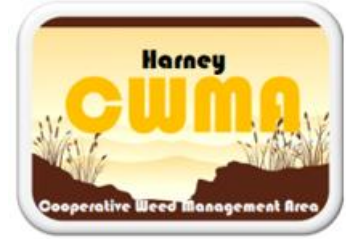




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CWMA Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026 USDA Service Center

Present: Aaron Johnston, High Desert Partnership (HDP); Andrew Donaldson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC); Jim Campbell and Jamie Cronin, Harney County Weed Department (HC); Tyler Goss, County Weed Management Agency (CWMA); Jason Kesling and Barbara Pearson, Harney Soil & Water Conservation District (HCWMA)

Present, remote: Jacob Rose, Portland State University Center for Lakes, and Reservoirs; Jennifer Tayton, Ecosource

Jason called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm—a time of introductions followed.

Action items:

- 1) December meeting minutes. Jim moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented; Jessi seconded. There were no objections.
- 2) Financials: Jason presented a financial report different from previous months and explained the differences. Tyler said he hoped to have another application submitted before the deadline. There were no other updates. Jason said the CWMA is spending out the 2024 fire—that grant closed February 14th. He expected a shortfall but the fire has a budget for Tyler's salary.

Sam Cisney told Jason that she is figuring out how to reapply for 2026. She was confused why it was not funded. There were no further questions. Jason advised that the date on the report was incorrect (it should read July-December 2025). Jessi moved to approve the financial report with

corrected date. Karen seconded. No one was opposed, and this passed.

Project Progress and Updates

1) Weed board grant. Tyler said he had spoken to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Bonnie Rasmussen, as the grant pool changed somewhat in the past year. She felt there was a need to submit a grant for Purple loosestrife at the Lamb Ranch for another year. The weed board will meet on February 12th and will determine if the grant is to be funded. Jim said he believed Bonnie was very much in support and felt good about it being funded.

2) Tyler asked the group if there were other grants the CMWA should pursue that it is not now doing? He said Salt cedar will be funded through Access and Habitat for 2026. The treatment location will be north of the refuge. One state grant was not completed and was pushed for the next year. Jim thought this summer would be drier and treatment could be accessible.

Jessi said Title II was approved, but not RAC? She may look for an agreement with CWMA to park some funds. Tyler said the agency could always use funds for annual grass treatment. Jim said knapweed was spotted in Riley and med sage in Drewsey at the dump.

Karen asked Jason about the Telephone and Falls Fires restoration. Jason added this discussion to the agenda under new business. This would be through OWEB.

3) Drone: Tyler told the group that at the last meeting, Travis from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge asked about purchasing a drone for herbicide treatment. Travis wanted to see if a drone could be put into service this year. Tyler said it would more likely be 2027 to allow for the completion of training and the drone purchase. He does have access to a drone, and the owner will allow Tyler to operate the drone under his name and supervision (Dave Bunker from Branch Enterprises in Nyssa). Tyler said he believes he will need first aid certification as well.

Jason said BLM is working to allow Rejuvra and drone operations on its land.

- 4) Jessi asked Jamie and Jim about cross boundary went. Jamie said yes and wondered if the data she sent to Jessi worked well for her. It did. Jessi said she thought she had a workable system. She will speak with Linda re: different data collection fields with the different software (re: one uses herbicide by name and the other by a number).
- 5) Outreach: Tyler asked if anyone present had outreach ideas for the year. He cited previous outreach attempts. One was the puncture vine pull that did not take off; the other was a scavenger hunt at the Harney County fair, suggested by Sam Cisney of the BLM. Jim suggested a calibration workshop. A date other than the Free Spray was discussed.
- 6) Aaron asked about the Free Spray Day being held the same day as Fire Wise. Tyler said they have often coincided in the past (it did not last year due to the flood). All fire departments (city, state, and federal agencies) get together and decide when to schedule. Dates of crews who will work on this project were discussed. Jim said he will contact the Burns Fire Department. Tyler said the Free Spray Day is held the Saturday after Memorial Day. For this year, it will be May 30, 2026.

Tyler also said the CWMA will try to hire a contractor to treat commercial lots. He will contact landowners.

Tyler said he was told that Myrtle spurge can be found at the HSWCD's gate. It was noticed two-three weeks ago. Jessi advised him to wear gloves to pull the weeds and put them in a sealed bag.

