**August 2, 2023**

**CWMA Monthly Meeting, Basement Courthouse Conference Room**

Present: Tyler Goss, CWMA; Jim Campbell, Harney County; Kaylee Littlefield, Joshua Jensen, High Desert Partnership; Jesse Barnes, Harney County Weed Board; Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council; Jason Kesling, Barbara Pearson, HSWCD

Attending remote: Bonnie Rasmussen, ODA

Jason called the meeting to order at 3 pm. For the benefit of the remote attendee, those in the conference room were asked to identify themselves. Jason advised the meeting participants that there would be on additional agenda item, under new business: Banner

**Item #1: Meeting Minutes**

Jim moved to approve the meeting minutes; Karen seconded. There was no opposition by those present eligible to vote and it passed.

**Item #2: Financials**

Jason explained the report. He said there is currently 3 to 4 years of salary for Tyler. The admin account numbers reflect the Fish and Wildlife deposit. The Stinkingwater RCPP renewal final meeting was held today. This can be charged in the next 2-3 weeks. Tyler has spent a lot of time spraying these past couple of weeks: , Med Sage, Long Hollow, Burke Springs and Purple Loosestrife projects have all been completed. There were no questions. Jesse moved to approve; Jim seconded. There was no opposition by those present eligible to vote and it passed.

**Item #3: Project Progress and Updates**

1. MOU-MOA was tabled for next meeting
2. Puncture vine event—no one showed. Teresa Wicks and Tyler were at the county shop for well over an hour in the hope someone would sign up for the competition. Items for the competition (prizes, tee shirts, gloves) will be stored for next year. Tyler suggested publicizing the event at the weed trailer at this year’s county fair. Tyler was unsure if the gift cards to be used as prizes would expire. Karen said she would check. Some suggested using the gift cards as prizes for the fair booth in a to-be-determined contest or drawing. Jim said now the weed is now exploding, due to the late, cold spring. He suggested tying future contests into a summer event, such as the Gravel Grinder/Skull 180 bike race. Jason suggested the rodeo. Kaylee wondered about competition during the fair with competitors bringing in the weed. Tyler said he didn’t want to introduce the weed into the fairgrounds—it would be better for them to be brought into the county yard. Jesse suggested the event be included in the junior high summer school program. Today’s summer school is like a science camp. Publicize it in the classroom the month before school gets out. Kaylee suggested tie it into an incentive, like an immediate bounty when brought in.

3:06 pm Sam Cisney arrived.

1. Poison Creek: Jesse said the area is sprayed. There are six monitoring points established for three noxious weeds. Last year she treated 42-43 acres; this year was 11 and the majority of the weeds were hounds tongue. The majority of the area is owned by one landowner. The invasion doesn’t cross Poison Creek. Beavers have meadow flooded. The weed is spreading through willows, mostly on Hotchkiss. There was discussion of other locations and methods of the weed spreading. Jesse said it was hard to get monitoring points for spotted knapweed since there is presently not a lot there. Jason asked for the group’s thoughts in applying for a grant to treat for next year. Jim suggested continuing to seek funding to control hounds tongue. Bonnie said “If we don’t fund those grants it will be dropped cold.” This will be a local level decision. The CWMA is already seeking funding for spotted knapweed—it makes sense to get hounds tongue. At some point the locals will need to take over. The CWMA needs to work on an exit plan with some weed board grants. The grants were initially intended for counties to get ahead and handle with other funds. On a monitoring standpoint there is no question that the CWMA will need to continue that project for a while in some capacity.
2. Stinkingwater and Med Sage: Tyler said he couldn’t remember how many acres were treated at the Lamb Ranch. Jim said seven tanks of herbicide were used. Bonnie asked if the two of them treated a certain area, and Jim and Tyler said they did (Jim and Bonnie discussed the landscape to make sure they understood one another). Jim said the goal was accomplised in not allowing the weed to get into the Malheur River. Jason asked about funding this project for 2024. Not getting it into the Malheur, and Tyler felt it important to attempt further funding through ODA. Jim thought the BLM will always want CWMA participation.

With Med Sage, six different sites were treated; one landowner didn’t want to participate. Tyler will contact her this fall to see if she would be interested in a treatment next year. Tyler said he walked through Frenchglen, and there is no med sage in town. Other locations: one fourth of an acre at the Diamond site, the same at Blue Bucket; There was one acre on the West Loop; the Roaring Springs Ranch had three acres. With the Roaring Springs, Jim said medusahead was present and needed to be treated. Discussion followed on the weed location and urgency to address before the noxious weeds explode, plus origin of the invasion, as well as cooperation of the ranch manager, Stacy Davies. Tyler gave an update on Drewsey and Riley. The BLM has been treating a spot at the Drewsey dump and he would like to add it as a CWMA project. Jeff Hussey is the landowner and Tyler will submit a grant application for next year. Due to the late spring Riley was flooded and the area is just now rosettes. He sprayed herbicide; the grass was two feet tall and he didn’t come close to finding all the rosettes. There was not a lot of the weed near the store; mainly on the post office side of the highway. Bonnie asked CWMA to monitor P Hill—there has been noxious weeds located at the top which was treated two years ago.

1. BLM update: Tyler and Jim treated Long Hollow and Burke Springs (one acre, each on four-wheelers. The entire area was treated), and hounds tongue had a presence there. Tyler sprayed ten acres of med sage at the Drewsey dump and completed reporting. Currently, the CWMA is soliciting bids for aerial application of medusahead treatment of ten acres for Wildhorse allotment, south of Steens, East Loop Road. Tyler said he needs to locate water for the project. Jim suggested he contact the Mann Lake Ranch or Juniper Ranch. No further questions
2. Forest Service work: Tyler said that Sam Artaiz is surveying trails. Bull and Canadian thistle were located. The Forest Service also turned over additional locations (about 20 unofficial camp sites) to survey and treat and five lookouts to check. Jim offered to help; Jason will be doing this on Friday. Tyler said he found a patch of Virginia fleck seed at the Idlewild campground, near the latrines that he wants to address shortly. Jim offered to treat. Unless the Forest Service updates the Craft Cabin trail, the CWMA will drop this site in its survey if the trail is not maintained.

**Item #4: New Business**

Banners: Tyler would like to purchase banners for yearly events (free spray day, etc.,). Dates for events would be taped to the banners. When not using the banner at the event it would be displayed at a public place, such as Triangle Park. The banner(s) would cost $150 each. He thought it would be good advertisement. No one was opposed. Josh asked about the banner location leading up to the Free Spray Day. Tyler said he would like to see it at Triangle Park in the month prior.

Fair booth: The CWMA will get the weed trailer from Deschutes County. Tyler will send out a sign-up schedule shortly, in two-hour blocks like last year. Space for the trailer will be free.

There was nothing further, and the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm