



Benton County CWMA Meeting – Agenda

Monday, November 2, 2020 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81520906883?pwd=VzR5cEh4R0pzRUJ6Z3YzRjRKY1N5UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 2090 6883 Passcode: 859027 Call In Option: 1 346 248 799910:00

In attendance: Laura Brown (BSWCD), Jennifer Ward (Benton Co.), Heath Keirstead (BSWCD), Amanda Reinholtz (LTWC), Julia Fields (IAE), Aubrey Cloud (MRWC), Amy Kaiser (NRCS), Emily Day (City of Albany Parks), Scott Youngblood (Oregon State Parks), Troy Abercrombie (WIN), Ted Hart (City of Corvallis), Jennifer Killian (City of Corvallis), Peter Kenagy (State Farm Bureau), Cindy McCain (AFRANA), Heidi Christiansen (BLM- Marys Peak), Patrick Hayden (ODFW)

10:10 AM Welcome, Announcements, Introductions – 10 minutes What are you secretly excited about COVID changes?

10:10 – 10:25 AM Oblong Spurge Updates – 15 minutes

Purge the Spurge-

Outreach – 1000 postcards mailed, 3 community webinars, two Facebook posts, and three weekly e-news from Benton SWCD highlighting oblong spurge. Facebook posts reached 813, with two responses, and the community webinars reached over 150 people. Total outreach of over 2000 people regarding oblong spurge. We had 4 responses out of the 2000 people reached. Most of this still is through neighbors and spotting. Costs – 1000 postcards were very resource heavy, and Facebook was simple and quick – and they both yielded the same number of responses. The wife of a landscaper saw the Facebook post, and brought it to the attention of the landscaper, who had seen it at a property where he landscapes. Outcome: Found the biggest population of oblong spurge in the state! Since there will be no ODA invasives funding for this next year (2021), the remaining funds for this project will do more targeted outreach in upcoming year.

Oblong spurge needs to be treated by June to get it before it goes to seed. One of the sites, we go there too late last year, by mid-late June it had already gone to seed and started to die back. Laura will send out treatment protocol used. Mowing doesn't eradicate it. Peter K. mentioned Duracore- has a good pasture label – it works well on a lot of broadleaves – mallows, geraniums, might get spurge too.

Please post the oblong spurge posters in break rooms and other locations. We'll work to target nurseries and landscapers for outreach about this invasive as well.

10:25 – 10:30 AM Weed Award for the Community – BSWCD has a small invasives fund that could go towards an award for a community member who has shown awesome work at managing invasive species. Are people still interested in this? How about the wife of the landscaper who shared the info with her husband that led to the discovery and treatment of the largest O.S population in the state? CWMA was okay with saying this award was from the CWMA.

10:30 – 10:35 AM Updated Species List – any new species? – 5 minutes

Hard to get Glenn and Beth to attend- they have both been shifted predominately to the Hemp Program with ODA. Any new species to look out for?

Dame's Rocket *Hesperis matronalis*. Found just outside of Pedee and Greasy Creek riparian corridor.

Spotted knapweed- up around Marys Peak and on the Willamette by Irish Bend. On the road headed to Marys Peak, gravel quarry has been treated. Forest Service and BLM are treating the roads for

Euchiton sphaericus, creeping cudweed found at a reveg site near Marys Peak - NE of the summit along the C2C trail. Is this a typical plant for this area? The USFS biologist wasn't familiar with it.

10:35 – 11:35 AM Partner Updates – How has COVID interrupted your weed management? What were some solutions and work arounds? What sites did not get treated? How to move forward?

Jennifer Ward- COVID hasn't interrupted the county's weed management because majority of work is outdoors, it is going forward, they have to distance more in the field, more careful about driving to a site. Felt impact the most at the sites where we work together to do hand pulls, where we have traditionally been aided by volunteers. We haven't had access to volunteers this year. We could have had more people on site and worn masks and stayed safe but there is still the liability for our two organizations, and it may be a while before we can bring them back on line. Maybe we should leverage our partnerships. Bring more Benton Co and SWCD people to do the events where we would have brought volunteers in the past.

