**CWMA Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**November 8, 2023**

**Basement Conference Room, Harney County Courthouse**

Present: Andrew Donaldson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Sam Cisney (Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Kaylee Littlefield, High Desert Partnership (HDP); Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC); Lisa Foster, US Forest Service (USFS); Tyler Goss, County Weed Management Agency (CWMA); Barbara Pearson, Harney Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD)

Present, remote: Bonnie Rasmussen, Oregon Department of Agriculture ODA

Tyler ran the meeting in the absence of Jason Kesling. Since Bonnie was attending remotely people in the room introduced themselves.

Kaylee moved and Sam seconded approving the meeting minutes as presented. All present who were eligible to vote were in favor.

There was no financial report to present.

PROJECT UPDATES:

CWMA truck to arrive next week. There is an ad campaign on the Facebook page and website for donations. Tyler relayed to attendees if they wanted to let others know.

Oregon State Weed Board Grants, December 16th:

* County-wide Med Sage, site #1 Medusahead, Morris Ag air sprayed about 80 acres. Another change moved from Frenchglen to the Drewsey Dump to address a site there.
* Purple Loosestrife. This was managed by Tyler and Jim Campbell last year. Tyler presented maps to the group, Hwy 20 to Lamb Ranch. An email was sent to a drone pilot to see about spraying due to the “booby traps” in the area. He responded with an estimate of $5K for survey and spraying. Bonnie said she didn’t see a problem with that.
* The next map shows Hwy 20 to Drewsey. That section will be treated by Tyler and Jim on ATVs. This is mostly private land and a small area of public. Kaylee asked about river direction in the project area.
* New project, put together through Bonnie, Jessie Barnes and the refuge: Salt Cedar project in Lawen. There will be a survey. Currently Tyler thought there were 20 acres affected now. Tyler spoke to Ducks Unlimited, but that group doesn’t have much capacity to assist. Offered to write a support letter and offered to help locate additional grants. He also spoke to Tom Segal from Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) but there is no access and habitat in the project area. Tyler will meet with him again in January 2024. Wilber Ellis rep said Imazapyr and Seal Tak combined might be a good herbicide to treat. Bonnie concurred, providing it didn’t go outside of the maximum area for rangeland.

Other projects written, ready to go. Poison Creek removed from list; it will be addressed through another Title 2 project. It’s a small area but 2-3 noxious weeds present. Tyler spoke to Lisa regarding paperwork requirements. Riley area was not addressed this summer.

SOWR 2 received funding, 3000 acres for treatment in Drewsey area. Randy requested CWMA help with ODSL treatments next year.

Salt Cedar will be a late summer to early fall project, so can be treated without a rush.

As a follow up to the last meeting, Sam asked where plant samples should be sent. Tyler has not located someone yet. Lisa suggested OSU botanist and to possibly view this plant when it has flowered. Lisa advised she would be joining the BLM soon. Drew said OSU has a botany department. Lisa also suggested Tyler contact someone in John Day.

Plans for this month: grant writing.

Sam asked about MOU and Tyler said the group can review in winter.

Tyler thought he had enough people interested in a recertification class. There may also be someone to talk about bugs. Bonnie will still be active for another year, but may not be available February or March 2024. Tyler said he would try to work around SRM in Jordan Valley, maybe in the beginning of February.

Kaylee said the SRM date has now January 28-February 2, 2024.

Tyler relayed the following to the meeting attendees to spread the word to ranchers. Wolf Meeting—the county has some funding for nonlethal methods to encourage wolves to leave (range riding, fences, etc.). One method may be fencing with motion sensors. Commissioner Kristin Shelman is the main lead on this. The deadline for applying is December 1, 2023.

The meeting ended at about 3:30 pm