



October 29, 2015

## CWMA meeting minutes

**In attendance:** Heath Keirstead, Crystal Durbecq, Andy Hulting, Gary Champion, Bill Vagt, Claudia Ingham, Vern Holm, Cindy McCain, Peter Kenagy, Matt McBride, Iris Benson, Jennifer Ward (Heath will connect with new MRWC ED in November)

**New officers:** Iris Benson, co-chair; Cindy supports Iris as co-chair-(McCain, Ingham, Unan.)

## By-laws, Management and Operating Plans

Long and short term management plans- long term is purposefully vague- we work together, weeds of concern, EDRR, reviewed once a year – and short term plans are an amalgamation of what all the partners are planning on doing each year- CWMA's on east side were formed to go after a set of invasive plants, close knit groups of people working together to go after these particular plans. On the east side, we have loose confederacies of like- minded organizations- so we can loosely say who is doing what where. Heath will ask everyone to send in their info each year. So ask everyone to submit their plans in March. And give them something to submit at the February meeting. Andy Hulting says try to be public about these things, and your membership wants to know, keep yourself out of trouble.

## Action Team Reports

**E&O** Let's Pull Together- more like 50 volunteers this year- for volunteers to understand the science behind problem- present a brief discussion of why goats are effective in some cases- plant physiology stressed. Need to piggy back on other community service group events that are occurring. Another new issue- parents concerned about use of chemicals in parks, spreading awareness about IPM and costs and benefits. Chemical as last alternative- giving people more understanding of how you are approaching the problem, City is required to have an IBPM plan, City uses pesticides when they have to, the city has recently sprayed 60 ? miles of streamsides within the city, give people education to go with warnings. Can't combat this with facts, need to come back with emotions, what do we lose if we don't manage the weeds effectively. Vern- 4 Co CWMA one thing going on for years, Every Feb they have a Pull Together Event for the general public and land managers and politicians, and a forum or workshop with keynote speakers and roundtables...get people together to discuss these issues, PDX and Eugene have a similar populace- getting people together like this is a very good way to bring these disparate groups together. Metro, Nature Conservancy and other highly credentialed org's are involved, here in Benton Co we could have something like that and bring in Greenbelt, IAE, others recognized as stewards. Try to get the commissioners out pulling weeds next time. Those people, the commissioners, it's not their realm of expertise; they don't understand what it is like on the ground. Enormous amount of emotional energy to pull off a really big event like Deschutes County- have a series of very small events, might work better to collaborate on only 2-3 events, focus on fewer sites- concentrating the event might be more bang for the buck. Agreements among organizations that IAE, GLT, MRWC focus on one site, county on another site, BSWCD and City on another site...might get more people there. Issue for this CWMA- find an avenue for collaboration- how do we strengthen our ties? Look for ways to do that. Prior education is much more effective than doing it at the time of the event. Outreach at multiple events. Lots of ppl don't go to meetings unless it directly affects their neighborhood- new consultant with City to orchestrate volunteer events. Don't forget that SOLV will support volunteer events. Cindy suggests that a little bit of rigorous organizing will get people motivated.