Julia Fields- Biggest challenge – transportation to the sites. Have been able to do most of our treatments. AmeriCorps team- it was a struggle to find housing for them. They were acting as a family unit so they don't wear masks when they are together. Would have been a big loss if we couldn't get the AmeriCorps team together.

Aubrey Cloud – MRWC and LWC – Scrambling to hold it together. Many of our contractors had to prioritize the fires –we had to rethink fall treatments and prioritize sites and potentially new contractors. Using more on-call contracts so more flexibility if a problem comes up again.

Jennifer Killian – America is a full time teacher now with her kids being at home, as well as working at City Parks. They are still going out and spraying, staff still full time, and we're keeping everyone really safe, working out of different facilities. Had some issues with seasonal and casual workers, but have been able to keep up with treatments. Similar challenges on how to keep everyone safe.

Amanda Reinholtz with LTWC – Only weed specific program is for Ludwigia and that was through a large grant for past 5 years. Biggest challenge is uncertain continuity of funding this summer and future, and ODA OSWB funding is at least half of their funding. They were able to save up some of their funding to get work done next summer. Hoping to transition that program away from grant funding. Just have a really small amount left and hoping to work it into their budget. Doesn't think they are the entity that should manage that Ludwigia program long term, but hopefully will shift it towards USACE or other groups.

Heidi Christiansen – A couple different partners that BLM usually helps to fund were supposed to do surveys this year that were cancelled because they couldn't figure out how to do the transport stuff early in the season to get those done. They're hoping to figure out how to do the surveys and then convey info back immediately to do treatment. Community service volunteers had to be put on hold that was for manual treatment on various roads. Contractor that she works with they opted to be a family unit and did their treatments as usual. They work masks, but did everything the same. Commuting part and having places to park multiple vehicles was really awkward. She was mandated to 1 person per vehicle – ended up with 17 vehicles out in the woods like a circus. BLM now has access to herbicides other than glyphosate. Treated blackberries (triclopyr), knapweed (aminopyralid), knotweed (Imazapyr) blackberry is kicking back, curious to see how it looks next year.

Ted Hart – Short staffed by 5 people keeping up with hazard trees. Transportation specialist is gone, so doing some of those duties, has hardly done anything with invasive species, just trying to keep the wheels on until they get more staff. America's right hand person Lynn Warwick. She has a casual status. America's big challenge is staffing.

Troy Abercrombie – WIN – First five months, a lot of projects ready to hit the ground, gunning up for a lot of stuff that would have happened, but pandemic shifted that. Biggest challenge has been inconsistency in each partner's ability to adapt. Soft money partners have felt a big hit, has been relatively normal for SWCDs with tax bases. No progress on getting back to normal. Looking at webinars, a lot of fire response work lately. Trying to adapt and fit in wherever partners need help.

Cindy McCain – Marys Peak Alliance usually works with volunteers and partners up on the peak, OSU geosciences class scrubbed, no way to deal with volunteers this year, looks the same for the spring. With everything up in the air, with the logistics and responsibility, she would go up by herself but would not suggest for volunteers to go up without supervision. This year and next look cancelled for volunteers. It has not been horrible but not great.

Emily Day – Their crew has been operating as normal following COVID guidelines, managing neighborhood parks. Natural areas typically have had many events spring thru fall but rely on volunteers. Would have had ivy pulls and maintenance but has not been able to host anything and that will continue into foreseeable future. Linn County crew has done some work, Bryant Park, Calapooia River. Hosted a teen volunteer event program, staying 6 ft apart and wearing masks, cutting blackberries, that worked ok but kind of an exception. Relying on parks folks to do work. As long as we are not sponsoring events, they are oking individuals to do work. Relying on Linn County work crew to do some work. Aubrey treated knotweed for them. Also got the Simpson Park area this year. Hard not connecting with volunteers. Adopt a park is on list of things to talk about.

Patrick Hayden ODFW – Spraying done in spring. Was able to get out and get a lot of spraying done, but that limited how much spraying he could help other coworkers with. They have another technician getting trained up on spraying to control more invasive weeds on their areas, getting some false brome spraying in too.

