



## Benton County CWMA Full Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

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

In attendance: Collin McCandless (Calapooia Watershed Council), Chris Baillie (Benton County Public Works), Colin Tierney (ODFW), Patrick Hayden (ODFW), Vern Holm (WIN), Beth Myers-Shenai (ODA), Glenn Miller (ODA), Emily Day (City of Albany), Mikki Collins (USFWS), Jarod Jebousek (USFWS), America McMillin (City of Corvallis), Melissa Newman (Benton SWCD), Tom Kaye (Institute for Applied Ecology), and Heath Keirstead (Benton SWCD).

### 1) WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 2) [SOLVEPESTPROBLEMS.ORG](#) (WESTON MILLER) *virtually present*

- a) WESTON works for Metro Area OSU Extension Master Gardener program. Uses many resources from OSU- PNW weed management handbook, etc. General community members, Spanish speaking, nursery workers, and others are not being reached with pest control information. 710 webpages have been identified for creation including invasive weeds, pantry pests, mold and mildew, mosquitoes. Highly graphical website to be created. Existing partner info and partner assistance for website content.

### 3) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTION TEAM: EVENTS AND DATES FOR THE YEAR

#### a) Let's Pull Together- May 20, 2017

- i) 5 locations, 10 partner organizations, over 120 volunteers
- ii) Was held the same day as the United Way Day of Caring and OSU Beavers Give a Dam.
- iii) Overlapped Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week

#### b) Let's Pull Together 2018

- i) Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> is during the Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness Week
- ii) Feedback: send 2017 LPT slide to Vern and partners to share with other CWMA leads. Copy of presentation [here](#).
- iii) Reach out to HP- they pay employees to do volunteer work
- iv) Coordinate with SOLV for additional publicity, reach
- v) Piggy backing with other events to promote LPT, other outreach events
- vi) Partnering on supplies- boot brushes from ODA!

### 4) GRANT WRITING TIPS

#### a) Vern Holm (WIN) - Where Things Go Wrong: Generalities.

- i) People overlook getting their own staff (esp. fiscal office) involved. Good manners and helpful to run it past fiscal and rest of staff.
- ii) Once you find a grant request, people don't read it thoroughly. Read it thoroughly and budget your time accordingly. NFWF pre-proposal is only a page, but once it gets accepted it will be a lot of work.
- iii) On National Proposals, rule is to write like you are trying to explain it to someone on Mars. For NFWF PTI, anything west of Richmond VA is unknown. So really explain and give a sense of place. Vern will give us copies of pre-proposal for

NFWF PTI. Paint a picture of who you are where you are and how your project will stand out from everyone else.

- iv) As you look at work ahead, don't get overwhelmed and put things off due to fear. Best way to tackle it is to make every section discreet and time bound. Clear steps to achieve. Vern writes abstract first and uses it as an anchor. Pick a day to work on abstract, a day or two to work on narrative, etc. Spell out acronyms every time not just once, because sections get parsed out. If you have doubts about what you are writing call up grantors. They have to spend foundation money every year to stay right with government. They prefer to give money to someone with good proposal outlined. Contact grantors, you are not bothering them. Ask questions. Also review their website and get an idea of what grants they have funded in the past.
- v) "Turkey butt for a day"- have someone read over drafts and see if they make sense. Constructive criticism is absolutely needed.
- vi) The granting agency has on the back of their minds: what is in it for me? You have to sell your project to them. Research the granting agency. They have word people and numbers people and so your proposal has to satisfy both types- you will need help to do both really well. Don't make your budget too complex it will make reporting harder.
- vii) If you have a problem during the project, don't panic. They are likely to work with you to extend or modify based on unpredictable changes
- viii) Vern's hobby is editing. We are welcome to run proposals past him any time.

