



CWMA

Benton County CWMA Full Meeting - Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2018

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Location: [Firestation # 5, Walnut Community Room](#)

In attendance: Kathleen Westly (Marys River Watershed Council), Josh Seekatz (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Tom Kaye (Institute for Applied Ecology), Beth Myers-Shenai (Oregon Department of Agriculture), Bruce Kelpsas (local community member), Emily Day (City of Albany), Aaron McEwan (Oregon Department of Forestry), Ted Hart (City of Corvallis), Bessie Joyce (Calapooia Watershed Council), Matt Blakely-Smith (Greenbelt Land Trust), Teresa Matteson (Benton Soil and Water Conservation District), America McMillin (City of Corvallis), Melissa Newman (Benton SWCD), Heath Keirstead (Benton SWCD), Jean-Paul Zagarola (Luckiamute Watershed Council & Bonneville Environmental Foundation), Adam Stebbins (Benton County), Mikki Collins (USFWS), Rana Foster (Benton SWCD Associate Director & community member)

1) WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2) RECAP OF ODA NOXIOUS WEED FORUM (BETH MYERS-SHENAI, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE [ODA])

- a) **Ludwigia and Yellow Floating Heart Presentations overview:** *Ludwigia hexapetala* is a beefier outcompeter and *L. peploides* is an earlier establisher. Nathan Harms with Army Corps (Mississippi) early analysis of biocontrol for yellow floating heart. 3 acres slough of YFH just downstream from Eugene. Evaluating natural predators for YFH. Bruce Hansen manual control of YFH on Little Squaw Lake. No EIS to use herbicide of any kind. So they handpulled with divers, surface scrapers, scooping up fragments, and benthic barriers. There were no plants found in 2017! Rich Miller from PSU and USGS Rick Carpenter monitoring from Willamette Mission and Collins Bay. Very valuable to make the case for why these aquatic invaders are a real concern for water quality. Matt Mellenthin from IRM talking about on the ground work for aquatic control. How to overcome barriers to access. Marci Krass and Melissa followed up with appropriate use of volunteers. Nathan Harms would like to receive samples of yellow floating heart. Asking for topics for next ODA noxious weed forum. May be in Eastern Oregon and focus on 1-2 species pertinent to that area.
- b) **ODA Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grants:** Ludwigia is a high priority weed but new grants on pause until assessment and prioritization is complete. Don't want to fund projects that are not matching with assessment. What needs to be protected for anadromous fish, being headed up by Willamette Riverkeeper (Marci Krass) Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network/CPRCD. Steering committee for the assessment project and room for others to join that committee. Funding for the ODA OSWB grants comes from OWEB. Any group that serves as lead for weeds for a county is eligible to apply for pot of funds. Not enough \$\$ in the pots of money. It would be good to have an aquatic weed pot of money.

3) UPDATE ON BENTON COUNTY CWMA ODA OREGON STATE WEED BOARD GRANT APPLICATION & AWARD (MELISSA NEWMAN)

- a) BC CWMA ODA OSWB 2018 grant application awarded funding.
- b) **Workshops/Outreach:** Continuing to do. Workshop participants go out and learn about invasive and native plants and invasive invertebrates. > 80 participants so far. Volunteer paddle and weed pull events over 100 participants. Focus on small populations of Ludwigia. Have found two new occurrences of Yellow Floating Heart on the river (great EDRR example!). This year's Benton County workshop will be a peer to peer field based workshop focused on sharing management techniques and lessons learned after several years of control treatments of Ludwigia and yellow floating heart. City of Eugene will also host an on the river workshop on aquatic invasive and native plant ID.
- c) **Control Treatments:** Continuing Ludwigia control treatments at Collins Bay, Scatter Bar Pond, and Wapato Cove; yellow floating heart control treatments at Horseshoe Lake; and will start select targeted treatment of parrotfeather at Collins Bay where it is coming in where Ludwigia control treatments have occurred. The goal long term is to keep the sites maintained with spot treatments and volunteer events. New treatment method for YFH started in 2017 and will continue in 2018, using Clearcast (aquatic label Imazamox).
- d) **Monitoring:** Monitoring with USGS and PSU- did not ask for more funding this year; currently assessing results from last year.
- e) **Aquatic Native Plantings:** Did wapato collection and plantings. Plant materials donated by local farmer. Need in future for more native aquatic plant materials for restoration activities along the river, many partners interested. Talking about informal native aquatic plant material subcommittee as part of the Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network, hard to find the time/capacity to do this. Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership- in their wheelhouse?

