

## Notes from the Feb.17<sup>th</sup> West Box Elder CRM Meeting

Attending: Ryan Benson, Shaun Mathewson, Dusty Richards, Alex Pommier, Jay Tanner, Dave Dahlgren, Adam Brewerton, Eric Thacker, Jeff Hadfield, Cathy Cannon, Chris Bryan, Clayton White, Eric Ellis, Allen Kunzler, Jay Carter, Troy Forest, Spencer Morris, Jed Reader, Leah Lewis, Ken Spackman, Diane Tanner, Clint Hill, Bracken Henderson: Distant attendees: Todd Adams, Scott Mc Gittagan, Bekee Hotze, Scott Walker, Brad Jessop, Nate Long, Jerry Bullock, Alan Smith

6:00 Ken Spackman called meeting to order.

Bracken Henderson went over replacements on the Voting Board and the Sub-Committees. Some changes needed to be made were some of them have moved to different assignments or weren't able to serve any longer. Commissioner LuAnn Adams will be replaced by Commissioner Jeff Hadfield. Todd Black with Dave Dahlgren, Brent Rose by Jay Carter.

Clint Hill said that the CRM is the clearing house for all projects. It's the way for the landowners and agencies to know what's going on in West Box Elder. With WRI there is a fund pool for range, P/J, water, and wildlife projects. It has to have local coordination to get a ranking. The CRM is that local coordination. There were several WRI projects that needed to be presented through the CRM. Dave Dahlgren raised the concern that some projects come up real fast and asked if email would be a viable way to get it to the voting board if time didn't allow to meet together as a body. The CRM body voted to use email if the time limit was before the CRM could meet together. Bekee Hotze had the concern that an email might get lost in the BLM mailboxes. She asked that any voting email might be clearly labeled as important so they didn't miss the opportunity to have a voice in the decisions. A heading on a voting email needs to somehow display boldly "IMPORTANT" so it didn't get lost in the myriads of mail that comes through the BLM.

Brad Jessop presented projects: Grouse Creek Bullhog Phase III, with 705 acres of mastication to be done this year. The project on Badger Flat is to keep wild fire from damaging this area. There were areas in which seeding hadn't taken well and would be reseeded. Brad explained that the PV projects haven't been finished but they are in the process of getting bids to get it finished. Chris Bryan said that all these projects have been ranked high. Jay Tanner motioned to accept these projects /Spencer Morris seconded the motion, motion passed.

Nate Long had three projects in Park Valley; two upgrades from chaining projects to bullhog for a better life span result others lop and scatter in an old chaining area.

Motion made to accept these projects from Spencer Morris, second from Troy Forest. Motion passed.

Nate Long presented Masako Wright's project in Willow Spring near Rocky Pass and Rocky Pass complex. This will include dredging ponds with an excavator. The motion was made to accept these projects as long as domestic livestock would still be allowed. Motion made by Jay Tanner, second by Troy Forest. Motion passed.

Clint Hill suggested that all funded projects have a representative to return and report on the project or include those projects on our summer tour.

Alex Pommier reported on the two Grouse Creek catastrophic firebreaks. The breaks run several miles up the town. There is a struggle to accomplish the burning of the trees with a small window of opportunity to burn. They are working on getting their own meteorologist so that they don't have to use the same one that monitors the Wasatch Front where the air quality is so different. It should make a much larger window for burning opportunities. Alex said that they are also working to get cell phone towers in the Grouse Creek area. Communication with locals will be a priority. Alan suggested that meetings take place on weekends to include out of town landowners in the Grouse Creek area. It was suggested Friday night April 3 at 7:00 for that meeting to take place.

Ryan Benson presented Utah Plan Wildfire and Conifer Threat Reduction Analysis with Utah sage grouse conservation strategies. Questions they gave each of us were; What have we done? What can we do better? Box Elder has a huge area of SGMA and wildfire is a big threat. What can we do to improve? The analysis helps us to know where the most threatening wild fire areas are and where we need to work.

Eric Thacker said there are studies that are suggesting that using biochar in the firebreak may enhance ability to re seed. They will try patches to suppress chat grass or other diseases. There is a grant to test drive this. The biochar needs to be worked into the soil. It has shown successful in small areas.

Motion made to close meeting by Troy Forest/Second by Spencer Morris. Motion Passed.