**CWMA Meeting Minutes**

**June 4, 2025**

**USDA Service Center**

Present: Jim Campbell and Jamie Cronin (Harney County); Nate Hughes and Matt Wenick (Grant County Weed Control); Jessi Brunson, Kira Moss, Bryce Byford (Malheur National Forest); Aaron Johnston (High Desert Partnership); Andrew Donaldson (Natural Resources Conservation Service); Karen Moon (Harney County Watershed Council); Tyler Goss (HCWMA); Jason Kesling and Barbara Pearson (Harney Soil & Water Conservation District)

Guest: Harney County Commissioner Robb Frank

Jason began the meeting at 1:31 pm. The agenda, previous meeting minutes, and the current financial report were available for meeting participants. There were no agenda additions.

**Item #1: Last Meeting Minutes (action item)**

The meeting minutes were from April 2025. No changes or corrections were proposed. Jim moved and Jessi seconded approval. No one was opposed and the motion passed.

**Item #2: Financial Report (action item)**

Jason advised the CWMA truck and the four-wheeler were paid off; salary was the rest of expenditures. Title II funds are coming in. There will be Rejuvra treatments in the fall. Aaron moved, and Jessi seconded approval of the financial report. No one was opposed and the motion passed.

**Project Progress and Updates**

1. **Burns BLM/Forest Service 2025 Map and Work Plan**

Jessi led discussion on the continuing project: the creation of a map utilizing USFS and BLM data. Jessi said with the color assignment on the polygons she also assigned a name as to who would be working in the area. For now, it appears this project is on track and county workers were able to download the map from both agencies successfully.

Sam from BLM said the map she was working on did not show a county line. Jim and Matt Wenick discussed a day for both counties to meet and work in one adjourning area.

The work plan discussion varied on topics: Matt Wenick advised landowners need to be aware of jointed goat grass, a noxious weed where the weed head is brittle and breaks easily with contact. The weed does respond well to herbicides.

Jamie described treating Ventenata in Hay Creek area. Other discussion topics were on various herbicides and dilution amounts and their efficacy, longevity and control.

Jessi recommended everyone using USFS map to download and synch often to keep up with updates and changes. Jamie said she synchs daily, which Jessi thought was a good idea.

Jason asked Jim about the recent tour with the Rejuvra rep and if fixed wing plane vs. helicopter was a factor we should consider. Jim said there should be no effect based on the method of application. .

1. **Title II**

Jason provided a financial update on Title II. Jessi added the FSWS awarded in the full amount ($60K for Harney County broadleaf treatments). She said that money must be obligated by September 2026. It may take a while before funds are available as disasters are priorities. The fencing project through USFW is in limbo; Sam said the BLM fencing project is proceeding.

Jason asked Jim if the county would begin requesting monthly invoices for the Forest Service fire money.

1. Tyler reported on the H and A Grant, this one for salt cedar treatment. Treatment should take place in August, using the SWAT team.
2. Free Spray Day: Tyler said it went well but only 900 gallons were distributed—down from previous years. The event was held the same weekend as the Burns High School graduation. Other factors may be people waiting too long last year or have not used all the herbicide they received last year.

**New Business:**

1. Tyler is looking for a theme for the 2025 Harney County Fair weed booth. If anyone can think of one to please contact him. He hopes to have boot brush stations on display at the fair.
2. Skeleton Weed: Jim said Bonnie Rasmussen thought the weed should be coming out in the next few weeks. Discussion followed about invasive sites and how the weed can be identified. Matt said it has been his experience that skeleton weed varies greatly in size each year.
3. July 2025 meeting: The consensus was to hold the July meeting in the field. Due to the Independence Day holiday, the meeting date was moved to July 9th and to begin at 9 am. The group will meet at the USDA service center and proceed to location (various landowner property discussed). The tour would be expected to end at 2 pm.

**Public Comment**

1. Sam said BLM funding opportunity is awaiting approval at the national level. When the funding opportunity is available CWMA will need to select; there is only one opportunity to apply.
2. Jessi introduced Bryse and Kira, Student Conservation Agency interns for the summer. They will be doing walking surveys. She circled back to the booth brush station discussion suggesting the purchases be billed to post-fire funds. Other financial payment methods were discussed.
3. Aaron said the Community Fire Wise event will be this weekend. The event involves the Fire Collaborative, the Burns Fire Department and Hines Fire Department. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and games. It will be from 10 am to 2 pm at the Big R parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.