

Notes for the September 16th WBE CRM Meeting

Attendees: Karl Fleming, Bracken Henderson, Clint Hill, Travis Mote, Phil Tuttle, Beth Burritt, Chris Bryan, Larry Garahan, Brien Maxfield, John Maxfield, Erik Thacker, Troy Forest, Jim Christiansen, Jay Tanner, Dave Dahlgren, Neal Artz, Bill Gilson, Erik Spencer, Jeff Schick, Diane Tanner . Distance attendees: Brigham City; Anthony Von Niederhausern, DWR : Alan Smith, Dave Call, Grouse Creek: Glen Tingey, Tawni Blanthorn, Julie Tanner, Carole Warburton, Patti Kimber, Mick Warburton, Jewel Franklin

6:00 Diane Tanner welcomed everyone and turned the time over to Bracken Henderson who facilitated the discussion throughout the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to propose projects and make sure we know what project are going on presently so we can help to support the project or raise concerns that can be addressed. Each of the Sub-committees had a report as follows:

Water - Jay Tanner: Water never ceases to be a problem so using water efficiently in our area is a must. One of the less expensive projects and also a positive connection with wildlife is to bring Beaver back into the area. It might only extend irrigation 2 or 3 weeks but it would still be worth it. Jim Christiansen said that next week the first Beaver to be placed back into West Box Elder will take place.

Phil Tuttle said it might be beneficial for the economics of the area to provide fisheries for the Least Chubb and Bonneville Cutthroat.

Scott McGettigan talked about getting snow making generators that target the Raft River Mt. North American Weather Consultants would be the entity to work with for that.

P/J and Rangeland Clint Hill said that the Dry Basin project got \$49,000 of WRI funding for Cultural Clearance. It has been mapped, and is currently being walked and culturally cleared. There will be a review in December of WRI projects and decisions of those funded will come out in April. The P/J treatment will be Lop and Scatter, and Bull hogging. The firebreak treatments will stay out of the middle of the area so that the sage grouse won't be bothered. Chris Bryan said that it was great to have the cultural clearances done now because that is the hardest part of the project. It will also help the ranking points to be higher to have that done. He will be doing the NEPA on the project. Discussion ensued about fire breaks and monitoring of the firebreaks. Dave Dahlgren said that Alan Clark had funding for monitoring and maintenance of the project.

Badger Flats needs more monitoring to see if the project was successful. The possibility existed that Stephanie Graham may have collected a preset of data for the area. She may also have a

baseline. Jay said that when Stephanie did the post her study on the vegetation there hadn't been any precipitation. We should have a much better rating now after a good moisture year. Erik thought it was a possibility that WRI will have funds for monitoring.

Chris Bryan discussed the Park Valley Face PJ treatment project that was funded through WRI this spring and work on it will start this fall. Also Phase two of this project will be south of HW 30. Lop and Scatter will be the method used on that phase. Kirk Enright says that this area is very important not only for the sage grouse but also the mule deer.

Larry Garahan introduced himself and explained that he will be filling in for Bruce Silitoe for the next several months. He has been more of a "Rock Guy" than a "Plant Guy" but is enthused about helping us out in West Box Elder. He is a geologist working out of SLC.

Anthony Von Niederhausern has been working on a pipeline extension in the Dove Creek area. He is also finishing up renewal of grazing permits, to be finalized and signed by July of 2015.

Weeds-Bill Gilson : Sadly Mike Miller the county Weed Foreman was recently killed in an accident. Interviews for his replacement are presently occurring.

Through Clint Hill's grant writing, the county has been awarded \$11,500 for knapweed and White Top. We will have cooperative weed work days again this coming year in which, chemicals will be dispensed, spray equipment will be fixed and help with ratios for mixing chemicals will be given. We will also work with Cassia County's weed foreman to work on Leafy Spurge in the Goose Creek drainage. Erik Spencer asked if the Yost folks could get their work day later in the year as they are in a higher elevation and the weeds really aren't coming on when we've had work days in the past.

Lyle Holmgren's Weed app is making good progress. We are keeping an eye on it to see how we can use his project with our CRM.

Wildlife-Phil Tuttle : Project is dredging of the Rocky Pass ponds. After the fire that occurred in that area, a lot of debris got into ponds. He has been salvaging fish and toads from ponds and springs.

Adam Brewerton and Alan Smith are arranging local meetings in Yost and Park Valley on November 19th and 20th to speak to residents about Special Status Species in the area.

Dave Dahlgren brought Sage Grouse disturbance maps and asked for help to see if maps he has that show areas of grouse disturbance, really are areas of concern or something other than what they appear. Dave needs to have a baseline for these maps by spring. He is soliciting local working groups with their knowledge of the area to help. There will be a meeting on October 8th at 6:00 in Park Valley for land owners and agency folks to help with these maps.

Dave Dahlgren went a national level meeting last week with US Fish and Wildlife. He gave us an update on how things were moving in the sage grouse listed problem.

Troy Forest said that in Rich county, a spreadsheet of projects started and completed were sent in on a template to one person to keep track of all the information and monitoring. Dave Dahlgren said he could gather and keep track of the progress.

8:00 Meeting was adjourned.