4) OUTREACH & EDUCATION – LET'S PULL TOGETHER! 2018 PLANNING

- a) **Let's Pull Together Event.**
 - i) Saturday, May 19. The CWMA's big Education and Outreach event. Last year moved to Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week (previously held in the fall).
 - ii) Who wants to participate this year?
 - (1) City of Corvallis Mill Race on Crystal Lake Dr.
 - (2) Calapooia Watershed Council has two sites- Simpson Park, Albany with W Albany HS students, Bowman Park in Albany with S Albany HS students. Contact Kristen Daly for Bowman and contact Savannah for Simpson Park. It would be great to also go back to Oak Creek Open Space too!
 - (3) City of Albany, Willamette Mainstem Cooperative, and Benton SWCD - Takena Landing and same day as Big Pick Up!
 - (4) **Melissa to reach out to GLT about Bald Hill and Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas about Beazell or Marys Peak.**
 - (5) **Melissa to coordinate with interested partners and SOLVE for event planning.**

- 5) **PAMPAS GRASS VS. JUBATA GRASS – WHAT TO LOOK FOR (MELISSA NEWMAN)**
- a) Pampas Grass and Jubata Grass Overview- See Powerpoint presentation [here](#) (5MB).
Add Pampas Grass to the BC CWMA weed list.
- 6) **SPECIES LIST**
- a) Add pampas grass.
- b) How about hardy cyclamen? Ants start spreading it. Analyze growing season days and see if there is a correlation between climatic factors and spread.
- c) Yellow archangel treatment- how to treat- multiple treatments what is best?
- d) Italian Arum- hard to get rid of.
- e) Oblong Spurge in Kings Valley popping up under cleared out blackberry.
- 7) **Q&A WITH JORDAN KIM (DISTRICT MANAGER, HOOD RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT) ON COLUMBIA GORGE CWMA'S NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF) PULLING TOGETHER INITIATIVE GRANT**
- a) Jordan Kim of Hood River SWCD and Columbia Gorge CWMA. Received a NFWF Pulling Together Grant. Project funded by NFWF grant- they applied in 2010. The proposal was funded from 2011-2013. She doesn't know if NFWF PTI has changed since then. Had ambitious plan to do project with three main components.
- b) **Please briefly describe the project that was funded by your NFWF grant.** Jordan: Coordinate all CWMA partners to get their existing weed location info into one of state weed recording locations (encouraging people to use iMapInvasives) because they didn't have a good grasp of where all the weeds were. Inventoried 40 priority sites in National Scenic Area with multiple jurisdictions looked for 6 target species- hogweed, leafy spurge, herb Robert ?, and a few others.
- c) **Do you have any general advice/recommendations for preparing a NFWF pre-proposal grant application?**
Jordan: They were interested in having a federally listed noxious weed. A feather in your grant cap if you include a federally listed noxious weed species. Public outreach/education component- four Weed Watcher trainings with set presentation shared among partners for consistency and installed 25 brushes and signage at major trailheads. She recommends being really realistic about what you can handle. They completed their ambitious project but it was a lot of work. It was great for their CWMA-gave them a step up. Helps to have 1-2 project leads involved from the get go and having them on board for carry-through until the end. Changing project leads mid stride would be detrimental. She guesses that our focus would be really competitive because of focus on nationally listed species. Each of their components could have been its own grant. Try to be realistic about what you can accomplish.
- d) **With so many partners involved in your grant, did any difficulties come up during grant implementation in being able to meet the grant requirements?**
Jordan: No partners helped a lot. Lots of partners can be daunting, having agreements in place going in, and tracking system in place to track hours, counted planning meetings as match, go in organized with clear partner expectation. From management perspective, NFWF grants easy to manage. Requesting funds and getting

reimbursed very easy- no receipts and no documentation requested from NFWF. Turn over at NFWF with grant managers- three or four project managers on NFWF side during their grant. The level of permitting required for installing boot brushes indifferent counties states and land ownerships, at least regulatory entities at each location that needed to be involved. They hired Emily Stevenson as contract on the ground manager for project. Able to coordinate with everyone and did lots of one on one meetings, lots of spreadsheets.