**b) Glenn Miller, Beth Myers-Shenai (ODA). OSWB Grant Tips**

- i) See ODA tip sheet (provided at bottom of minutes).
- ii) Read grant proposal- they change every year.
- iii) Be succinct- lean. ODA staff know a lot of the background and field staff at ODA know the target species (unlike National grants). Be realistic in how your project will improve priority habitats/species.
- iv) It's ok to include survey time, avoid asking for treatment money if you don't know what you are treating/don't know what is there. Survey some before submitting proposal so you kind of know what is there, then you can ask for money to survey the rest and for treatment of what you know is there.
- v) Buy in is important but doesn't need to be money. Get to know the landowners and get a feel for their interest level. Get to know what is growing around your area of focus.
- vi) Partnerships are great.
- vii) A rated weeds are top priority- over B rated weeds.
- viii) B rated weeds: explain why it is a priority for your project- estuaries, meadows, good populations of native plants, explain it. Example- getting rid of scotch broom in an area with rare fritillaries. Something listed as B at state level may still be an early invader in your region- that is taken into consideration.
- ix) Non-chemical control projects should have an educational component or focus/bent.
- x) Say integrated not holistic

- xi) OSWB grants are for weed control not restoration. Apply to OWEB for restoration.
- xii) Cost per acre of treatment matters.
- xiii) Good track record matters
- xiv) Don't assume reviewers have seen interim and final grant reports – need to include sense of how previous phases of project went including successes and issues.
- xv) Call OSWB – run draft by local ODA weed coordinator. But funds are limited Continue to apply- they try to rotate things through so everyone gets funded sometime. If you have had a grant that was previously funded, show evidence of progress that has been made and if you think you need to switch tactics, reviewers may not have seen other reports that not know. Important to share background for grant reviewers. Beth will read drafts for us and let us know how it looks. They can't guarantee funding but it will help to have a strong proposal. Definitely consult with Beth and Glenn.
- xvi) M. Newman question- what is funding range of successful grants? ODA: ODA funds of \$25,000-\$30,000 range. Some proposals are close to \$100,000 but only very rarely funded. Total project cost (ODA funds plus other costs) may be closer to \$50,000-\$60,000 but there is partner match etc. Have had 13 grants just for Japanese knotweed so they cannot fund every single one. Look at things as a ten year project, keep your project smaller and more manageable it is a long term effort, need to extend work period so it is not a one big hit on the grant program.
- xvii) A second grant is available- for those who are designated leads on weeds in County- doesn't have to be a county, an additional \$500,000 is available in grant funding across the state. For new projects. Could also be County Parks or County Public Works (but need to be the designated leads on weeds in the County)- Call Tristen Berg ((503) 986-4622; [tberg@oda.state.or.us](mailto:tberg@oda.state.or.us)) at ODA for details. They are looking for new things that may have not been funded in the past. For on the ground but could include education/outreach as part of the mix.
- xviii) Are there priority weeds to fund for this region? Backed off of false brome quite a bit, but there are still native dryland grasses- Butterfly Meadows still has problems with false brome. B weed on a special site. B (T) is higher priority than just B on the ODA list. Ludwigia is higher priority, hoping to help WAIN prioritize locations. Yellow floating heart is an A weed that is high priority. Japanese knotweed and false brome select projects with special habitats that are key sites where these are just popping up. If clematis is an outlier population, if spurge laurel is an outlier population- giant hogweed and orange hawkweed.
- xix) Joel Price is ODA's new biocontrol specialist- Canada thistle rust fungus specialist.
- xx) ODA and OWEB are co-hosting a budget training Nov 15, 9:30-11:30 in Salem, with call-in option.

## 5) SPECIES LIST

- a) ***Arundo donax* (giant reed)** just on the other side of the Willamette near Trysting Tree Golf Course. It's at OSU Plant pathology lab- small patch in disposal area. ODA is coordinating with OSU to work on controlling that population. Glenn spoke with the farm manager and requested that he spray it. The Boardman Plant biocontrol effort has

been abandoned. *Arundo donax* is not listed as noxious weed but it is quarantined, so let ODA know if you find any.

