



Benton County CWMA Meeting - Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Location: [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Office Adair Village](#)

In Attendance: Heath Keirstead (BSWCD), Laura Brown (BSWCD), Scott Youngblood (OPRD), Patrick Hayden (ODFW), Cindy McCain (Marys Peak Alliance & AFRANA), Andy Neill (IAE), Chris Salazar (CWC), Matt Mellenthin (IRM), Heidi Christensen (BLM), Devon Durant (Benton County Parks) Troy Abercrombie (WAIN), Teresa Matteson (BSWCD), Niki Hobbs (MRWC), Lynne Warwick (Corvallis Stormwater Program), Erik Swartzendruber (WVRLC), Jeff Uebel (Grand Oaks Neighborhood), Amy Kaiser (NRCS), America McMillin (City of Corvallis Parks)

Jeff Uebel Grand Oaks Neighborhood Association – Initiating Neighborhood-Driven Greenspace Conservation (see presentation) Grand Oaks developed shortly after 2000. West side of Corvallis Boundary off 53rd and West Hills Rd. Single family homes and condos to the west. Pre-existing use: grass fields, hedge rows, forest. City of Corvallis surveyed greenspace prior to Grand Oaks development and identified areas with legacy oaks and hedgerow and scattered forest to protect. Highly protected significant vegetation areas. Require a veg management plan prior to development. Too expensive and not the expertise to do the plan by the HOA so it was deferred, and the areas were overrun by false brome, ivy, cherries, and plums, a little scotch broom. The areas are 2-acre sites, small. Researched comparables, ID'd stakeholders, city departments had to sign off on plan. Approaches: contracted services, volunteer projects, adopt-a-site. First neighborhood in Corvallis to develop a vegetation management plan! Corvallis neighborhood enhancement grants, SOLV (total \$800). HOA gave a big chunk of funding for contracted work (\$40,000) and for maintenance work (\$5,000/yr). Personal contact is BEST to get neighbors involved and aware. Jeff would be happy to forward their veg management plan as an example for their HOAs. BSWCD could create a blog post. Ivy encroachment has been a hook to get neighbors on board with the effort. Having the plan in place and having plant lists could be doable for HOAs without natural resources expertise.

Teresa Matteson and Erik Swartzendruber (BSWCD and Willamette Valley Regenerative Landscape Coalition (WVRLC) = ; [Bit.ly/C-Quester](https://bit.ly/C-Quester)) Dense plantings crowd out weeds

A group of landscape professionals in Corvallis and Eugene. WVRLC is a no budget group that meets regularly to get organized and teach some classes, write blog posts, webinars. C-Quester campaign – highlight how even a small urban yard can sequester a lot of carbon. Teresa submitted an E&O grant proposal to OISC for two efforts:

- 1) **Central Park Regenerative Landscape Demonstration Site**; will need to grind out roots and get cover crops growing for Fall Festival.
- 2) **Italian thistle volunteer mobilization in city parking lots.** With grant, hope to mobilize volunteers (Volunteers for Public Spaces) and get the weeds out and treat it. Hope to adopt 5 sites, 3 volunteers per site. Rick Martinson (Winter Creek Restoration) is doing similar work (dense planting/regenerative landscaping) on east side of mountains, BSWCD would like to cast a wider net by recruiting volunteers through CWMA members' list serves. OSU Day of Service provides large groups of volunteers for one day. Present right before the summer concerts at Central Park. America can support anything in the parks, and Lynn can support stormwater areas. If someone wanted riverfront or other spots in Central Park, but some are under intensive management plan. Will have parties and meetings and celebrations.

Let's Pull Together – This year will be May 16, 2020. Last year: Marys Peak, Peavy Arboretum, Bowman Park, Mill Race, Bryant Park, Bald Hill/Mulkey Ridge, Grand Oaks Neighborhood, Marys River Park. All sites last year had good turnout. Peak Sports and OSU Research Forest co-hosted Peavy Arboretum, and Grand Oaks was new. City of Philomath and Confederated Tribes of Siletz were new partners last year. This year, Jeff Uebel will do Grand Oaks again, CWC and Albany will do Bryant, Willamette Restoration volunteers will be included, not Takena this year, but likely next year. Registration available April 3, posters by April 15, SOLV provides \$100 grant opportunities. There is one spot on the Marys by the bike path right before Avery Park.

**America will let Laura know who owns that ivy-covered area.

****Laura needs to know sites and partners by March 27, 2020.**

Italian Thistle Pull – March 18, 2020, meet 10 am at BSWCD

American Dream Pizza! We will revisit all known sites and search the area for new sites. Let Laura know of any Italian thistle sites

Oblong Spurge updates Purge the Spurge EDRR and Community Outreach an A listed species at four sites in Benton County . will have three community meetings to get info to homeowners and landowners and alternatives for landscaping, funds for treatment and flyer creation, reaching out to 1000 addresses, April 18 in Grand Oaks,

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Partners will be asked to hang flyer in their public locations or staff locations as part of the CWMA weed of the year agreement.

