



Crooked River Weed Management Area

Board Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2015

Present: Ron Halvorson, Deb Mafera, Priscilla Johnson, Libby Stahancyk, Sarah Callaghan, Rance Kastor (left at 3:30), Debbie Wood. Visitors: Mark Copeland – landowner on Mill Creek (left at 3:15), Berta Youtie.

Ron called the meeting to order at 2:00.

- The minutes from the last meeting (May 12, 2015) were reviewed; Priscilla made a motion to accept the minutes, Sarah seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- The board reviewed the financial information presented by Debbie, and there was a question as to why Debbie's salary is all coming out of 'General Funds' on the Profit and Loss statement rather than being attached to a project. Priscilla brought up that we need to finalize Debbie's hourly rate and then she needs to do a journal entry in Quickbooks that matches the breakdown in her timesheet. Also on the Balance Sheet the name of the bank needs to be changed to Bank of the Cascades. The board approved the financial reports.

Coordinator Project Update

2014 Scotch Thistle – Eric has left the Crooked River Watershed Council but he completed the final reporting for the 2014 grant. The report has been turned in to Tristen Berg at ODA for approval and the final 25% payment. A total of 91 landowners were contacted and 296 acres were treated.

2014 Tri-County Grant – This work is also complete and the final report has been turned in to Tristen, and we are waiting for payment. A total of 2,238 acres were surveyed and 648 acres treated.

BLM Dry Canyon YF Iris – The area was surveyed and sprayed in May by Payes 2 Spray. Debbie monitored from the Powell Butte highway to the north and there was 100% effective kill on sprayed plants. The report has been turned in to Kristen Williams at the BLM office. Berta suggested another survey in 2016 to assess the seed bank.

2015 Sage Grouse Project – Debbie contacted Jackie Cupples, State Sage grouse Coordinator for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Bend, to discuss the project and get input on priorities. Cupples said to work locally with Greg Jackle from the Prineville Field Office. Debbie also contacted Don Farrar, Weed Officer for Gilliam County, for advice on aerial spray contractors. He uses Columbia Helicopters out of Portland, and indicated that he had spraying to do near Madras, and we could possibly coordinate efforts. Priscilla may also need aerial spraying in connection with the SWCD. Libby has used South County Helicopters out of Pendleton. A suggestion was made to contact Sarah Canham from the BLM who has worked with Columbia Helicopters, to see if she recommends them.

Title III Spotted Knapweed Project – Work is on hold until Kev recovers from his accident. There was discussion about the consequences, whether plants would flower and go to seed in the meantime.

2015 Scotch Thistle Project – The project is finished for the year; there is herbicide left over for next year's program. Debbie will do the reporting from Eric's notes, and she plans to take over the project.

2015 Cost Share Program – about 50% of the invoices have been received from participants. Debbie will complete some photo monitoring.

Education/Outreach – Debbie passed around a sign-up sheet for the Weed Wagon at the County Fair. We are being charged for a space this year. The weed pull was successful; 160 pounds of Dalmatian toadflax was pulled in less than three hours.

Website – Debbie handed out an example of how our new website will look once we switch over to the County format this fall. The Ochoco NF participating agreement has \$4000 for education and outreach. Sarah Callaghan and Debbie are working on updating the CRWMA brochure. The money can also pay for the website update. There was also discussion about the interactive weed map. We will look into possibly doing a Crook County-only version of the map.

Leafy Spurge Concerns

Mill Creek landowner Mark Copeland attended the meeting to voice his concerns about the amount of leafy spurge in the Mill Creek area and he wants help from the CRWMA. There has been a recent turnover in property owners and he would like to take advantage of that and get a coordinated effort to spray leafy spurge on all properties using Tordon, and have one licensed contractor to do it all. He estimates there is 50-70 acres. There was a lengthy discussion about the history of leafy spurge in the Mill Creek drainage, past biological control efforts, and the effectiveness of herbicides in the riparian area. The board presented two options:

- 1) Mark gets all landowners to participate and the board will approve cost-share funds for the chemical. The landowners would have to hire a contractor and pay the application costs. This would be the quickest option, and would take advantage of the current dry conditions along Mill Creek.
- 2) The CRWMA would apply for a grant (possibly OSWB) to fund the project. Again, the landowners would have to participate in the form of in-kind contribution or matching funds to make the grant appealing.

This would be a long-term project, taking many years of control efforts and a coordinated effort among landowners. It was suggested that Debbie call Mark Crumrine at ODA to see if they would be supportive of spraying since there are biocontrols present. Ron will draft an informational letter for Debbie to send out to the landowners.

Medusahead Concerns

Debbie let the board know that Kev has been receiving many calls from landowners in the Juniper Canyon area about the amount of medusahead. This will be tabled until Kev gets back.

Upcoming Grant Cycles

The Title II grant cycle is delayed this year. Applications for funding to the Resource Advisory Council will be accepted from July 30 to August 14. It was decided to stick with the basic cost-share project and possibly add an education component.

A discussion about possible OWEB grants resulted in the following:

- Continuation of the Tri-County project

- Scotch thistle follow-up
- Sage grouse - year 2
- Leafy spurge in Mill Creek
- Re-work the Lower Crooked River proposal from last year, adding more landowners and refining the species list.
- Perennial pepperweed in the upper country (SF Crooked River and Beaver Creek). This would probably be aerial spraying.

Updates:

Sarah – Sarah Canham is detailed into the Lookout Mountain Ranger District Botanist job. The USFS are planning on participating in experimental plots for the medusahead biological control bacteria. Kev's injury is delaying weed control efforts. The ARS will be helping with the Crooked River Grassland medusahead strategy.

Priscilla – JB Cox passed away, he will be missed.

Libby – surveys of Wiebel property is ongoing, and they are collaborating with neighboring landowners.

Berta – busy doing seed collection contracts.

To Do:

- ! Allocate Debbie's salary to specific projects in Quickbooks, so that it matches her timesheet.
- ! Replace Home Federal Bank with Bank of the Cascades in Quickbooks.
- ! Call Mike Crumrine about leafy spurge grant and the current state of biocontrol efforts on Mill Creek.
- ! Send out letter to Mill Creek landowners.
- ! Ask Kev if he supports a perennial pepperweed control effort.

Next board meeting is September 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm.

Motion made for adjournment at 5:00 pm.

Deb Mafera, Secretary

Typed on 20 July 2015