e) **Was grant funding enough to implement the project?**

Jordan: Yes and they were able to get some weed field guides printed up too. Able to pay for Jordan's extra time spent on permitting. There were some good infrastructural components they were able to establish.

f) **Is there anything you would do differently in putting together your grant application, if you were to do it over?**

Jordan: Not bite off so much. Do the same thing but on a smaller scale. Required a lot more project management than she was prepared for. They had built in some money to hopefully do these components (unknowns) so there was cushion. Ended up shuffling funds around to pay for extra project management time. Justify what you put in the budget. At the time it was not too strict with how you spend the money. Did they allow you to switch categories? Did you have to ask in advance? You just ask for a lump sum and they don't want the details.

g) **In your opinion what elements were critical to your successful application? What do you think NFWF is looking for? What makes an application stand out to them?**

Jordan: NFWF interested in federally listed species and weeds. And looking at partnerships. Commitment letters and support letters. They emphasized in narrative that they are trying to build capacity in CWMA and components would allow them to expand in certain ways. Getting people to report on their data and doing surveys. Emphasize that the grant will allow us to build CWMA capacity. Tom Kaye received money from NFWF before. Pretty competitive. Do they require a logic model? Lots of staff turnover at NFWF. More like a foundation but not actually a foundation.

8) Collaborative Funding Opportunity: 2018 National Fish And Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative Grant Application Planning Meeting – (Partners Interested In Grant Opportunity)

- a) Discussion for NFWF grant planning. Public private, federal lands? Rare and endangered species and invasive species threat "RESIST" start with a good acronym. Wren (private landowners and county sites), Bald Hill Farm, Lupine Meadows, Fitton Green, Cardwell Hill Site of Ed Easterling Crestmont Farm/Trust. And another landowner- Skip. BEF has a powerline that runs through. They just started initiating investment in weed control. Kathleen working with BEF to remove blackberry over TumTum. How many sites can you do work at with \$100,000? Does it compliment other grants like OSWB? Could county provide match at county sites- routine maintenance?

3 year effectiveness monitoring this year- more data city and county have mowing equipment- skid steer. If include Lupine Meadows area, they do delayed mowing there in Special Management Area. **Melissa to create a spreadsheet of potential project areas to share with partners to add information to.** Taylor's Checkerspot and Kincaid's Lupine combination? Areas don't really overlap but they are near one another. Is one more competitive than the other? Taylor's checkerspot vs. Fenders Blue Butterfly. Maybe fenders demonstrates success whereas Taylors is barely hanging on. So might be best to include both in proposal. Could help with leveraging match. GLT expanding trail from Mulkey Hill to Bald Hill- 50 acres of oak savannah creation. Will GLT funds available now work as match? Federal dollars cannot serve as match. But more money is good. Does anyone have current cash match to go against this grant? MRWC does not. Only helps if a group has multi year money- IAE has OSWB \$\$ to work at Cardwell Hill. ODOT Gellatly site- for mitigation in Greasy Creek Area. Is it for restoration too? Wren, Finley Refuge, Kings Valley, Cardwell Hill, Bald Hill, Fitton Green, EE Wilson, DoD, emphasis on subset of sites. Cultural resource permits. Digging holes in ground vs pulling weeds. Plant more of endangered plant species so that we are spreading the love to a number of endangered species. High priority need- city doing some of the work as match to go out and spray. Steve McGettigan spraying false brome. Into those areas. City at Bald Hill. Funding to support other partners collaborating to do weed management. Steer the city manager into augmenting work there. Willamette Daisy- USFWS has Willamette Daisy seed to contribute (federal so doesn't count as match). Permits for seed collection. IAE has permit to collect from federal land. Restoration activities covered by partners program, USFWS can help with getting coverage. Weed species to focus on: False brome, blackberry, knapweed, scotch broom, giant hogweed. Federally negotiated rate for indirect costs. Pre-proposal due in mid-July. Aug 16 invitations to full proposals. If endangered species are not their bullseye. Creating a model that others can use to engage others in weed control. Help support OregonFlora Project in getting invasive species data on website. **IAE (Tom Kaye and Rebecca Currin) could take the lead on writing grant. Melissa to coordinate with IAE and BC CWMA partners about.** Maybe OWEB grant for match-planting part of the project. And other possibilities for match? Let's Pull Together event (volunteers, staff time) as match and outreach and education component for grant.