- b) ***Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard)** is now in Yamhill County. In the NE corner of the county near Clackamas County-. Mike Crabtree got a call from Yamhill Basin Council. The guy checking and maintaining Yamhill River Water gauge tracked it in, twice as big as this room was covered in garlic mustard. It can easily be transported! Keep your eyes open.
- c) ***Lysimachia vulgaris* (garden loosestrife)** was found by a citizen scientist on an island in the Willamette River, so for two years they have gone in and treated that. It is more aggressive than purple loosestrife. Don't know where it came from. Island is directly below the Wheatland Ferry. Small but dense population found in July. Popular winery on the other side of the side channel from that island. Need to check it out. It was reported on the Oregon Invasives Hotline. Call ODA if someone is growing a plant that is listed by ODA and quarantined. Once it is listed it goes through the process of quarantine a few months later. *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's wort) and *Silybum marianum* (blessed milk thistle) are not quarantined.
- d) ***Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata* (porcelain berry)** is being sold by Fred Meyer- a vine with beautiful berries, purple to blue to pink
- e) ***Nymphoides peltata* (yellow floating heart)** A major infestation was found by a citizen scientist (trained via the WMC/Willamette Riverkeeper workshop) this summer in a slough in Eugene. A beaver dam was holding it back this summer.

## 6) CWMA PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### a) ESA Listed butterflies and lupine; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant

- i) Jarod Jebosek- NFWF PTI- prairie remnants and challenges they face. Help with ESA species recovery through CWMA and NFWF PTI. Idea: focus areas for Fenders Blue, Taylor's checkerspot, and Kincaid's lupine as focus for protection. Bald Hill Farm, Beazell, Fitton Green, Wren area and Lupine Meadows, Butterfly Meadows, and Finley Refuge. Weeds are primary threats to these species, but we are gaining ground and making progress. Taylor's checkerspot only occurs in a couple spots in Benton County (Fitton Green and Beazell). We have worked for a long time with partners on private lands to do major structural work on blackberries, Doug fir, but still dealing with tall oat grass and false brome- two major issues for these species. Also knapweed is coming in. Private landowners working with MRWC quite a bit.
- ii) NFWF PTI grant increases capacity of existing CWMA's \$10,000 to \$100,000. Applicant can be non-profit, state, federal. Mid July preproposal.
- iii) Copy of presentation [here](#).

### b) Partner Discussion Who wants to be applicant?

- i) What are sources of match- would be a good idea to throw a lot of plant materials at the sites after weed removal. Match it with an OWEB grant to get plant materials back on the ground. Public lands are doing a lot of work already. Land trust already working on this. USFWS Partners already working on private lands. Make a compelling argument for funding this.

- ii) Goal of grant is consideration for ESA listed species. IAE is interested. \$50,000 from NFWF and \$100,000 to \$200,000 from OWEB, not enough. Would need to prioritize sites- which sites would link to recovery? Areas that are introduction-ready because butterflies are being propagated. Taylor's wouldn't be proposed for down listing because we are currently just trying to keep it from going extinct whereas Fender's blue butterfly is looking at downlisting.
- iii) Benton County would be a good partner. They are putting effort into restoration at their sites. They picked up parcels in Wren.
- iv) Melissa will send out request for people interested in helping develop plan/proposal.
- v) Tom Kaye/IAE has had a few NFWF grants- they can be difficult to put together- lots of repetitive questions and required logic model. The grants are very competitive. The pre-proposal is important to get right. The combo of CWMA needing to expand capacity, plus contributing to downlisting a listed species and so many good partners, it could be really interesting to them. It will be hard to figure out the scope and include an outreach component. In-kind- do a LPT event out there with volunteers.

## 7) WINTER CWMA MEETING

- a) For next meeting, let's have folks who have written successful NFWF grants talk to us. Then have a smaller sub group meet to talk about NFWF grant and roles for each of the partners.

## 8) PARTNER UPDATES

- a) **Melissa Newman (Benton SWCD)** - Ludwigia and yellow floating heart control treatments on the river. On the river outreach and education events; this component helps so much- volunteers finding and reporting weed populations. Monitoring efforts with USGS and PSU.
- b) **America McMillin (City of Corvallis Parks)** - huge oak release at Chip Ross Park. Small clearing at the top of Bald Hill with donated funds- looking at management plan development up there.
- c) **Jarod Jebousek (USFWS)** - a lot of projects up and down the valley. Mostly restoration projects. Nothing super specific. On refuge, just started a major reed canarygrass removal effort at Finley- floodplain project- 450 acres of flat wet ground that escaped the plough. Largest contiguous chunk of wet prairie in the Willamette and reed canarygrass is starting to come in. No one has done anything with it in the last 16 years at least. Some Douglas fir control going on. All the projects he works on get help from ODFW.
- d) **Mikki Collins (USFWS)** - Hag Lake blackberry, help from ODA, other projects.
- e) **Patrick Hayden and Colin Tierney (ODFW)**- working with Jarod and Nate, working on the coast, mostly going after blackberry and reed canarygrass, teasel , tansy, oxeye daisy out at wildlife area, doing a lot more with ivy.
- f) **Chris Baillie (Benton County Public Works)** - working with BSWCD to identify more weeds- do spring spraying and targeting knotweed and knapweed locations. Trying to

manage SMAs better with Parks department. Had a hands-off approach for a while and now trying to do more management.

- g) **Tom Kaye (Institute for Applied Ecology)** - working on several restoration projects in Benton County that involve weed control. Most are upland prairies some wet prairies as well. Addressing grasses, shrubs blackberry. Herbert Farm (City) with big planting, folks from tribes, part of plants for People projects that bring in plants of cultural significance to tribes. Seeding going on out there. USFWS. A very big collaborative effort, lots of coordination. A burn was done out there. Peter had a contract, a contractor burned it. Also working out at Gellatly-Witham- down Hwy 34 south of Philomath, ODOT has a mitigation site (20-30 acres) and trying to eradicate pasture weeds and increase Kincaid's lupine. Also working with USFWS along BPA corridor on the land of Ed Easterling- last remaining population of Taylor's checkerspot- spraying back from the edges. Working with Finley biologists- spraying and killing weeds. Working with County and Bezell and Hoskins- seeding golden paintbrush. Spotty success - don't know why. 160,000 plants in Oregon- estimate- trying to create a reintroduced set of populations. Has to do with how well the host plants of golden paintbrush are established. Working at other sites in western Oregon- Nestucca, Champoeg- on Oregon Silverspot. Doing research too. Better techniques for getting seeds to establish. Every seed is sacred. If unsuccessful, it's a huge waste of money. Want to set up a network of restoration experiments. Replicate experiments across sites to see if we can predict what will work. Right now they use the same techniques everywhere and hope they work. Not very sophisticated. Would be great to enlist more practitioners in network of experiments.
- h) **Emily Day (City of Albany Parks)** – This was her first summer with Albany. Neighborhood parks take priority. Worked with BCCWMA on Let's Pull Together. Supporting Watershed Council projects. Tackling bind weed and ivy. She does spot spraying on various weeds, Oak Creek wetland mitigation wetlands, spraying false brome, RCG, blackberry- doing riparian restoration on First Lake at Simpson. Trying to keep on top of weeds.
- i) **Colin McCandless (Calapooia Watershed Council)** - Bowers Rock, Truax island greenway, blackberry, reed canarygrass, and two projects focused on Ludwigia and yellow flag iris.
- j) **Vern Holm (Western Invasives Network)** - 132 days until Vern retires. If we know of anyone who wants to be WIN coordinator, let Vern know. Job announcement will go out in January.
- k) **Glenn Miller (ODA)** - weather and fire affected their treatment season –shut down in August. Not doing big projects. Working on RCG, YFH, Ludwigia, False Brome, fall blackberry treatments, lots of knapweed with Beth on Mt Hood. Has been doing more on consulting and less dragging hose.
- l) **Beth Meyers-Shenai (ODA)** - only worked half time for ODA last year. Oblong spurge is a good weed to watch for- being noticed more. Stop right away if found. A couple populations in the backyard of ODA's facility. Military department is managing it for themselves. Finding more and more in Clackamas County. Work on the forest with

Glenn, trying to clean weedmapper up and get it ready. It is a slightly updated version from last week. Moved Arc GIS to a different server. Will bring us current to more recent weed locations. Most of data was collected through 2014. Did one data exchange with Lindsey Wise.

