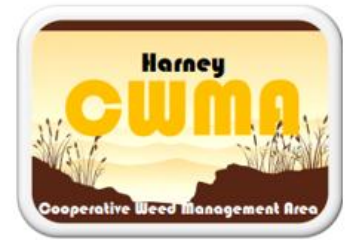




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CWMA Meeting Minutes September 2, 2026 USDA Service Center

Present: Jim Campbell, Harney County Weed Department; Andrew Donaldson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bonnie Rasmussen, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Tyler Goss, CWMA; Barbara Pearson, HSWCD

Present, Remote: Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council; Jason Kesling, HSWCD

A quorum was reached, and Jim called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. He led the meeting, as Jason Kesling was in Malheur County and participated remotely.

Historical note: This was the first regular CWMA meeting held since June 2026. In July there was a field trip instead of the meeting, and the August meeting was canceled due to extensive wildfires in the area.

Action Items:

- 1) Karen moved to approve the June meeting minutes as presented; Jason seconded. There were no objections, and the motion passed.
- 2) Jason advised there was no financial report. He apologized but did indicate the agency admin account has a balance over \$100K, \$60K for drone money. The CWMA is in a good financial position with a lot of cash on hand. He suggested the board consider future objectives and projects. Voting on the financial report was tabled until the next meeting.

Project Progress and Updates

- 1) Field trip, held in July 2026. Of those present in the meeting, Tyler said that Drew and Jim attended the field trip. Jim said it should be done more often. He felt it was beneficial for all agencies who were present. He said Jessi (Brunson of the Forest Service) did a great job in presenting native plants that could be mistaken for invasives. Tyler said he now has two Veterinarians at his desk to determine the difference between natives that look similar. Another field trip will be planned for next year, and Tyler hopes it will feature a new or limited invasive weed as a subject.
- 2) Harney County Fair: Tyler said he wants the weed booth theme to focus on biocontrol of weeds using cattle and goats. Jim suggested Tyler contact Jessica

Hedges to see if she would lend a few goats from her weed control business. He said goats have been used in the past and went over very well. Tyler also presented a schedule for volunteers to serve at the booth, set up in two-hour sessions. He will also send out an email following the meeting. Discussion followed as to the current location of the weed trailer (it had been at the Oregon State Fair and is on its way back to Deschutes County) and anyone who may be able to bring it to Harney County. At the time of the meeting, nothing was decided.

- 3) HCWMA project reports: The agency had two different grants this year. One was an extension of the Lawen Salt Cedar project. Tyler said he viewed the area this year and there were seven or eight plants. He toured the access and habitat. There was quite a bit of the area treated last year; it wasn't as bad as he thought it would be. Jason has to invoice before it can be submitted. Tyler asked for totals for him to submit his report. Jim said the Imazapyr worked.

The other project was treatment for Purple loosestrife. The area treated was an acre and a half (get location from Tyler). Jim declined to spray the rest of the project area due to high grass and rattlesnakes. Jim believed there was quite a bit of an area to be treated after the bridge area. He would like to get river access before Warm Springs to see if the plant is along the river. Tyler would like to at least check the Drewsey area. This project will be expanded next year.

- 4) Fire update: The fence projects through the BLM and Forest Service have been closed down. Leftover money from other agreements will be used for reseeding this year. May have reseeding projects for CWMA this year. Randy (Oregon Department of State Lands) wants to do road buffers next year in the Beaver Table area. Jim said there were so many fires that the funding is competitive. Bonnie said changes within the agency also caused uncertainty with BLM. The Forest Service will have some funding for next year.

Jim said musk thistle has been noted in Sawtooth, something he believed was brought in on firefighting equipment during the 2024 fires. Jim said he thought Plateau would be used alongside roads. He will coordinate with Linda Watts to make sure spraying won't affect reseeding.

Tyler said he was advised that annual grass treatments prevented fire spread, or at least the intensity of the fires. He and HSWCD Braden Morris checked out an area yesterday and saw mosaic burning at Coleman Creek. Tyler presented drone footage of the Coleman Fire, Jack Joyce's property. It was sprayed in 2022, paid for through SOWR funding. It did have fire going through it, but not as bad as untreated areas. Fifty percent of the area received Rejuvra treatment. A lot of perennials and sagebrush are left.

Jason asked Tyler to show this at the OACD meeting, describing it as "pretty compelling." Tyler said the same thing happened at Spurlock's land. Bonnie

asked if the land was grazed/ungrazed. Tyler said he would need to discuss it with Jack Joyce. She said when cases about treatment are being built, a lot of factors need to be included.

Bonnie said there is a case being made now for fine fuel using grazing and other techniques. Bonnie asked Tyler to put something together for INF for fine fuel reduction. Jim suggested he talk to Porter. Jason also suggested this be for OACD and the annual meeting to show the funding opportunities working. Further discussion followed about making the most of this opportunity.

Tyler later showed the location on a map where the drone footage was taken.

- 5) Jason said he has been contacted by many landowners asking about spraying Ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*, aka/snowbrush). Jim said that so far it hasn't been listed as an invasive. He doesn't have chemicals that are specific for treatment, but he will check with some suppliers. This invasive's combustible qualities were discussed. Jim suggested Imazapyr to treat (he said it kills everything).

New Business:

- 1) Tyler will be at the Fair booth. He will also work on Title 2 funding. He would like to treat the area south of Radar and Burns for Medusa head. He will prepare contracts for next spring. Other tasks involve fire rehab evaluation and presenting drone treatment to landowners.
- 2) New program he is investigating. A voluntary agreement if landowners use Rejuvra to treat invasives, then the landowner can apply for carbon credit through a private corporation, up to \$25 per acre. The cost of application can also be submitted retroactively for a few years. The landowner must report cattle grazing and usage. Herbicides, the cost, and ways to make it available to different agencies were discussed (past and present usage).
- 3) Jim said the last weed board meeting featured a long discussion regarding a cost share program the county has had for a time. A landowner can be reimbursed for up to 100% of herbicide cost for up to \$3-5K. The program went year after year without being used. Jim thought about using the funds toward the city weed problem. He and the SWAT program could apply the herbicide. He would like to target diffuse and spotted knapweed until the funds are depleted. He could spray for two days. Tyler and Jim can contact the landowners.

Jim said half a dozen landowners signed up for the city-wide weed wipeout. Tyler said the ones who responded heard about it through advertisement. He would like to contact the owner of the Shell Station to treat weeds. Discussion about noxious weeds in lots within city limits and how to treat/engage

landowners, with the airport, rural schools, and cemeteries also discussed as locations.

Jim said it would be best to do herbicide application themselves vs. hiring a contractor. Bonnie said she would try to involve her agency. Private herbicide operators were discussed.

The meeting ended at 2:45 pm