scale project.

The project was denied.

Tom Grette 2022-Kim Woodruff

Kim is asking HPP for \$9,000 to pay Tom Grette for his services mapping and flagging project sites and supervising work crews. CPW and BLM employees do not have a lot of time for mapping and flagging, so Tom's services are vital to the success of habitat projects in the area. CPW and BLM staff will contribute time for planning and implementation. This year Tom will also be working to identify older project areas where sprouts are coming back. The new sprouts need to be removed to maintain the integrity and longevity of the project. The requested amount is an increase from previous years, as Tom's insurance costs have increased.

The project was approved for \$9,000 for fiscal year 2022.

FY 2022 Voucher Program Renewal

Fence Reimbursements

This program has been done annually to provide landowners with reimbursements for fencing materials to repair fences damaged by big game. DWMs or committee members can sign and hand out vouchers to eligible landowners. Eligible landowners must be engaged in agricultural production or livestock operations within SDCHPP boundaries, and they must allow some hunting access (cannot charge more than \$500 per gun for hunting access, vouchers, or services). Landowners are allowed one voucher per year, with a maximum of \$600 per voucher.

Vouchers can only be used once. Unused funds are forfeited. Only eligible materials will be reimbursed.

The committee approved the voucher program for FY 2022 with a limit of \$600 per landowner. Landowners are allowed up to \$600 of reimbursement for fence materials to fix damage cause by big game. Total project limit is \$5,000.

Materials Stockpile

The SDC committee currently has 23 rolls of white wire that are available to eligible landowners. Rolls are kept at the Pueblo CPW office.

The SDC committee also has 2 8ft tire tanks and 4 10ft tire tanks available to eligible landowners.

The committee will continue the stockpile program in which landowners are allowed to take white vinyl wire and/or tire tanks from the committee stockpile to be used for projects in the SDC area. Vouchers must be fully filled out and returned to Hanna Cook as soon as materials are received by the landowner. Vouchers can be approved by DWMs or committee members, but only CPW staff is authorized to distribute materials. Landowners are allowed 1 roll of white vinyl wire per year and 2 tire tanks per year. Requests for additional wire and tanks can be brought to the committee.

Committee Operating Expenses/ Meeting Meals

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

Two new HPP State Council members have been selected: Todd Peterson (sports person), and Ty Bevan (Livestock Grower). They will need to be approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Sports person applicant interviews will be held during the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

The next meeting will be held on: August 3rd, 2021 at 10:00 AM as a video call.

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