Elements for a good grant proposal:  
Advice from the ODA staff  
2017

Want to increase your success at having a weed grant funded? Here are some pointers.

First and foremost: Grant applicants need to take the time to read the OSWB Grant Application Instructions, there is critical information in the instructions that you need to be aware of.

Keep your proposal lean. If there are 70 grants to review, it's easy for reviewers to glaze over wordy proposals. The grant reviewers know a lot about your region, environment, salmon and plants. Mention these things, but generally give us the who, what, when and how and save yourself some time. Secondly, be realistic in describing how your project will improve sage grouse and salmon habitats.

Yes, it's ok to include survey time, outreach and monitoring into your proposal. Avoid asking for treatment money if you have no idea what is on the ground already...to a certain extent. Some initial (pre-proposal) surveys can be very helpful in legitimizing your treatment dollar request.

Buy-in: How invested are you, your organization or group into the project. Have you done some survey or groundwork, contacted landowners, developed a long-term plan, have your own money involved as opposed to just in-kind efforts. Simply having an idea and wanting somebody to fund it for you entirely shows a lack of buy-in.

-Partnerships are great. They demonstrate that whatever problem you are attempting to tackle is of concern with surrounding landowners or organizations with diverse skill sets. Spraying out a doughnut hole in a sea of weeds only to have rapid re-infestation has a low level of success. Protecting specific natural areas that may be surrounded by a sea of weeds can be acceptable if it protects rare and endangered species or limited and unique habitats.

"A" rated weed projects have priority over other "B" rated weed projects. But... don't just throw in an "A" rated weed into your proposal because you think it might be out there but you don't really know and it might make your grant come in at a higher priority. Those get sniffed that out pretty quickly.

If you are proposing to work on a B rated weed that is common in one region of the state, but less common in your region, make sure to emphasize that this B rated weed is treated as a higher priority by your partners and demonstrate (maps are a good tool) it's limited distribution.

Grants proposing to control B rated weeds that are widespread and common in your region may have a harder time competing against proposals targeting higher priority or geographically restricted weed populations; a few that have been successful clearly demonstrated a unique resource that was being threatened or involve early detection rapid treatment activities.

If you are proposing to work on a project that has previously been funded (some have been funded for many, consecutive years), the review team is looking for evidence (photos, data, landowner testimonies, etc.) that shows progress is being made and habitats are being improved. Do not assume reviewers have read interim and final reports from previous grants - any important data, conclusions or analysis from reports like those should be included in your grant proposal if it is a continuation of a previous project.

Match your control methodology correctly with the species involved. Manual control of Japanese knotweed and Canada thistle isn't going to work as a stand-alone treatment.

Adding manual removal as part of a comprehensive treatment proposal is fully acceptable though.

Adding the word "holistic" gets you nowhere.

Don't submit a restoration project with some weed control in it. That kind of project is better funded through OWEB. Funding weed control projects where some restoration is involved is fundable through the grant program. If need be, fund the weed control part through the State Weed Board grant and fund most of the restoration through OWEB.

Cost per acre for treatments matters. If your cost per acre is high, describe factors that drive that cost up (terrain, limited by contractors, urban interface, etc.).

Unreasonable rates submitted to you by contractors/sub-contractors will be noticed and can hurt a proposal.

Developing a good track-record can go a long way to receiving future grant funding. Success builds on success. Shoddy fieldwork or paperwork gets noticed and can jeopardize future funding.

Running a draft of your proposal by your friendly local ODA weed coordinator is encouraged! They can quickly spot issues with survey and control methodology, missing or incomplete information, etc. and get you back on track to a competitive proposal.

Good luck!