**CWMA Monthly meeting,**

**conference room at the FSA/NRCS building**

**April 13, 2023**

Present: Zola Ryan and Andrew Donaldson of NRCS; Sam Cisney of BLM; Tyler Goss of HCWMA; Kaylee Littlefield of HDP; Karen Moon of HCWC; Manuel Mose of Burns Paiute Tribe; Jason Kesling and Barbara Pearson, HSWCD

1. Welcome/introductions: these were dispensed until Manuel arrived. Jason facilitated the meeting in Jim Campbell’s absence.
2. Action/approval
   1. Last meeting minutes—There were no additions or corrections. Kaylee moved and Sam seconded approval of the minutes as presented. All present who were eligible to vote were in favor and this motion passed.
   2. Financials—Jason said other projects the HCWMA is involved in are now added to the report: Pepperweed, USFW. There is $4500 included in Admin. It has not been spent but is reflected there. Other grants Tyler was successful in obtaining are also included. SOWR expended totally. Tyler said 1400 acres left to spray. Zola moved to accept financials as presented. Kaylee seconded. All present who were eligible to vote were in favor.

Karen arrived at 1:35 pm

1. Project progress/updates:
   1. Harney CWMA MOA-MOU. Tyler said it was reviewed and then was sent up to the higher ups of other agencies. Sam said a lot of people have provided comments and input. She asked if there was a deadline for comments and added it would be good to see the comments. Tyler said he had asked for comments to be sent to him no later than April 16th. This would be rough edits, and he hopes to have it completed in the next two months. Tyler said there are parts of the MOU-MOA that he doesn’t understand but Jim does. The CWMA and HSWCD aren’t the same in this document. Sam said wording in a document like this can be touchy and those writing and reviewing have to be careful. She ran her copy past Jeff Rose, but avoiding any obligations, etc. Tyler said the DSL gives us funds and BLM provides funds through the refuge, though the HCWMA doesn’t have an agreement with the refuge. Jason said the MOU-MOA reaffirms the entities listed in 2023-2024 are committed to the CWMA concept. Tyler said he would like to get the MOU-MOA completed this year; at least a like hard draft by next meeting with everyone’s comments. Jason suggested addressing the comments at the next meeting. Tyler said the last update on this document was in 2011.
   2. Seed Swap—The Seed Swap was sponsored by the High Desert Partnership and was held at the Harney County Fairground exhibit hall last weekend. Tyler brought the weed trailer from Deschutes County for the event (the county pays for fuel to transport to and from Deschutes County). He felt the outreach was better than during the fair and that he spoke to everyone who walked through the door. He discussed with attendees the puncture vine pull. Good conversations all around and those he spoke to were informed and engaged.

Both Hines and Burns will be locations for a puncture vine pull, which will be scheduled sometime mid-July. He has a vendor for refreshment donations after the event and is looking for prizes. Jason asked Tyler if he knew how many attended the seed swap. Neither Kaylee or Tyler knew. Karen said the parking lot was full; Tyler said the place was busy until noon and then attendance dropped. This is the third seed swap, and it has gotten bigger through the years.

* 1. SOWR project: Tyler said there are 1400 acres to sprayed in spring, toward the end of June. Nic Schott from Schott Ag Air is currently seeding for NRCS. As soon as the land dries up, he will spray in Stinkingwater. Tyler said he doesn’t know what spray projects will take place this fall.

Jason asked Tyler to provide a Title 2 update. Funding has been secured for Title 2, 2500 acres of 50/50 cost share with landowner on broadleaf plants connected to Forest Service and 1500 acres of annual grass to be treated. He has spoken to everyone in Riley area regarding this. Jim and Tyler will go out to speak to others about the 75% cost share.