Flyers for this year: Oblong Spurge, Italian thistle, Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*), yellow floating heart, *Ludwigia* spp; Will put BSWCD cell # on the flyer and have people text and send an image.

**America will talk to Jude Geist about putting the flyers in the NPK kiosks.

**Remember to share flyers with neighborhood associations and gardening clubs and OSU Extension.

Weed Entity Update – the County was unable to submit a letter indicating BSWCD as the “weed entity” in the timeframe, but we got the funding for the grants anyway, now the County Board will make a resolution to designate us; the resolution will not include extra expectations over what the CWMA and BSWCD do for the county already. This will open up funding we can’t access yet. It is a step between a control district and nothing.

Partner Updates

- a. Heidi Christensen- BLM is on the outskirts of map area, the S. Fork Alsea Corridor (Monroe to south of Alsea) they are doing a corridor plan, part of a scenic byway, being done by a third party. Doing public outreach meetings to find out what people’s visions are. Taking into account weeds, native plants, etc. happening on BLM’s land. Timber sales, weed treatments as per usual.
- b. Emily Day - Albany – IRM did weed treatments, ivy tree treatments Dave Clark trail, Bryant park some volunteer efforts, will do LPT at Bryant Park and will be working along Calapooia River, will use as match to apply for small OWEB grant, continuing with knotweed treatments and 1x/mo volunteer ivy pulls.
- c. Matt Mellenthin – IRM - he will reach out to N Albany Elem. School to get help for Bryant Park volunteer events
- d. Chris Salazar –awarded OWEB grant for *Ludwigia* treatment on Freeway Lakes, will be spraying *ludwigia* at Bowers Rock, slough, curious to see how previous treatments have worked, large planting at Truax thick *Kickxia elatine* (fluvellin) area, they planted right into it, will need to control.
- e. Andy Neill- IAE- lots of projects with lots of partners, they have their own weed pull events, partnering with Marys Peak, T&E species. Does anyone know anything about small burnet (salad burnet) have it densely in a project in southern Oregon. Common forage mix additive. Isn’t disappearing...
- f. Patrick Hayden- working at EE Wilson wildlife area, getting into spray season, getting plots ready, working on properties.

- g. Scott Youngblood– excited about knotweed maps to see what we come up with, lots of Rosa multiflora, (small white flower, reminiscent of blackberry) it grows here it is all over this area, not so much in other areas, some down by Elijah Bristow, it pops up suddenly in abundance.
- h. Laura Brown– BSWCD working with BCPW to do the SMA weed pulls. This year two weed pulls with BC, one at Lupine Meadows, and another high priority SMA. Through the WMC, they updated the action plan and have included knotweed as a priority species focused on mainstem, creating a map to see who is doing what and is it containable. Treating two Ludwigia and two YFh sites this year. She has a little remaining funds – able to create a small grant opportunity for public and private landowners to apply for up to \$300 for chemicals, contracted services... \$300 might be enough to help someone, but still maintains the idea that weeds are your responsibility.
- i. America McMillin is monitoring her patch of known Japanese knotweed, thinks she will see some stems and inject them late summer.
- j. Amy Kaiser– at NRCS – EQIP app deadline April 17, forest resilient, covers brush mgmt., herbaceous weed control, sign up by April 17
- k. Lynne Warwick - City Stormwater – putting bark chip strips in Orleans across the bridge by the rowing center, Sequoia wet creek by walnut and Circle to increase legal activity
- l. Niki Hobbs (MRWC) they have a planting event Friday March 20 at Skunk/alder Creek 9-noon, need volunteers
- m. Troy Abercrombie- at great wolf lodge – June 3, a meeting, June 2&3 in Prineville, OISC meeting. Troy is on review team for E&O grants, working with iMap annual funding push, hotline, weeder reader newsletter, Sarah Hamilton used to do, reviving with broader regional focus, if any of us want to get anything out to the larger group, get it to Troy by last week in April. (anything through end of June to highlight, next one comes out in July. Mid Willamette CWMA has a steering committee now, they have a resident science thing coming up.

Final Discussion

Cindy McCain - AFRANA- meadow knapweed in Benton County – is anyone else concerned? Volunteer events can be successful for knapweed but it washes back in, it's coming from somewhere above us. The Soap Creek Valley is becoming very full. Unless it is a safety hazard, ODOT will not prioritize knapweed control.

Peter Kenagy is now on the OISC board. Nice to have representation of our county's interests at that level. We could recognize someone for weed practices every year. Let's talk about that next time.