



## *Crooked River Weed Management Area*

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### **Board Meeting Minutes**

November 11, 2015

Present: Ron Halvorson, Deb Mafera, Chris Gannon, Dave Langland, Brooke Gray, Kev Alexanian, Libby Stahancyk, Mike Crumrine, Sarah Callaghan, Debbie Wood, visitor Casey Daly.

Ron called the meeting to order at 2:00.

- The minutes from the last meeting (Sept 8, 2015) were reviewed, Chris made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of a typographical error, Brooke seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- Debbie presented budget information. There was a discussion about what is included in "Furniture and Equipment" under fixed assets on the Balance Sheet. Chris noted that the furniture actually belongs to the Watershed Council, so this line item may be misleading. Debbie will look into what is included.
- The budget spreadsheet for the 2015 Scotch Thistle Project indicated that OSWB approved an amendment to move \$3,857.59 of savings in contract services to personnel. This brings the total available for personnel costs to \$4,197.59. This money must be spent by April. A discussion followed as to what is left to accomplish, including mailing out postcards, putting up two informational signs, landowner contacts, and monitoring. Libby mentioned that another amendment may be possible if the money is not spent in time. Orange highlighted items on the spreadsheet were submitted under the semi-annual report.
- Brooke moved to accept the budget information, Chris seconded and the board approved.

### **Puncture Vine at the Fairgrounds**

Casey Daly, the Fairgrounds Director, attended the meeting to ask for advice about the extensive puncture vine infestation at the fairgrounds. They have been spending large amounts of money the last few years on treatment but the problem continues; they are mostly doing foliar application with glyphosate, and Kev has done some residual treatments. The Crooked River Roundup board of directors wants the puncture vine eradicated and the County Judge has told Kev to treat the infestation. He plans on using a residual product, one option is Sahara plus 2 oz of Telar. Kev will research the best product to use; the work is planned for March.

Mike said that a follow-up foliar treatment in July or August using 32 oz dicamba would cost less than glyphosate, has a residual benefit, and he has seen good results. The board's recommendation is to do both treatments next year.

There are complications with long-term success due to constant disturbance of the ground and a persistent seed source from vehicles during events. Also there is a major infestation on the Juniper Canal lands adjacent to the fairgrounds. This area is opened up during some events to allow large vehicles and equipment access to the fairgrounds, adding to the continual seed source and spread. The Juniper Canal board (run by Carl Dutli) does not want any treatment of this land and the gates will continue to be opened as needed ad nauseam. It was suggested to Casey that he work with them to find a solution.

Kev and Debbie offered to attend the Roundup board meeting to help identify the issues and treatment options.

Prevention and education information through various websites was suggested. The WMA offered to help the fairgrounds with a weed management plan in 2012, but no action was taken by the fairgrounds. The WMA also has an agreement with the fairgrounds to store the ATV there. In exchange they are allowed to use the spray equipment, although it doesn't appear that they have used it, instead they are using backpack sprayers.

### **Coordinator's Report**

- The sage grouse project is complete, the report has been submitted and approved by OWEB. Debbie surveyed 12,300 acres. The spray contract went well and 5,195 acres were treated in 4 days. The final cost was \$29.25/acre. This was more than the grant provided (\$25/ac) so fewer acres were treated. Mike Crumrine observed the project for a couple days as an ODA representative.
- The 2015 Scotch Thistle project report was completed and a 25% payment has already been received. 109 landowners participated and 407.5 acres were treated. This is an improvement over last year's 276 acres.
- Beaver Creek project is complete and the monitoring report finished.
- The WMA website has been switched over to the new Crook County system and is up and running. Debbie has learned how to make additions and corrections as needed.
- Most landowners have turned in their cost-share receipts and have been reimbursed. There will be some money left over in Title II.
- Debbie mailed letters out to the Mill Creek landowners about help with leafy spurge infestations. She received only 5 responses, and those folks did not have spurge but were ratting on their neighbors.

### **Grant Development**

- Debbie will apply for a Facebook grant for a new computer; due on December 15.
- The SAR grant is due December 2. Debbie has 6 landowners that want to participate in medusahead bacteria trials.
- Debbie will prepare a new sage grouse grant to OWEB, and try to leverage the SAR grant as part of the project. ODA did not receive the promised \$500k dedicated sage grouse money, but they still plan on favoring grant applications that have a sage grouse related project.
- The Haystack Reservoir Eurasian watermilfoil project is a "no go" at this time due to the lack of an aquatic specialist.
- The board supports a Bi-County grant (Deschutes and Crook) that prioritizes treatment of weeds, such as perennial pepperweed, coming from Deschutes County into the Crooked River Watershed. Since we are writing the grant and expediting funds, it should heavily favor the WMA (Dave suggested a 90:10 split).
- Debbie has included the cost of a summer intern in the latest Title II grant to help with cost-share work. She will include an intern on the Scotch thistle grant as well. She has been in contact with the Natural Resource class at the high school. The board had a discussion about safety and the age of high school students. Field work should always be done in pairs, either 2 interns, or with Debbie or a board member.

### **New Business:**

Kev will write a letter from the County informing Ralph Davidson that the scotch thistle on his property must be controlled per County ordinances. The letter will go out in early June if the infestation is still there, and Davidson will have two weeks to comply.

The discussion about Mediterranean sage on Ralph Foster's property was tabled, to be continued at another meeting.

The board agreed to keep track of their volunteer hours for the WMA; a sheet will be passed around at each meeting.

### **Board Member Updates**

Kev is almost wrapped up with spraying for the year. The artichoke thistle Dave found in Corvallis was controlled by ODA. Libby is treating medusahead and seeding. Brooke is working on a weed management plan for the Juniper Hills property and developing protocols for surveying medusahead. Mike treated one mile of ribongrass along the Metolius for the USFS. Sarah reports the USFS draft 2016 budget looks good. They are a short a botanist on the Lookout Mountain District; no detailer at present. FS may have a problem using the medusahead bacteria because it has been labeled as a soil amendment.

Motion made for adjournment at 4:27 pm.

***Deb Mafera***, Secretary  
13 November 2015