1:45 pm Manuel Mose arrived, and introductions took place. Manuel has been in Harney County since 2020. Jason and Tyler filled him in on the MOU-MOA. Jason said there needed to be a champion from the tribe to showcase this for its council. Tyler added if the council has any objections adjustments could be made. Manuel observed the MOU-MOA is a working document. Jason also filled him in with the previous issues. Tyler said he would like to speak to a tribal council/staff about setting up a nursery for biocontrol. He has spoken to entomologist Joel Price in raising insects to help control white top, which is present on the Burns Paiute Tribe Reservation. Sam said the insect is a host-specific mite. It is not intended to eradicate the plant, just to be considered another tool in the toolbox to fight it. Manuel asked Tyler to provide Joel’s information to him to take to the council. Jason advised Manuel there is also a white top presence at Jonesboro and it may also be present at the Tribe’s Beech Creek location.

New business:

1. Free spray day/Fire Wise day: Originally the two events have been held on the same day, but the County fire board wanted to do their Fire Wise Day in May, which would be too soon to set up the herbicide giveaway. The Fire Wise Day is essentially geared toward children: games, education on showing the effects of fire.

Free Spray Day: Tyler explained what took place the previous year. The brand name of the herbicide given out is “Speedzone.” It’s not confirmed yet but the BLM/Forest Service/Volunteer Fire Departments may also have a free wood chipper service at Triangle Park the same day.

As an aside, Tyler said he spoke to Derek from the BLM about juniper cutting at P Hill next year. He suggested that area be monitored for med sage. He will attempt to contact the adjacent landowner. Jason asked what could cause the spread of med sage and Tyler said ground disturbance. Sam added that how tree piles are handled can affect the spread. Derek told Tyler said if anyone wants juniper cut to let the BLM know. There were no further questions about this or the Free Spray Day.

1. Hats: Tyler said he ordered additional hats last week. He has received a jacket with CWMA and HSWCD logos on it. The CWMA has been out of the public eye for a while, and these get the name in the public.
2. Plans for next month: Tyler plans to contact landowners in Riley. He also will attempt to survey and spray trails in the U.S. Forest Service and meet with visitors at campgrounds. Currently there are no inspections of previous burns sites planned as this is not written into the agreement with the Forest Service. Tyler will try to get out in the field more often. The CWMA has a drone and offered his services with various groups who may need it.

The Rejuvra test plot was discussed. Tyler said that Dustin Johnson and Josh Hansen plan to write a research paper, and separation panels will be installed in the test plot area.

Manuel said tribe also has drone and operator. He said he is involved in emergency planning and spoke about challenges of this with the potential Cascadia event (every 300 years), proposed fire breaks and roads and improving existing ones. Tyler described trails in the area, and said the finalized MOU-MOA might assist the Tribe in securing funding for these projects. Manuel also said the Tribe can apply directly and the county, etc. can be subrecipients.

Zola asked Andrew how many RCPP applications were submitted and was told four. Zola explained to Manuel what the RCPP program is.

1. Is Thursday a good day to meet? Tyler explained the reason for the meeting date change and asked participants if this date/time doesn’t work to let him know. Sam requested meetings start later in the day, beginning in June. Tyler reminded the attendees Jim wants to step down as the CWMA chair, and filling this position will be on the next month’s agenda.

Kaylee suggested the CMWA meet out in the field? Jason concurred, saying he I wouldn’t mind seeing some weed infestations, particularly A Species of invasives. It was suggested to also Invite cohorts/partners to the tour. This could be a great outreach education opportunity. Many of us know these rare species we want to keep out. Sam thought July would work best to schedule. Tyler said med sage would be blooming then, and that would be good. Sam would be good even if the noxious weeds aren’t in a reported area because more people can monitor. Kaylee asked meeting participants if a noxious weed is spotted to GPS mark it and report. Tyler suggested Bonnie lead it as she instructs SWOT crew. When scheduled ,Sam said she would email her contacts to see about them attending.

Tyler the ODA board wants to do a tour of Stinkingwater. He and Jim pushed it off for next year so the organization can see how the SOWR project spraying works. This would be a two-day meeting in 2024. On the first day there would be a business meeting with Grant County and the other sections Bonnie oversees.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.