GUNNISON BASIN SAGE-GROUSE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2019

The February 20, 2019 Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin #D, Gunnison, CO, 81230

Committee Members Present:
Voting Members:
Jonathan Houck, Chairperson, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
J. Wenum, Vice-Chairperson, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
Sue Navy, High Country Conservation Advocates
Dan Olson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Tim Kugler, Recreation At-Large
Erich Ferchau, Development Community At-large
Elijah Waters, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Matt Vasquez, United States Forest Service (USFS)

Non-Voting Members
Nathan Seward, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Alternate
Roland Mason, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Alternate

Others in the Audience:
Pat Magee, WSCU
Sam Liebl, WSCU
Brandon Miller, USFWS
Jim Cochran

Staff Members Present:
Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant
Aleshia Rummel, Gunnison Conservation District, Wildlife Biologist

Others present as listed in text.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Houck called the February 20, 2019 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee to order at 10:00 A.M.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Houck confirmed that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONFIRMED: Houck verified that proper legal public notice had occurred.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Agenda approved as amended, Recovery Plan Update removed if Timberman cannot call by phone.

APPROVAL of December 19, 2018 MEETING MINUTES: Moved: by Navy and seconded by Wenum to accept the December 19, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Houck reported that the BOCC did all of its appointments to the boards and committees. They appointed to the Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, Roland Mason as the alternate for BOCC and Polly Obrosler as the alternate for At-Large Development. The only opening on the board is the alternate for Recreation, which the BOCC will attempt to fill.

DRAFT

Houck gave an update on the County Coalition. They were trying to put together a meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service and Hickenlooper's office so they could talk about all the things that were in play but the shutdown happened and they couldn't get together. Everyone involved with sage-grouse has scattered and they are working on getting new directors. Dan Gibbs was appointed as Director of Natural Resources. They are hoping not to lose the gains that have happened with a new administration. Cochran reported that the Recovery Plan is due in December of 2019 and that once the SSA is approved they will be able to complete the Recovery Plan.

Wenum reported they do not currently have a timeline for a new director for CPW. Once Director Gibs is in place and is up to speed he will want to be involved in the selection process with the Wildlife Commission. The Southwest Regional manager is retiring at the end of February, so they will need to fill another position once they have a new director. He reported that they did their big game classification flights and things looked good in January. Elk and deer are distributed across the landscapes and are slowly pushing their way toward the highway. Deer survival rates, based on the collars, have been good. They will have their big game license recommendation meeting March 25, 2019 at Western.

Houck reported that he worked with Marlene on the "Point of Interest" sign on Highway 50 at the Waunita Watchable Wildlife area and will take it down. The closures will be coming up soon and there are new closures for Signal Peak.

Waters reported that the roads in Signal Peak were closed at the beginning of January and that they will see how the first year goes and if people will comply. Kugler reported that there are gates with wings. There are signs up there with the idea that people will know when the closure is, March 15, 2019. Seward reported that he used to count the birds in the Signal Peak area and would on average see five to seven males and in the last couple years it has dropped to two to three males. Hard to determine if it's due to people or predators in the area.

Seward reported that Tasha Blechais is going to be the new Lek Count Coordinator and will be starting on March 11, 2019.

Navy reported that Wildland Restoration Volunteers is going to be here doing sage-grouse projects the Wednesday after Labor Day, September 4, 2019.

RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

Timberman not here to do update. Cochran reported instead on the Collaborative Action Plan. The Plan coordinator ran out of money and in December submitted a rough draft of an Action Plan. He still has some money in the budget and is trying to determine if the entities involved are interested in seeing it completed in some matter.

I & E FUNDING REQUEST- UPDATE ON CHEATGRASS PROJECT

Magee gave an update on the project. One of the key messages they are interested in is cheatgrass treatment on the ground and the educational piece. Liebl gave presentation on request for $1,920 from the I & E fund so they can do a video for the educational piece. Discussion followed.

Motion: Moved by Navy, seconded by Waters to fund the $1,920. Motion passed unanimously.

Note to Finance: We will provide an approved set of minutes after the next meeting.

LEK ACCESS AND PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Seward reported that they received one application this year from Alex Clark. Discussion followed on the past denials, approvals, future ones and whether this application is for good.

Motion: Moved by Vasquez, seconded by Navy to approve the application. Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Future meetings will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Planning Commission meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Co. 81230, unless changed for a specific reason.

03-20-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
04-17-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
05-15-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
06-19-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
07-17-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
08-21-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
09-18-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
10-16-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
11-20-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room
12-18-19	10-12	Regular Meeting	Blackstock; 221 N. Wisconsin 2nd floor meeting room

ADJOURN: The February 20, 2019 meeting of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Minutes Prepared By: Rebecca Ricord, Administrative Assistant

DRAFT