- 7) Tyler and Jacob Rose have been discussing outreach at the Burns Pond. This would be a joint event to identify aquatic invasive species. Jacob thanked the group for the invitation to speak today. He is part of a research group through PSU. Last year, he proposed a similar idea to the Oregon State Weed Board, and it did not "make the cut." He proposed that he and his group spend 7 or 8 days in Harney and Malheur Counties, checking different water bodies and hold aquatic weed identification training. He has done quite a few of these through the years. He showed slides to the groups on some of these invasives, stating that these would be some shown. There would be a discussion on impact and treatment

options. The target audience would be various agencies that serve on watershed councils. His presentations are usually plan for ten participants, but he often has double that amount.

Jacob said Tyler provided a letter of support for the project, and he thanked him. He is also in communication with Amanda Zander from Malheur County. Jacob said he hopes to get people from both counties interested. He asked for input on the discussion. ODA's Bonnie Rasmussen has contacted Section 5 for a classroom portion. He thought there would be an hour in the classroom and then an onsite view of the Burns Pond to determine differences between natives and invasives, but he is also open to holding the entire event at the Burns Pond. He believes it would probably be held in July; he is waiting to hear from the Weed Board. Tyler said that with the CWMA on board the classroom would be filled.

Jacob also mentioned inspecting several waterbodies and asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a weed survey (also looking for a participant who has local knowledge). Moon Reservoir, Benson Pond; water in the Krumbo Reservoir area, Ten Cent on the east side of the Steens were listed as potential sites in Harney County. He pointed on a map to two possible locations in Malheur County. Tyler said he would send out additional information to participants for planning purposes

Jacob also said this group would bring plants in five-gallon bucket said would bring plants in 5-gallon buckets, so there should be plenty of species to view. Jessi asked if the workshop would be free of charge, and Jacob said yes. Jason suggested informing the local wetland collaborative of the event. Jacob said, "The more, the merrier."

- 8) Herbicide Application Recertification Class. Tyler said it is scheduled for February 12, 2026, at the Chamber of Commerce. Tyler sent information out to those he thought would be interested; it was also included on the CWMA's Facebook page and the HSWCD's website. He said there are new participants this year and a new supplier. There will be a presentation on calibration. ODA will discuss new laws; Jim Campbell will discuss labels. Tyler encouraged the meeting participants to invite others to the class. He said if people need credits for recertification, they can also attend a workshop in Jordan Valley.

9) 2026 Field Trip. Last year's trip reviewed county weed project locations. Proposed ideas for a 2026 field trip involved looking at silver cinquefoil locations, ventenata, hair grass, and St. John's wort. Various locations included Deer Creek, the 43 road, and the 17-28 road. Jason suggested traveling to another county, citing the importance of knowing what weeds our neighbors are dealing with.

10) Karen mentioned OWEB grants to Telephone and Porcupine Fire restoration. Locations are being assessed as high-priority/low-priority spray areas. She hoped there would be spraying in the fall of 2026, fence restoration, and hazard tree removal. She said she hopes to have the first part out by February. A landowner approached her, concerned about Dalmatian toadflax, as a lot of firefighting equipment traveled on his road. Jim suggested fighting this weed with bugs. Jason asked if the grant included salaried time with CWMA, and Karen said yes. Tyler said he plans to meet with an area landowner next week. Karen said she will list it in the grant before submission.

11) Tyler said when the HSWCD acquired the CWMA, it inherited a 1997 Ford pickup and a four-wheeler. He asked the group their thoughts about surplus those vehicles and purchasing a side-by-side for the HSWCD. Did the group have any questions or objections? Jason said the HSWCD board will meet on Thursday, January 22, 2026, to determine the outcome. Tyler asked Jamie and Jim if the county wanted the toolbox out of the vehicle. Jamie will take a look.

12) The next meeting would be scheduled for February 4, 2026. Jason asked if a meeting would be necessary. Tyler said it would be up to the group. Jessi said that if people attended the recertification class, they could perhaps meet during breaks.

Tyler said he will otherwise work on the drone herbicide aerial application license and the regulatory weed program.

There was a discussion about forest service fencing and inspections. Jessi discussed including this information in the upcoming agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.