**Landscape Strategy OSWB grant update-** Crystal provided an update on the WMC efforts. See interactive map at <https://www.arcgis.com/home/signin.html> ; Username: "bentonswcd" and password: "conservation" ; Click on 'MY CONTENT' at the top of the page; click on the 'Paddle Trip' folder on the left; click on the very bottom link, 'Willamette River Aquatic Plants STORY MAP'. *Weed Board update:* Cindy McCain- when CWMA started, trying to figure out if Weed Board or CWMA would do the trick- we started with CWMA as voluntary assn., and worked on developing a case for Weed Board establishment if there were things that CWMA couldn't accomplish but Weed Board could. Meetings with BCPW director and staff- weeds not a priority for him, in his experience you can't win with weeds. Need not great enough in BC, no financial opportunity, not going to sacrifice any part of his budget for weeds, unlikely to sponsor it to BOC, and if we wanted to take it to BOC it would be against his approval. Maybe in the long run we will go back and approach BOC for weed board- the time is not yet. We need to make a case based on a specific need for enforcement that CWMA cannot get, if we can ID need for paid staff, if we are still around when state funds weed boards. In meantime, we will need to go ahead with voluntary collaboration. But we should continue to develop an awareness of County practices, and continue to remind them of economic impacts of lack of involvement and that there is a consequence to inaction. Develop a plan to go back to the county and ask them for an analysis of weed problems of properties they manage and find out what their plan is. Glenn says this is normal for counties on the west side and they have a whole slew of problems and we are just one of them. Tim Butler wants to get \$55K for each county with a weed board, but it's got to be a 50-50 match. Peter does not think that putting it off will make the situation better. What we really need is some type of assessment that raises dedicated funds. We need to get to where we can get a service district with tax funding dedicated to weeds. Need to go for a tax base. Jennifer Ward- county has just turned over roadside SMA management to parks dept. Make a presentation to the EIAC, one of their discussions is how do we become a more county wide servicing group? Issues outside PW realm? Historically EIAC have had ambivalent at best feelings about herbicides. It makes sense to go to them and to the Parks Advisory committee. A proposal for them to do what? What do we want as an action from them? Has anyone looked at the option of a joint position with the city of Corvallis and county etc? Different models that could work? Could ask EIAC to come up with some recommendations to facilitate getting someone to work with us on developing a scenario for a paid position a veg specialist working in this county. *Claudia-* Agriculture-important to get that group involved, at the table- Vern-Yamhill County- got in hot water because roadside contractor sprayed incorrectly, vineyards, grape growers concerned about maintenance, volatilization of herbicides...pressure on BOC to do something- so PW director convened a voluntary panel- technical advisory committee- new roadside BMP, just finalized it, will go to BOC, the panel is looking for the next step- recommendation for forming a weed district. Vern is saying if we could get our commissioners to put together some type of advisory group that recognizes stakeholders and put together a recommendation, then we might have decent traction. Success against gypsy moth as opposed to failure with EAB. City- one thing they have been successful with- tying veg mngt with fire control. Look at multiple objectives departmental hierarchy- who is above public works? Public health and safety. Lane county situation- very similar to Yamhill- Farm Bureau- BOC meeting and Farm Bureau sent up the alarm bells- farmers are spending their money to take care of county's weed issues- not being good neighbors. Drift lawsuits rather than weed invasion lawsuits. If his weeds drift onto my property I can't sue him...Farm Bureau on state level is not very active on weed control. What about seed council? Talk to them. Ask landscape team to put together a job description for the person to spearhead the weed board research action. This winter. Have a recommendation for action for Feb meeting.

**Plants for species list** *Sagittaria platyphylla*, Iris has noticed winged elm along riparian areas, outcompeting native species- lot of small stems, a medium size tree, fast growing- spreads by wind and root clones; Peter ran into a grass plant in a dried up slough- reminiscent of a barnyard grass, seeds are very pointed, head is similar but seed is different from barnyard grass. Some type of millet? There is a site of diffuse knapweed in McDonald forest, doesn't compete well with anything else. Glenn has treated it- has been completely eliminated from Willamette National Forest. Jennifer Ward has a Q about MSPG meeting last week, potential for biocontrol for knotweed, anyone heard anything? May have a new bug, it's awaiting APHIS comment at this time. Politics involved. Mostly working on Japanese knotweed. Hard to get paperwork through. Seems like we could choose one of those species that we know we have a lot of, spurge laurel for example, and let people know about it- increase awareness... Chip Ross a good example of public safety with invasive weeds- wildfire in Chip Ross 2 years ago- every year, ODF is spending more money and man hours on wildfires, last three years have all been record-setting – emphasizing high fire hazard weeds to BOC- horse protection assn. – ODF has catastrophic insurance plan that they've tapped into last three years- ultimately that money doesn't go to benefit our communities. Community wildfire forester- Pat McMeekan? Works with communities to educate about fire safe homes, yards- reduce fire hazards and weeds. Camp Adair- star anise is a fire hazard

**Upcoming Meeting** Can we do an herbicide roundtable for Feb meeting? In PDX, herbicide roundtable is a huge event. Very popular. Glenn is concerned that Heath is going to burn out. Advertise it to a larger audience. ODA wants to have an ivy day. It's of great interest to a lot of people, and we should be providing a venue for discussion – joining topics. Glenn feels that given enough time, ivy will be a serious riparian invader, from a water quality standpoint, ivy is our biggest threat. Biggest challenge is that the ivy is in private landowner's properties. Need to develop a comprehensive ivy outreach strategy.

