HCWMA meeting July 21, 2021

Present: Karen Moon (Harney County Watershed), Randy Wiest (Department of State Lands), Weed Chair Jim Campbell, Tyler Goss and Barbara Pearson (HSWCD)

Present, remote: Carrie Goss (Malheur Wildlife Refuge)

Jim called meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Karen said even if she wasn’t present at the last meeting, she had read the minutes and moved that they be approved. Randy seconded it and all who were present and eligible to vote were in favor.

Copies of the financial report were distributed. Jason Kesling from HSWCD was under the weather and wasn’t in attendance but had let Tyler know he could be available via phone if there were questions. There was discussion how the government entities provide funding and how it is dispersed in the course of a year. Recent funds from The USFW may not be included in the report. Instead of contacting Jason then it was decided to table to the discussion until he could provide additional information. Questions about what fund is paying Tyler. Both Randy and Jim said they missed the detail sheet which had been provided in the past. Jim suggested Tyler view BLM contract for modification.

Beavertables—Tyler said funding is available; he is speaking with landowners to determine where the aerial reseeding would take place. Seed needs to be ordered. The grant will need to be extended if seed is unavailable. Jim said in the past when there have been fires only the federal government can obtain seed. Randy suggested a vendor. Tyler said a pilot suggested to him 10 lbs. Siberian and 1 lb. kosha. Tyler also said the HSWCD is working on details for the bid.

Other items suggested for the agenda:

Johnson Ditch/med sage—nothing new. Jim sprayed the road and checked the hillside. He said state weed board grant applications are due the middle of December.

Drewsey Ditch—Tyler said that Jesse Barnes has emphasized this one (she was not at the meeting but provided agenda topics). Jim thought this project should still be pursued. Drewsey Ditch is the top of the water system. Jim will help Tyler in applying for funding. He said Bonnie from ODA often reviews grant projects and is very helpful. She has been very supportive of both Drewsey Ditch and the Johnson Ditch projects

ACRE8 and LELA in Fields area: Jesse also suggested this topic. Jim pessimistic about projects in the south end of the county as it has been difficult to get landowner participation. The topic was tabled for next meeting. Jim suggested once Tyler speaks to Jesse to run it past Bonnie.

Education in Schools: Good idea.

CEU Classes for licensed applicators—commercial, private, and public. Jim said he can assist Tyler with this project. Previously representatives from Ag herbicide companies can be contacted to give presentations on specific weeds or about applicators. Attendees can receive credit through ODA and there are often field demonstrations and weed identification. Such events are also called Hay grower meetings. Jim recommended any such meeting being tied in with Tyler’s other position at HSWCD to help gain attendance. The best time to schedule such events is usually late February or early March (otherwise it can conflict with calving season).

LELA spray day and calibration in Diamond area—would like Jesse to provide more input, topic tabled as with CEDI at Sage Hen, DEBI & ONAC in Poi and Med sage on the Johnson and Cargills.

Jim said he has received calls on recertification classes and free spray days. It can be a huge outreach and he could get the weed trailer from Deschutes County.

New business:

Sage Grouse 2.0 FIP—HSWCD District Manager Jason Kesling was not present to discuss. Karen said she thought the area covered was from Folly Farm south to the state line.

Fair booth/trailer plan and idea: Jim has contacted Charlie Hanna (weed control for Deschutes County) and has reserved the weed trailer. We just have to pick it up. Randy Wiest volunteered to do this, just to let him know when. Karen said she could assist. Jim said he would contact Jordan (Harney County Fair Supervisor) to reserve a spot and hopes it will be the same place as in years previous. Tyler said this year’s fair theme was “The Sky’s the Limit” and hoped to have a weed trailer display that encompasses this. HCWMA members were asked to brainstorm for ideas and bring to next meeting. Aerial seeding and spray were suggested, and Jim said Tyler should send out reminders repeatedly to everyone. The booth should be manned 11 am to 6 pm during the fair and can be cleaned and returned the Monday following the fair. This would be a busy time for Tyler, who would be responsible for the trailer’s security. Jim also suggested Tyler prepare a list of HCWMA projects for 2022 to hand out to visitors.

Preparing a hay growers event: Jim suggested Tyler contact the Farm Bureau, head of other age groups to ask for email lists, contact the radio station. In the past the classes always been held at the courthouse (if available) because it is free. Anticipated size of the group would be about 15 people. Advertise Anderson Valley, Big R. Again, he suggested a list of projects

Other business:

There are grasshoppers at Faye Lane.

Randy Asked if NRCS was preparing spraying projects—he has not heard of any. Jim said he would contact Zola. Tyler said he was to discuss with her but it hasn’t happened. Randy said he has people who are interested.

Carrie Goss asked about funds for spraying private land. In the past the county cost share would pay for half the materials. Could Tyler contact some of the ranches near the refuge: Dunbar, Buck Taylor, Sodhouse. She thought twelve permittees would be interested. Areas of focus were discussed. Jim suggested Carrie contact landowners and inform them they may need to have pay for 25%. He emphasized the state wants landowners to invest money in program. Once a list is prepared, she is to send it to Tyler.

Meeting adjourned 2:25 pm. Next meeting August 18, 2021 1:30 pm