



Crooked River Weed Management Area

Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2015

Present: Ron Halvorson, Deb Mafera, Priscilla Johnson, Libby Stahancyk, Rance Kastor, Chris Gannon, Mike Crumrine, Dave Langland, Brook Gray, Debbie Wood.

Ron called the meeting to order at 2:00.

- The minutes from the last meeting (July 14, 2015) were reviewed; Priscilla made a motion to accept the minutes, Libby seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board.
- The board reviewed the financial information presented by Debbie, which included a lot of detail that the board liked. There were a few questions on the finances including that Eric's time on the Scotch thistle project has been paid in full to the Watershed Council. The final payment for the 2014 Scotch thistle project was paid in full, but 2014 Tri-County project final payment has not been received yet. Brooke made a motion to accept the financial reports, Dave seconded and the board approved the financial reports.
- The board would like to see enforcement action on Ralph Davidson's Scotch thistle population (Conant Basin Road). There was also a discussion about lack of treatment on Mediterranean sagebrush on Ralph Foster's property.

Coordinator - Project Updates

2015 Sage Grouse Project – Debbie contacted Greg Jackle from the ODFW Prineville Field Office about timing of treatments, etc. She has been out doing medusahead surveys. The contractor for the work will be Columbia Basin Helicopters out of LaGrande at \$29/acre. The grant specified \$25/acre, so there will be fewer acres treated or the landowners will need to pay \$4/acre to make up the difference. The board would like to see the landowners pay the extra in order to get the maximum number of acres treated as possible. There are a couple ranches that have high priority acreage (prime sage grouse habitat and/or leks) that have not responded back to Debbie despite many phone calls. A subcommittee consisting of Libby, Brooke and Priscilla will help Debbie make further contact with these folks, and to help set priority of treatment. Mike reminded us that the monitoring and reports should highlight lek areas and habitat with natives that will respond to the medusahead treatment.

There are other landowners that are taking advantage of Columbia Helicopters being in the area for personal weed treatments. Debbie needs to make sure that the sage grouse project acres receive treatment first.

Title III Spotted Knapweed Project – Work is still on hold while Kev recovers.

2015 Scotch Thistle Project – There is about \$10,000 left in this grant that must be used by April 30, 2016. Debbie is still working on monitoring. There are postcards and some herbicide left over, so she will send out postcards early spring and sign up landowners for follow-up treatments. If the money is not spent, it will be returned to ODA.

BLM – a new agreement needs to be prepared this fall. Kristin Williams says is some funding available, and may propose some whitetop treatments.

Forest Service – a new agreement was finalized that includes \$4,000 for education and outreach including a brochure, tabletop display, and updating the website.

Coordinator Hours & Overhead Analysis

Debbie's employment agreement specifies that her position will be part-time (1000 hours). She has been working more than 16-24 hours per week, and Priscilla charged 164.5 hours at the beginning of the year (see attached handout). The hours are negotiable with a majority vote of board members. Deb made a motion to approve up to 1560 hours total for the year. Brooke seconded and the board unanimously approved the change.

Deb is preparing an analysis of the cost to the WMA associated with an employee, and the amount of overhead the organization expends. This will help with grant applications. An additional goal is to sort out exactly how much money is available for general management, this will help lessen the burden on the Title III account. The analysis will be presented at the next meeting.

Future Projects

More discussion on where to focus future efforts for fundraising:

- It was decided to hold off on proposing a continuation of the sage grouse project until Mike finds out more information on funding. The Governor awarded \$500,000 to ODA for work within sage grouse habitat. It is unknown at this time whether grants will be available. Keep in touch with Tristan for information.
- Apply for another scotch thistle project to include the entire watershed.
- Apply to three different organizations for a new computer: Oregon Community Foundation (January 15th), The Ford Foundation (any time), and FaceBook (October 1st).
- Try to coordinate with local and federal agencies on collaborative projects that are more long-term in nature to ensure a steady income stream.
- Go in with ODA on Eurasian watermilfoil treatment at Haystack Reservoir. The BOR gave funding for 2 acres, but there are 10 acres of infestation across the entire reservoir. There may be two options, one is to ask BOR for more dollars outright, or apply for an OWEB grant partnering with ODA to provide technical expertise.
- Apply to Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) for funding to do trials using the new biocontrol bacteria for medusahead.
- Consider applying for a Bella Vista grant for the Lower Crooked River Project. It would need to be tweaked somewhat to include more landowners, but the foundation is there.

Updates:

Mike – there is a state weed board meeting coming up in Corvallis.

Rance – lots of talk today about treatment, but we need to do a better job at including revegetation as a part of all of our projects.

Brooke – TNC is doing lots of medusahead control and reseeding efforts, including charcoal covered seed.

To Do:

- ! Discuss enforcement action on scotch thistle and med sage at the next meeting.

Next board meeting is November 10, 2015 at 2:00 pm.

Motion made for adjournment at 5:00 pm.

Deb Mafera, Secretary