
Presenters for Arizona Game and Fish Department: Hannah Griscom - Region II, Flagstaff, Ryan Babel – DOFP

Commissioner Brake started the meeting with a welcome and gave some background information about himself. HPAC members introduced themselves and the regions or positions they hold.

Hannah Griscom gave two presentations. The first was on the Little Colorado River Riparian Restoration. The project is for tamarisk removal and benefits native songbirds, mule deer, and antelope, along with other critters.

The second project was funded through an Environmental Education Heritage Grant from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The participant was Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) and the project was entitled “Audio Guides to the Raymond Wildlife Area and Mormon Lake Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience”. These sites are just two out of thirty within 30 miles of Flagstaff that AWF would like to record. They are starting to record sites in the Verde Valley area. Interns come in and update their website with recordings. These audio recordings can be heard at their website – www.awf.org.

Ryan Babel announced the entities that were awarded 2019 Heritage Grants. Ryan stated that some proposals were rejected, while others were not complete or were lacking in information and denied. Ryan thanked the HPAC Members who were involved in the scoring process for their time and effort. There is some concern about members scoring applications for organizations they are affiliated with. This is something that needs to be watched for before members volunteer to score certain projects or funding windows. Also, should members have questions about the proposal while scoring; they should not contact the applicant, but contact the Heritage Grants Coordinator with the question and let them contact the applicant. Ryan stated that the call-in scoring process was successful. Audio was used by the members rather than video, but in the future video can possibly be used more often.

There was a discussion on how to assist entities that need help completing and submitting an application. There is some concern about the fairness of applications being submitted by professional grant writers compared to applicants who do not have grant writers on staff and have to write and submit their own proposals such as teachers, grade schools, etc. Ryan stated that the Department will assist applicants if they need help. They just need to call the number that is listed on the documents. Also, if an applicant gets an application in early and there is
something missing, the Department will contact the applicant and let them know. The Department cannot be faulted for Applicants who wait until the last minute to submit their application and it is not complete (thereby being rejected). Other ideas were:

- Hold workshops around the state (as was previously done).
- Have a link to a recorded webinar that explains the process.

The Department is working on the 2020 Heritage Grant cycle and hope to have it announced by the end of August.

Committee business consisted of the request for HPAC members updating their biographical information. LouAnn has sent them a form to complete and return with updated phone numbers, addresses, affiliations, etc.

There was talk of reviewing and updating the HPAC Charter, however, everyone seemed to be in consensus that the Charter covers everything as it stands.

The election of a new Vice-Chair at the January meeting was discussed. Nick Lund has been Vice-Chair for the past few years and it needed to be taken into consideration that someone else would possibly want the position. The members stated that they were happy with Nick. Jim Snitzer made a motion to keep Nick Lund as Vice-Chair and all members agreed and passed the motion.

HPAC members requested the Department provide more detailed direction on what is expected of them in their efforts to promote the Heritage fund. One idea was to have members visit the sites of the projects. They could be given a checkoff list to see if the work had been completed and specifications met.

There was discussion about the January meeting being moved to another month. January is the Commission meeting, Commission banquet, and there are a couple other committee meetings that the Commissioners are required to attend. It was stated that the meeting could either be moved to another month when the Commission meets, or even held on a different weekend than the Commission meeting. This was just a discussion and did not require a decision at this time.

The meeting wrapped up with members sharing success stories of any grant activities they have been involved with or were aware of. Jim Snitzer shared a story about a grant that was given for Rainbow Lake and Tice Supplee shared some information regarding a couple of grants that AZ Audubon Society received.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.