MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE OF
EAGLE RANCH ASSOCIATION

A Meeting of the Wildlife Committee of the Eagle Ranch Association (the "Association") was held on October 22, 2024, at the Eagle Ranch Office, 1143 Capitol Street, Eagle, CO 81631, or via video/teleconference*.

Committee Members Present:

Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Eagle Valley Wildland
Derek Rose, Eagle Ranch Golf Course
Brian Wodrich, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Brian Lieberman, Town of Eagle

Others Present:

Shelley Bellm, EWH Assistant Community Manager, Eagle Ranch; Wildlife Coordinator
Shawn Bruckman, Ground-Up Solutions
Phil Kirkman, Eagle County Government
Eryn Adrian, Solitude Lake Management*
Kate Sheldon, Resident
Tracy Feldman, Resident
Jamie Harrison, Resident
Tom Olden, Resident
Robert Dagostino, Resident
Laura Tumperi, Resident
John Clements, Resident

The order of business was as follows:

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. MDT. A quorum of Committee members was present.

2. Approval of Minutes. Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held June 23, 2024 as presented.

3. New Business

    a. Ground-Up Solutions - Update.
    Shawn provided an update the committee noting that we are currently in Phase 1, of the soil study. Samples, weed mapping, and forage analysis have been completed. Lab results have been returned to Ground-Up for analysis and recommendations to the Committee for future seeding. The report is anticipated to be completed by end of year, 2024 with recommendations to the committee on seeding in the Spring of 2025.

    b. Brush Creek Valley Ranch & Open Space Fence Overhaul.
    Phil Kirkman, Eagle County Open Space Ranger, provided an overview of the funding request to rebuild and replace approximately 60,000 square feet of fencing with wildlife friendly fencing, steel panel fencing and new gates. Eagle County is asking for a

partnership with the wildlife committee and an investment of 10% of the costs for this project, Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space Fencing Overhaul.

Board Discussion:

- Brian Wodrich inquired if there are any areas within this project that fencing is not being used specifically for agricultural where lay-down fencing could be included in the project to allow wildlife migration through this area.
- Hugh Fairfield-Smith recommend a motion to approve 10% funding to Eagle County, not to exceed $50,000.

Resident Questions/Discussion:

- Tom Olden inquired about the sustainability of this fence and the loss of habitat for wildlife as fencing is not wildlife friendly. Phil reviewed the management plan for this ranch as a working ranch used for hay production, livestock grazing, and pasturing of horses. There is a proven benefit for shared uses between livestock and wildlife.
- Kate Sheldon inquired about using fenceless technology as an alternative to the proposed fencing. Brian Wodrich commented that fenceless technology is not accurate enough, at this time, for a parcel this size. The technology is moving in that direction and could be considered in the future.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the participation in this project at 10% funding, with a maximum amount of $50,000.

c. <u>Eagle Ranch Fishing Pond Mitigation.</u>

Eryn Adrian, Solitude Lake Management, met with Brian Lieberman, Brian Wodrich, and Shelley Bellm, on-site to explore mitigation opportunities at the Eagle Ranch Fishing Pond. Eryn provided a review of the mitigation opportunities submitted to the committee for review. The goal of any mitigation is to reduce the need for future mitigation.

Board Discussion:

- Brian Lieberman inquired if Eryn had any recommendations on level of mitigation needed, based on her visit to the site. Eryn informed the group that the base level of mitigation will provide some benefit. The premium plan will add benefit with the addition of biologicals to the pond to reduce phosphorus, and the proactive plan will provide the greatest level of remediation and increase the longevity of mitigation.
- Brian Wodrich asked if there is a final site-visit to survey the success of the program. Solitude Lake Management will provide a year-end report and future recommendations.
- Derek Rose informed the committee that the Eagle Ranch Golf Course uses the premium program and have found the mitigation highly successful.

Resident Questions/Discussion:

- Tom Olden inquired about the safety of the nutrients being added to this pond and how they impact fish and other aquatic wildlife. Eryn recognized that through the study, they will have a better understanding of what is in the pond and be able to ensure that any mitigation is selected based on that information.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the mitigation option at the premium level for year 2025.

d. Request for Funding.
Kate Sheldon provided an overview of three funding requests she has for the wildlife committee to consider.

1. Wildlife Crossings

Board Discussion:

- Brian Wodrich likes the options presented and is interested in pursuing a variable message sign as well as illuminated elk-crossing signs.
- Consideration should be made for placement of a VMS system to ensure low impact to neighbors.
- Can we get double fines in crossing areas? This would need to be explored with the Town.
- **Shelley will reach out to the Town public works department to discuss locations where VMS signs can be placed as well as discuss the opportunity to retro-fit elk crossing signs with programable illumination**.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the funding for this project – up to $20,000 for a Variable Message Sign and up to $5,000 for illuminated elk-crossing signs.

2. Wildlife Corridor Mitigation

Board Discussion:

- Brian Wodrich asked if we are looking to mitigate or euthanize the ground squirrels. This area has extremely unhealthy soils and a very active borough system. Would recommend eradication & backfill.
- Brian Lieberman indicated that timing may be difficult as we will need to gain permission from the Town to perform any mitigation.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the funding for the fall project –$2,400 after permission is granted from the Town.

3. PSA Messaging

Board Discussion:

- Would like to add leash laws to the messaging.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the funding for the PSA messaging –$2,400 for 12 months – November 2024 thru October 2025.

e. Discussion – 2025 Wildlife Committee Budget.
Shelley Bellm reviewed the current proposed budget with the committee and discussed additional funding opportunities. **The 2025 budget will be modified to include**

programs approved today. Fund balance for the wildlife committee, as of September 30, 2024, is $954,028.43.

Board Discussion:

- A resident open house should be considered in early 2025 to try to gain an understanding of the priorities of Eagle Ranch Residents
- A strategic plan meeting will be scheduled after the open house to begin establishing project goals for the committee.

Resident Questions/Discussion:

- Jamie Harrison addressed the committee asking them to consider establishing a procedure for evaluating projects and funding limits. Consider creating a strategic plan.

4. Other Business

   a. Open Space Ranger - Update. The Open Space Ranger is currently in the budget for staffing in 2025. Shelley conveyed to the committee that the Eagle Ranch Association Board feels it is important to have a seat at the table when discussing the IGA with the Town as a significant portion of funding is coming from various Eagle Ranch partners.

   b.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

SBellm

Shelley Bellm, Coordinator