

**MINUTES
BENTON COUNTY
COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
October 31, 2013**

Attendees:

Kristen Larson, Luckiamute Watershed Council; Bill Vagt, Oregon Military Department; Peter Kenagy, Farm Bureau; Glenn Miller, ODA; Vern Holm, WIN; Laurie Starha, Benton County Public Works; Jude Geist, Corvallis Parks and Rec; Holly Crosson, BSWCD; Andy Hulting, OSU Weed Scientist; Jon Pampush, Western Invasive Plant Alliance; Jean-Paul, Luckiamute WC; Crystal Durbecq, BSWCD; Cindy McCain, USFS Retired; Kathleen Westly, MRWC; Claudia Ingham and Mary Meeker OSU; Evelyn Hukari, ODF; Becky Koepke-Hill, Stahlbush Island Farms; Heath Keirstead, BSWCD:

Presentation: Changes in the OSWB grant program – Tim Butler & Tristen Berg, ODA

Tim gave background information and an update on the program. The grant program started in 1999-2001 budget cycle and was for the protection and enhancement of fish habitat. The state weed board had 7 members and is defined under ORS 569. Fund distribution was 21% CWMA's; 32% Counties; 20% SWCD's; 27% Private, Tribal, Higher Ed.

Ballot Measure 76 effective July 1, 2011 changed the funding to one granting agencies – OWEB. Applications for the 2013-2015 biennium are due December 12th.

Projects are restricted to those that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations or water quality. Grant applications are encouraged to be for on-the-ground weed control projects and must be OSWB listed noxious weeds. Applications may include research, survey, outreach or project design if required to complete the control portion of the project. However, the OSWB prefers the majority of the funds go toward the control element of the project.

More information can be found on the web page:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/Pages/grantindex.aspx>

Action Team Reports

• **EDRR- Glenn Miller and Heath Keirstead**

Glenn and Henry met to discuss the noxious weed priority list and added a "C" listing. It is now an A, B & C listing which will be added to the BSWCD webpage. **To access, user name: cwma (all lower case) with the password: together**

Heath is asking for feedback from the CWMA members concerning the list and if anyone else would like to be involved with this Action Team. Member commented that the list lacked agricultural weeds and there needs to be a discussion around whether or not to add those to the list. Peter wanted to make sure that they were not left off the list since these weeds do have an economic impact.

• **Education & Outreach- Kathleen Westly**

The group is meeting regularly. A decision was made to pull the plug on the logos and marketing campaign and to take a simpler approach. Looking at some national campaign items that could be adopted and are less costly. New item is developing outreach about the CWMA and an article for

website. **Action Item:** post an article by January that shares info about the CWMA. Track hits on website.

Group decided to start small. The cost for a logo would be about \$500-900. Wondering if the CWMA members could contribute \$25-\$50 towards this effort. OSWB could not pay for the logo. It has to be an on-the-ground project. Heath will check to see if there are any additional grant opportunities available.

- **Steering Committee Report- Kristen Larson**

A copy of the Jan 7 meeting minutes was not available, so Heath will need to send out the minutes in advance of the next meeting. The group developed, reviewed and accepted the by-laws for the CWMA. Need to review the list of MOU's that have been signed and determine who is missing.

- **Weed Board Sub-committee – Jon Pampush**

The Weed Board sub-committee met on October 3rd. The proposal for a Weed Board would need to be non-threatening in nature, be able to demonstrate that a Weed Board can accomplish more than the CWMA alone, and be able to apply for grants to get a foot in the door. Would like to develop a cost-benefit analysis next year to present to the County Board of Commissioners.

- **Landscape Strategy – Crystal Durbecq**

Gathered information on projects that other partners are doing. Composed a list of areas to focus on preventing invasive. Jackson-Frazier, Luckiamute River, Mary's River, Finley Wildlife Refuge, Baldhill/Cardwell Hill, Fitton Green, Willamette River. The CWMA will pursue applying for the State Weed Board grant to target aquatic invasives (yellow floating heart and Ludwigia). This would be a great first grant for the group.

ACTION ITEM: motion by Kathleen to approve pursuing grant application. Second by Laurie. All in favor.

BREAK

Partner Updates

Kristen Larson, Luckiamute Watershed: Third season of Knotweed treatment occurred. All but 6 landowners were on board. Looking at re-vegetation in some areas.

Bill Vagt, Oregon Military Camp: They burned 45 acres this year and worked on English ivy removal. Target was poison oak and blackberries.

Peter Kenagy, Farm Bureau: All work this year was confined to his own property.

Glenn Miller, ODA: New project this year was surveying Phragmites. Worked on an estuary in Coos Bay removing 10 plants of **Spartina**. Worked with the City of Eugene on Ludwigia.

Vern Holm, WIN: Attended Ludwigia workshop and encourage people to call the Oregon Invasive Hotline number if they spot Ludwigia.

Laurie Starha, Benton County Public Works: no updates

Jude Geist, Corvallis Parks and Rec: Working with OSU on Oak release and grant application. Having interns update trailhead Kiosks with information on invasives.

Holly Crosson, BSWCD: no update

Andy Hulting, OSU Weed Scientist: Working with Landowners to solve weed issues within the agricultural community. A student confirmed hybridization of yellow star thistle and meadow knapweed.

Jon Pampush, Western Invasive Plant Alliance: Working on support weed districts in Western Oregon.

Jean-Paul, Luckiamute WC: Working on Knotweed this past summer.

Crystal Durbecq, BSWCD: Surveying properties for invasive plants and high quality habitat. Currently in the process of bringing stakeholders together for development of a Willamette River Plan.

Cindy McCain, USFS Retired: Would like to see the CWMA become established before approaching the Benton County Board of Commissioners to form a County Weed Board. Thinks that might take a few years.

Kathleen Westly, MRWC: Knotweed treatments; third year of treatment on Woods Creek, seventh year of treatment for Greasy Creek, and some treatment in the Wren area.

Claudia Ingham and Mary Meeker OSU: Manages Wilson Farm and used goats to control blackberries.

Evelyn Hukari, ODF: Not much noxious weed control this past year. Conducted inventory along roadsides and trails. Working on sudden oak death.

Becky Koepke-Hill, Stahlbush Island Farms: Manages the borders of the farm that are in non-cropland.

Heath Keirstead, BSWCD: Completed outreach, conducted several weedpulls along with Teen Weed Spotter program. Applied for the Legacy grant to get funding for a mobile app on weeds. Was not successful. Bringing the new website online.

Upcoming Events

January 6, 9 am Weed List Team Meeting

January 6, 11 am Steering Committee Meeting

February (DATE TBD) Next CWMA Full Group Meeting

Adjourned at 3:40 p.m.