

## Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Meeting

November 30, 2016

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Benton SWCD Office

456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110

Corvallis, OR 97333

### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Debra Paul (Linn SWCD), Holly Crosson (Benton SWCD), Jeff Baker (Greenbelt Land Trust), John Keogh (local landowner and farmer), Kathleen Guillozet (BEF), Melissa Newman (Benton SWCD), Michael Neal (City of Albany Talking Water Gardens), Peter Kenagy (Oregon Farm Bureau, local farmer, and Willamette River landowner), and Rick Barnett (City of Albany Parks and Rec. Dept.), Vern Holm (CPRCD)

Melissa Newman provided a short overview of the WMC for new attendees.

#### Review of 2016 Projects - Round Table Sharing

Michael Neal: Conducted three seasons of control treatment of Ludwigia at Talking Water Gardens. Would be interested in control treatments of Ludwigia at Simpson Park nearby. Invasive red-eared sliders and some western pond turtles are present at Gardens and western pond turtle are also present at Simpson Park. If able to obtain permit for trapping sliders, will start removing them at the Gardens.

Jeff Baker: Planted native trees and shrubs at Horseshoe Lake (Linn County) over past year as part of habitat restoration efforts at this site.

Debra Paul: Over past year busy conducting and overseeing ongoing outreach, OWEB small grants, and NRCS CREP projects.

Vern Holm: Provided overview of the [Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network \(WAIN\)](#) (Holly provided additional information on WAIN later in meeting as well).

John Keogh: Treats blackberry, teasel, and reed canarygrass at his farm. Clematis also present but hasn't been able to treat yet due to limited time.

Rick Barnett: Manages both sides of the river and a number of City treatment facilities. City partners with a number of organizations along the river to conduct invasive species control treatments, habitat restoration, and management activities at City properties. Works with Benton SWCD on ivy removal at Takena Landing, including goat grazing, contract removal (cut and spray), and volunteer event (Benton County CWMA Pulling Together Event). City of Albany will be hiring a new Natural Resources Specialist (by February 2017) to replace Meghan Chuites.

Peter Kenagy: Shared concerns about long-term Ludwigia control. Ludwigia populations have grown substantially, and a large amount of funding and time will be needed for control efforts, and not sure if control efforts will be successful. Ivy should be an important focus of control efforts along the river. False brome is part of WMC Action plan but concerned about whether it is even feasible to control it as there may not be enough funding and time available to control it – extremely difficult to control. Important that we focus on something we can accomplish when developing EDRR/invasive priorities and strategies.

Holly Crosson: There are areas where it doesn't make sense to treat Ludwigia. The WAIN strategic plan (for the Willamette River length) will prioritize where it does make sense to treat (e.g., small populations, areas of high quality habitat and nearby) and not. Complete eradication of Ludwigia will not be possible, but control in strategic areas is important.

Melissa Newman: WAIN strategic plan is currently being developed with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Willamette Riverkeeper (WRK) as leads. A newly formed subcommittee will meet over next year (Melissa will participate in subcommittee) to develop draft WAIN strategic plan. Draft strategic plan to be available for review/input next fall/winter. Melissa will make sure to share draft with WMC.

Holly Crosson: Benton SWCD has been working with USGS on a number of proposals and projects (e.g., geomorphic mapping; cold water refugia) over the past year. USGS' work will help inform restoration planning in the floodplain. Some of the projects will help inform where Ludwigia work should be done and not done. Willamette Riverkeeper, USGS, OPRD, PSU, and Benton SWCD will be conducting a collaborative baseline monitoring effort to learn more about the impacts of Ludwigia and other aquatic invasives species on off channel habitat. Benton SWCD will be working with USGS and the partners to share information learned from the research via outreach and education opportunities (e.g., float trips with scientists and landowners this spring/summer, creation of new Willamette River webpage which will include the WMC).

Vern Holm: Ludwigia is currently the poster child for the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Water quality monitoring is an important part of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) priorities and because of that they look favorably at OSWB grant applications that include Ludwigia. This will also be important for informing the WAIN strategic plan. Additional concerns include Oregon chub and irrigation (Ludwigia warms temperatures, which increases transpiration). Its likely Ducks Unlimited will likely start getting more involved with Ludwigia, as people are starting to get concerned about whether they can get their boats through. Ducks Unlimited has a national grant program.

Holly Crosson: Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited provide funds for aquatic invasive weed treatments in other states.

Kathleen Guillozet: Working with USGS on development of separate monitoring grant for the OWEB FIP. Bonneville Environmental Foundation will be working with Meyer Memorial Trust and Willamette River Initiative partners on diversity, equity, and inclusion training for partners. BEF will be opening up funds to allow people to train for aquatic herbicides (not necessarily to apply) and rudimentary training around soils will be a part of this. Mentioned two talks to be included at the December Within our Reach conference she has helped organize: Beyond Shade and Fish Food (focus on birds as indicators of ecological health) and Tribal Perspectives in Restoration (Traditional Ecological Knowledge). BEF considering convening a conversation sometime in 2017 about homelessness and riparian areas along the river (soft entry point into the conversation). It's not for sure yet whether it will happen, but the discussions about the possibility of it are ongoing. BEF would like to know who else is interested (there was lots of interest from WMC meeting attendees). If interested in being involved, please contact Kathleen.

