|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Harney Soil & Water Conservation DistrictPO Box 848530 Hwy 20 South, Hines, OR 97738Phone: 541.573.6446Email: goss@harneyswcd.net |  |

**County Weed Management Agency Meeting**

**August 17, 2022, Harney County Courthouse basement meeting room**

Present: Tyler Goss, CWMA; Sam Cisney, BLM; Zola Ryan, NRCS; Kaylee Littlefield, High Desert Partnership; Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council; Jesse Barnes, Harney County Weed Board; Jason Kesling and Barbara Pearson, Harney Soil and Water Conservation District

Jason Kesling led the meeting in Jim’s absence. The meeting began at about 1:30 pm. The welcome and introduction time did not take place as everyone present knew each other.

Tyler advised the agenda was updated to include project updates and discussion.

Action Item: Approval of last month’s meeting minutes. Karen Moon moved and Sam Cisney seconded approval of July’s meeting minutes. All present who were eligible to vote were in favor and it was approved.

Action Item: Approval of Financial Report. Jason explained the report. Currently salary is charged against the senate bill as well as some material and supplies. Ninety-six cattle panels will be purchased to use on the medusahead test plot program. Poison Creek Knapweed project is reflected on the report and that project should close soon. Tyler will purchase swag for the fair. There were no questions or corrections. Zola moved approving the financial report; Kaylee seconded. All present who were eligible to vote were in favor and it was approved.

Project progress and updates

1. Weed Trailer Fair Theme. Tyler said the theme will be on monitoring. He will speak to Dustin in creating and editing a slide show on noxious weeds.
2. There was a tour of Poison Creek with ODA on August 2nd. Jesse and Jim also participated. Hounds tongue was identified. The ODA encouraged Tyler to apply for a grant to address this and Pepperweed.
3. ODA also suggested a countywide grant application to address med sage. Tyler asked Sam if match funding could be obtained through BLM. She said it would probably involve time. Other noxious weed locations were discussed.
4. REJUVRA test plot: As stated earlier, 96 cattle panels will be purchased to construct enclosures this fall. Tyler described the test layout, which will be on Jerry Miller’s property near his pivot. The Rejuvra side will be about 100 acres and Plateau will be about 50 acres in size. Zola asked if soil differences would also be tested. Tyler said samples were taken but he was unsure what would be done with them. Zola said she and Drew (Donaldson, also from NRCS) discussed what soil health would be detectable. NRCS has test kits available and a budget for this. She asked if anyone is interested in including this with the research to let her know. Kaylee said that Josh (Hansen, from HDP) would also be behind this. Tyler agreed—said Dustin would be interested in this since he wants to do a paper on this.
5. Perennial Pepperweed. The CWMA applied for a grant last year but was unsuccessful. The Refuge secured $50K in funding ($40K for spraying) to put toward this project. It would include two landowners’ property and the refuge and would entail 800-1000 acres. The project also includes treatment of 10 acres of spotted knapweed. The opportunity to bid was put out today on the HSWCD’s webpage and various FB pages. Prior to the bid award, CWMA will meet with HDP to develop an agreement. The project is to begin September 10th and he hopes it will end in a month. The project will mostly be ground treatment but there will also be some broadcast herbicide treatment. There were no further questions

New Business:

1. Zola said NRCS’ Stinkingwater RCPP for Medusahead is wrapping up. The district received an invitation to apply for a renewal and she will be pursuing that. There may be funds remaining from present program, and if the new application is not funded the district can submit for a one-year extension. She discussed the NRCS contract process and said at times landowners cancel at the last moment. There may also be options for landowners who waited too long to apply for other projects. The deadline for this may be the third Friday in November, but has not been announced. Jason asked about outreach and suggested if any one is interested to have them sign up to show there is a demand.
2. Jesse suggested a project idea on the south end of the county, Perennial Pepperweed, Hwy 20 south and the White Horse Ranch Road, near Tum Tum. It would involve BLM and privately owned land. The land is 50% covered in noxious weeds. There are some vigilant landowners and some who have allowed overgrazing. Some pivots in the area have Russian Knapweed.
3. Tyler said the SWCD’s monthly meeting in September will take place in Fields. He asked those in attendance to contact area landowners and let them know of the meeting. Jesse suggested he contact Edie Casey. She said in 2005-2006 there was an all-inclusive weed treatment in that area and that recently she has seen Yellow Star Thistle on the Pueblos at a historical site.
4. Other areas and weeds discussed was two sites, one off of the county road and other next to the county yard. Every year one plant is produced.
5. Jointed goat grass—Tyler said he would like Title Two money to be applied toward that project. Jesse said she sprayed Bentz property. Sam said there is some in Stinkingwater and a footprint in Warm Springs.

The Meeting adjourned 2:10 pm