



**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 27th, 2021**  
**Video Conference**

**Committee Members present:**

- Jim Aragon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife AWM
- Aaron Atwood, Livestock Grower
- Joe Moore, Livestock Grower
- Jeff Williams, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist
- Stephanie Shively, USFS Wildlife Biologist
- Brett McMurry, Livestock Grower

**Administrative Assistant:**

- Hanna Cook

**Guests:** Pat Tucker (HPP Coordinator), David McNitt (Committee Rep Applicant), Ron Goodrich (Committee Rep Applicant), Daniel Graves (Committee Rep Applicant), Marissa Neuzil (Teller Park Conservation District), Kim Woodruff (CPW-DWM), Mitchell Emmer (USFS)

**Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM**

**Budget Report**

The budget report was reviewed.

**Old Business**

We are still waiting on tire tanks to be produced and delivered.

Kim has been having trouble getting inmate crews on projects because of pandemic restrictions. The inmate hand thinning project may not be completed if this continues.

The bid for the Little Badger Hydroaxe Project has been secured and they will be using the funds that HPP approved.

The Midway project is on track-the pipe has been ordered, and they will get the pump and solar panels soon.

The Poncha Loop project is also on track-the contractor will start work this spring.

## **New Business**

### **Sportsperson Vacancy Interviews**

#### **Daniel Graves**

Dan is an active duty major in the army and will be retiring in 18 months. He is interested in pursuing a career in the wildlife field after retiring from the army. He is passionate about hunting and has been volunteering with Tim Kroening and with various wildlife programs. He is interested in continuing to get more experience and is excited about the opportunity to serve on the committee to represent sportspeople and work with landowners to implement projects that will maximize the benefits to wildlife, sportspeople, landowners, and HPP.

#### **David McNitt**

David works for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, in partnership with CPW/NRCS. He now holds the position that Ty Woodward had before being hired at CPW. He is a private lands wildlife biologist and is passionate about hunting. He regularly works with private landowners and other agencies to implement forest restoration and habitat work, so he has a good network for communicating with potential partners. He is excited about the opportunity to represent sportspeople, improve access for hunters, and find landowners and projects that are the right fit for HPP.

#### **Ron Goodrich**

Ron is a CPA and has been an active sportsman in Colorado for 45 years. He helps his clients get wildlife projects and conservation easements implemented on their lands. He has been on the CO Sportsman's Roundtable for 5 years and has been active in various other wildlife groups. He has worked with senators and representatives on wildlife issues, and has served as a liaison between landowners and sportspeople to arrive at the best solution to benefit everyone involved. He is excited about the opportunity to represent sportspeople and to use the experience and connections he has built to make sure HPP is widely known and utilized to benefit wildlife, sportspeople, and landowners.

### **Project Application Proposals and Reviews**

#### **Trout Creek Noxious Weed Project Update**

This project was approved at the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for \$10,000 for herbicide that would be sprayed by USFS personnel to treat noxious weeds in FY 2022. Colorado Springs Utilities would pay additional funds for a contractor to spray additional acres. Mitchel Emmer was going to do the labor to spray with the herbicide that HPP purchased, but he has taken on additional responsibilities with the USFS and will not have time to spray. He is requesting that the \$10,000 from HPP go to the contractor instead of herbicide. The contractor will be able to spray the same number of acres as originally planned, if not more. CSU's match will stay the same, but the USFS match will decrease, as Mitch will not be doing any spraying. Mitch will still be doing the planning and contract administration.

**The project changes were approved for FY 2022. The \$10,000 from HPP will go towards a contractor that will complete spraying on noxious weeds.**

### **Remaining committee business/other discussion**

The committee feels it is important that all of the committee members are present to select a new committee rep, so they will schedule another meeting to vote on the sportsperson's representative so that all committee members can participate in the decision.

The HPP State Council has a vacancy for a livestock grower representative and a sportsperson representative. Applications are due by February 19<sup>th</sup> and all applicants must be nominated by their local committee prior to submitting their application to Pat Tucker.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM**

**Next meeting: Conference call February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, regular meeting on April 13th at 10:00 AM via video conference.**

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