Holly Crosson: Discussed [Shared Space Initiative](#). Benton SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Mary's River Watershed Council have launched a project to assess the feasibility of a shared space center for organizations in the Corvallis area. At an early meeting to gauge interest from other partner organizations about possible participation in a shared space, a number of nonprofit organizations focusing on homelessness issues attended the meeting. These organizations could be partners in ongoing conversations about homelessness and riparian areas along the river.

Jeff Baker: OWEB is being asked by NMFS to look more closely at herbicide use, as there is misunderstanding about herbicides. Additional training opportunities about herbicides and herbicide use would be good to put use in context.

### Review of 2016 Projects – WMC 2016 Activities Presentation

Melissa Newman provided PowerPoint presentation on 2016 WMC Activities.

Summary table:

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#### Summary of 2016 Activities

<b>Feb - March 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aquatic Applicator Training (Benton County CWMA)</li><li>• Herbicide Roundtable: Pre-emergent Herbicides (Benton County CWMA)</li></ul>
<b>Feb 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ivy control at Takena Landing using mechanical/herbicide (focus on tree ivy along Hwy 20 and within park along the trail) (OWEB-SIP)</li></ul>
<b>April - June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transition of WMC coordinator position (Crystal departure in April; Melissa joined in June)</li></ul>

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## Summary of 2016 Activities

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June-Sept 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Volunteer water primrose pulls &amp; surveys (OSWB, Willamette Riverkeeper)</li><li>• 1 Workshop for aquatic weed ID and management (OSWB, Willamette Riverkeeper, OPRD)</li></ul>
July – Aug 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ludwigia</i> surveys with Willamette Riverkeeper and other Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network partners</li></ul>
July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electrofishing survey in Stewart Slough and Collins Bay (ODFW)</li></ul>
July – Aug 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Second year of <i>Ludwigia</i> treatments in Stuart Slough, Azbahr Lake and Knife River gravel ponds (OWEB-WSIP)</li></ul>
July – Nov 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water quality monitoring at 3 <i>Ludwigia</i> sites (OSWB)</li></ul>
Aug 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third year of <i>Ludwigia</i> treatments at Collins Bay and yellow floating heart treatments at Horseshoe Lake (OSWB)</li></ul>
August – Sept. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ivy control at Takena Landing using goat grazing and volunteer pulls (OWEB-WSIP, City of Albany Parks and Recreation and Public Works, Calapooia Watershed Council)</li></ul>
August – Sept. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native plant materials collection (aquatic seeds and tubers) at Marvin’s Marvelous Wetlands</li></ul>
October – November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First year of restoration plantings at Collins Bay (wapato tubers)</li></ul>
October- November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination with Oregon Native Turtle Working group and creation of WMC draft outreach/education handout for western pond turtle and aquatic invasive plants</li></ul>
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in Calapooia Watershed Council’s Science Day at Simpson Park for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students from Timber Ridge School – Calapooia Watershed Council, Michael Neal, and Melissa Newman</li></ul>

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## WMC 5-Year Action Plan

### Progress and next steps

Proposed updates to WMC 5-Year Action Plan:

Pg. 1: Added plan revision date

Pg. 4: WMC meeting currently meeting two times per year

Pg. 6: Added additional Stakeholder Group members (Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development)

Pg. 6: Added contact information for Steering Committee members and Stakeholders

Pg. 8: Added additional clarifying language related to funding sources; added additional potential funding/partnership opportunities. For example, added ODFW state wildlife grants. The Center for Natural Lands Management is developing a grant proposal that will cover the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound, and recently submitted one to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (request of \$498,777 for “Advancing Western Pond Turtle Conservation in Washington, Oregon, and California”). Also added USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants. Jeff Baker: OPRD has a NAWCA grant and they are considering submitting another application this July.

Pg. 10: Added yellow floating heart to list of priority invasives.

Pg. 11: Included new strategic action for re-evaluating priority invasive plant species. Added information related to yellow floating heart and false brome.

Pg. 11- 13: Updated strategic action statuses, added additional funders, added additional ongoing regulatory coordination and permitting, and added some clarifying language.

Pg. 12: Added Upper Kiger Side Channel site along river (manual removal of water primrose past several years as part of volunteer events, 2016 was first year of chemical control treatment of primrose at site, 2016 was first year yellow floating heart was observed and pulled at site during volunteer weed pull event)

Pg. 12: Added Scatter Bar Pond (Greenbelt Land Trust site to be potentially treated in 2017 using ODA OSWB funds)

Pg. 14: For "Actions outside of the focus reach": Added participation in planning effort for WAIN strategic action plan to prioritize aquatic invasive plant species and high priority areas to focus control efforts on along the Willamette River

Pg. 14: For "Actions outside of the focus reach": Added language about USGS/PSU/OPRD/Willamette Riverkeeper/Benton SWCD pilot project at Willamette Mission State Park

Pgs. 14-17: Added/updated status of actions.