## Member Reports

**Iris Benson**- City has had allocation of \$100k, and requesting from City council add \$300K for stream maintenance- mostly to inv spp control- mostly ivy and bberry in riparian areas and trying to replant and bank stabilization engineering- so far 14 sites sprayed 42 acres of bberry and ivy, collectively with parks and contractors, and going to do outreach and ed events.

**Andy Hulting**- if you want some help with herbicide roundtable- Andy can help with speakers and getting credits, can connect us with herbicides and mode of action and safety.

**Bill Vagt**- Camp Adair 30 acre burn off, going to spray knapweed this spring, working around T&E spp, limited to spraying in winter time, also plugging away at poison oak.

**Jennifer Ward**- City watershed has 2 grant funded projects- watershed wide roadside trtmt of scotch broom and blackberry, around 2009-2010, did riparian plantings along rock creek, they are now being overgrown, so they will be cutting that back so seedlings can thrive- old peak meadow restoration getting to an exciting point, now going in to do massive replanting with a lot of volunteer help

**Claudia Ingham**- in sept feature length targeted grazing video- how to get it to us? Society for range mngmt- might be hosted at their website...choosing your grazer, claims about what you can do, holding onto it, doesn't just want to give it to everyone. Poison oak study- working with FDA- challenges in that program- goat milk- want to make sure it is safe for people- protection for type 4 allergy.

**Vern Holm**- WIN, WAIN- one announcement- BLM is now in process of hiring a statewide permanent weed coordination person, Erin McConnell. Moving to PDX offices in November. Should allow BLM to move ESA through, etc.

**Cindy McCain**- AFRANA- link weed pulls to other events, Let's Pull Together linked into presentation with KVCS- Marys Peak Alliance- scotch broom pull on Marys Peak in May. AFRANA to continue working in County parks

**Peter Kenagy**- on his place they tackled a big VA creeper infestation with goats, 3 year effort- also tackling *Clematis vitalba*. Worse than you would think- almost complete mortality in all established native hawthorns! What happened to them? The tops have died last two years. OSU Ext forestry is aware of it. Not drought stress. Even happening on east side. English hawthorn not affected. Go drive by Ankeny, a lot of their roadside ditches had hawthorn hedgerows, all the tops are dead.

**Glenn Miller** ODA-Glenn has been all over the place- treating ribbon grass on the Metolius, Yellow Floating Heart in a small reservoir Umpqua NF, *Phragmites* Columbia Slough, Blackberries on Hag Lake- FB butterflies there, Willamette NF, Portuguese broom by Veneta- big time forest invader- nothing feeds on it. Can grow to massive size- biggest stem 14 inches in diameter! Canopy 30 ft across! Lots of *Ludwigia* activities, helped Christer treat Long Tom River, important irrigation river- *Ludwigia* getting denser and denser, using Imazypyr- end of treatment here don't want to be putting that in irrigation water! Soon he will be surveying estuaries for *Spartina* with Beth.

**Matt McBride**- ODF West Oregon District -last month spent 3-4 days site prep and site release spraying, weather didn't cooperate, last 2 days very productive, completed 5-6 miles of roadside spraying to maintain R-o-Ws a lot cheaper than mechanical removal. Done some hand spraying at Black Rock piece for false brome at Falls City. Actually in Polk County- spotted owls there; limited management. Mtn biking group is giving opportunity for the state there - Weyerhaeuser is a neighboring landowner, some trouble with limiting access- proactive on timber sales, and keeping things from getting transported in by very thorough equipment spraying.