Scott Youngblood – Rough on Oregon State parks. They couldn't hire any seasonal staff, normally hire 350. Scott ended up doing much of the weed work. OPRD doesn't have a natural resources department or planners anymore. Greenway program – biggest hit – didn't get out on the river very much, EDRR odds and ends didn't happen.

Laura Brown BSWCD – Did have small grant opportunity this year from BSWCD – 3 people received funding for treating invasives on their private property. One was in Kings Valley on the Polk County line to treat knotweed. Other weed control funded mainly blackberries. We have been communicating more – in new ways, sending paragraphs on weeds with a flyer to the County public works, and it gets it out to the entire CWMA and County Natural Areas. Communication has increased. We were able to treat *Ludwigia* and YFH sites and were able to save some money from this year to hold over for next year, don't know what will happen after that. If we leave some of these sites untreated it will be like we were never there in the first place. Struggling with the volunteers. Usually do 2 paddle and pull events on the river. Did virtual paddle and pull events on your own. One family handpulled *Ludwigia* at a site, did it in September. How do we get people who want to be out there, out there on their own time, connected to opportunities. We could do a training and have an agreement with the parks? A lot of partners in south part of valley are still hosting pull and paddle events, still doing those events, is it possible to transition which org's are hosting, who is willing to take on that liability, be creative about who is hosting and how?

11:35 – 12:00 PM Funding Opportunities for 2021 and Missed Site Solutions – 25 minutes

Jennifer Ward- An added outreach boost – posting flyers in parks and public works crew quarters. Intrigued by adopt a park idea – have organizations and their volunteers take on parks for weed maintenance.

Emily Day – Albany’s Adopt a Park program. Many questions – what if multiple people want to adopt a park, how to create accountability? Haven’t worked with anybody new since the pandemic hit, haven’t hosted any trainings since pandemic hit. If someone wants to do work in a park, they have a form they fill out that says they need to do a certain amount of projects per year. Don’t know how to approach it, it is a work in progress.

Laura Brown- It could be less structured. There are folks who want to pull ivy and want to know where to do it. People who want to pull on their own time... Might be easier to do it as they are walking...Check into the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team & Natural Areas Action Team - how are they doing volunteer events and can we piggy back on their volunteer calendar...

Scott Youngblood- the Oregon Trails Coalition has come out with good info for trail work groups during COVID – can distribute the info via Laura. They hired a consultant to help put it together.

Heidi Christiansen – BLM has a couple volunteers and homeowners, they do most coordination via email. Unless it is EDRR species, have to get it into her workplan so they get signed off on it, in case there are special plants, they need to know the treatment etc for their NEPA analysis.

Laura Brown – Proposal: Starting in January, a year-long Let’s Pull Together event, anyone interested throughout the year comes through this program and is assigned to an area. Might be of interest to church groups, scout groups. Reach out to the broader group- who needs volunteers...how to connect the volunteers with the right people that could need volunteers in a patchwork framework as opposed to one large event. Organizations are scared of the liability and the health hazards, not being able to control how people follow the restrictions. A positive now – masks are mandated and there is more acceptance around that. Might be opportunities.

Patrick Hayden– Current volunteer program goes thru HR department and gets filtered out. Might not be user-friendly.

Emily Day – Aubrey and Willamette Restoration Volunteers, which has been on hold this year, has been working on parks for a while. He has transitioned into doing some herbicide treatments for them. It has been an awesome partnership, a year long weed program – she could see that working for City of Albany Parks. Especially if they get set up with a tutorial video, then Albany could find a location for them to do that work, especially for straightforward work like ivy pulling and trash pick ups.

Troy Abercrombie - If it can be as simple as some wider-scale outreach, I think it could be a worthy exercise to build a "Benton CWMA Volunteer Listserv" or something where partners could blast out email recruitments for volunteer projects to folks who have opted in to the listserv..... Lottery revenues continue to exceed forecasts....be sure to take advantage of public comment periods for funding opps!

Laura will put out a proposal for the Adopt a Park outreach effort.