## Visions for the future

### Discuss future plans and needs for current projects

Peter Kenagy: Regarding Ludwigia control treatments, we need a fundamental understanding of our control measures and if those control measures are effective. It would be useful to test different Ludwigia treatments and their efficacy.

Melissa Newman: Oregon State Weed Board grant application for 2017 will include continued treatment of Ludwigia at Collins Bay as well as continued restoration plantings (native aquatic wetland species). New Ludwigia treatments at Wapato Cove (can move forward now that we have clearance from NMFS) and possible treatment at Scatter Bar Bend near Horseshoe Lake in Linn County. Scatter Bar Bend and Horseshoe Lake are both owned by Greenbelt Land Trust. There is interest in treating Ludwigia at Scatter Bar Bend since it is so close to Horseshoe Lake area which has been undergoing extensive habitat restoration (riparian). Melissa to coordinate with Linn SWCD (Deb Paul) about Benton SWCD's interest in using ODA OSWB funds to treat the site.

There may also be small patch of Ludwigia at Horseshoe Lake. Site visit needed to see where it is and the size of the patch. Want to keep it from spreading further.

For OSWB grant application, will continue volunteer Ludwigia and yellow floating heart pulls on river, and hold two workshops (one on the river for aquatic plant ID (native, invasive, non-native) and one with WAIN on the use of Fulcrum software for

data collection). Will continue water quality and vegetation monitoring. Monitoring may also include further electrofishing with Brian Bangs from ODFW.

Will work with City of Albany to continue ivy treatments at Takena Landing with contractors in 2017 (OWEB-SIP funds). Will focus on tree ivy within the park that has not been previously treated. Will continue to work with City of Albany on ivy weed pull event at Takena Landing.

Ludwigia treatments will continue in the Stewart Slough complex in 2017 (OWEB-SIP funds).

Due to higher costs of goat grazing, may consider only a small area for goat grazing in 2017 for educational and outreach purposes (OWEB-SIP funds). Melissa to coordinate with organizations to learn more about the effectiveness of goat grazing and how to increase effectiveness.

Next WMC meeting should include an evaluation of the priority invasives list and whether species should be removed/changed. Next WMC meeting should include discussion of potential future treatment areas for priority invasive species (e.g., *Clematis vitalba*).

**\*\*\*See page below for grant budget summary.\*\*\***

### **Action Items:**

**Vern:** Share link to WAIN and Melissa shares with WMC group (completed 12/1/2016)

#### **Melissa:**

- Share link to 2015 Water Quality and Ludwigia Monitoring Report (completed 12/1/2016)
- Send Kathleen information from last year's Benton County CWMA trainings on herbicides (completed 12/1/2016)
- Make Updates to WMC Action Plan and send out to group for review (completed 2/15/2017)
- Discuss control treatment options for Ludwigia at Scatter Bar Bend (Linn County) further with Linn SWCD (Deb Paul). **(To be completed)**

**Thanks to everyone for attending and for your invaluable feedback!**

**Budget Summary for Grants (as of 10.31.2016)**

<b>Grantor, Program and Duration</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Budget spent in 2014</b>	<b>Budget spent in 2015</b>	<b>Budget spent in 2016 as of 10/31/2016</b>	<b>Budget Remaining as of 10/31/2016</b>
<b>OWEB-Willamette Special Investment Partnership Feb. 2015 thru Sept. 2018</b>	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Restoration, Phase I	\$221,643	—	\$47,949	\$53,424	\$120,270
<b>MMT-WRI Basin-Wide Impact (2016-2018) Aug. 2014 thru Aug. 2016, extended and ongoing</b>	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative	\$141,344	\$19,997	\$53,731	\$38,209	\$29,407
<b>MMT – WRI Basin-Wide Impact (2016-2018) July 2016 through June 2018</b>	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Phase II	\$90,031	—	—	—	\$90,031
<b>ODA – OSWB 2015 Apr. 2015 through Sept. 2015 (extension)</b>	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 2	\$36,604	—	\$27,978	\$8,626	\$0
<b>ODA – OSWB 2016 April 2016 through April 2017 (ext. will be requested through September)</b>	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 3	\$37,913	—	—	\$9,841	\$28,072
<b>BPA – Habitat Tech Team May 2015 thru May 2016</b>	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Weed Control	\$38,841	—	\$38,841	\$0	\$0
<b>ODA - Oregon State Weed Board 2014 Apr. 2014 thru July 2015 (extension)</b>	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 1	\$34,674	\$27,142	\$7,532	\$0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$566,376</b>	<b>\$19,997</b>	<b>\$168,499</b>	<b>\$110,100</b>	<b>\$267,779</b>