



Crooked River Weed Management Area

Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2015

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Present: Ron Halvorson, Deb Mafera, Brooke Gray, Kev Alexanian, Libby Stahancyk, Rance Kastor, Mike Crumrine, Kristin Williams, Sarah Callaghan, Debbie Wood.

Ron called the meeting to order at 2:00.

- Board introductions were made to Debbie Wood, the new CRWMA Coordinator.
- The minutes from the last meeting (Jan 13, 2015) were reviewed; Kev made a motion to accept the minutes, Brooke seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- Rance, Kristin and Sarah signed the Board Member job descriptions; Kristin and Sarah also turned in their Conflict of Interest Policy statement.

Budget

The group went over the budget and discussed the work to be done with the BLM funds from agreement L10AC20262. Priscilla has proposed that about 13 miles of Dry Canyon be surveyed and treated for yellow-flag iris. These funds must be spent or obligated by July 18, 2015. The proposed cost for survey and treatment is about \$3,800, leaving approximately \$800 left over. Kristin said that an EDRR treatment generated from cost-share applications would be an appropriate project for the left over funds. The survey will start near the Powell Butte Highway at McCafferty Road and end at the O'Neil Highway near the confluence with the Crooked River. There was some discussion as to whether the survey and treatment would occur together, and whether Debbie will do the work or it will be contracted out.

Mike reported that ODA completed their review of the OSWB grants, and they are recommending that the CRWMA grants "Restoring Sage Grouse Habitat" and "Lower Crooked River Scotch Thistle" be funded by the OSWB; should know the final outcome by the end of this month. The "Lower Crooked River Restoration" project was not recommended for funding due to lack of complexity and Class B weed species.

Kev says that the CRWMA owes him \$8,000 for the Title III work from 2014. There is nothing allocated in the budget to cover this cost. Brooke thought maybe the money is being held at the County, and we need to request the funds be given to Crook County Weed Control. Kev will send an invoice to Debbie.

The board looked at the Profit and Loss statement, did not really understand it, and tabled it until the next meeting.

Employee Handbook

The board reviewed the Employee Handbook that Ron put together. There were a couple suggestions made to clarify some statements, including identifying how far away from the duty station would constitute being in travel status for meal reimbursement. The board agreed that Ron could make the minor edits and have Debbie sign the acknowledgement page.

2015 Cost-Share Program

The board set a meeting date of May 5 at 2:00 to review and make funding decisions on cost share applications. Applications can be turned in up until May 5. There are no sideboards for applying for funds this year. Debbie will help get the word out, including taking information and applications to the Paulina SWCD meeting this Thursday. Other ways to get the word out includes putting it on the website, Facebook page, newspaper articles and in the Extension newsletter.

Liability Insurance

The quote from Prineville Insurance finally arrived; it appears that it includes more coverage than we require (WMA coverage, equipment coverage). That, compounded with the length of time it took to get information from them, led the board to pursue the quote from Country Insurance. Ron will contact them to clarify the coverage and make a final decision.

Board Member Updates

Great presentation by Dr Anne Kennedy from WSU on the bacteria that can target medusahead, cheatgrass, and jointed goat grass. It will be available in the fall of 2016 for purchase. Price will be less than \$10 per acre. The one caveat is that the bacteria does not seem to work well in clay soils.

Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*) and hardy pampas grass (*Saccharum ravennae*) will be added to the "A" state list in 2015.

BLM is working on an EIS for 10 herbicides.

USFS will be doing contract weed control on the Bailey Butte Fire area. CRWMA progress reports for Title II and the participating agreement are due to the USFS on March 31, 2015.

Crook County Weed Control is finished with the residual program and Kev is currently working on a Homeowners Weed Control Handbook.

To Do:

- ! Check with Kristin – what BLM report is due on 2/18/15?
- ! Figure out how to allocate the ~ \$800 that will be left over from the BLM funds. Must be allocated or spent by July 18, 2015
- ! Pay Kev the \$8,000 owed to Crook Co Weed Control, where is the money coming from – why not budgeted?
- ! Debbie will call Mike Kasberger and find out whether he still wants to be on the board.

Motions made for adjournment at 4:10 pm.

Deb Mafera, Secretary
18 January 2015