



WALLOWA COUNTY WEED BOARD

Minutes
January 18, 2022
3-5 pm, via conference call/Zoom

Attendees: Teresa Smergut, Joe Sims, Kris Krowley, Marci Shreder, Kelly Birkmaier, Beckijo Smergut-Wall, Janet Hohmann, Mark Porter, Andy Marcum, Shanda Zettle, Chris Cunningham, Pete Schreder, and Mike Hale.

- Review/approval of minutes (November 16, 2021)
Motion to approve made by Kelly, Chris seconds -approved unanimously.
- Action items from previous meeting
Field season coordination updates.
 - Mark organized NE OR weed managers meeting. Agencies will be in touch with partners to coordinate 2022 projects.

Update on SB 192 W & S river designation and affects to invasive species management.

- Kelly update. Goal is to stop letter before Washinton, DC. Received letter from Bentz. Private landowners feeling better. Bentz presented letter to public to not support Act.

Update USFS to aid with shortening time line on use of rejuvra

- Tier 2 priority. Beckijo will find out where we are at in the process and let partners know if they can help with sending a letter.

Annual Plan (below in planning)

- **Partner/Updates**
Wallowa County

- State grant submitted.
- Article went out to Chieftain to recognize Jim McCormack. Thank you Andy ! Andy would like the weed board to select the next weed warrior for 2022 so be on the lookout.
- WC attended Idaho Noxious weed conference and Wilbur Ellis webinar. Lots of new herbicides coming.
- Hay station –1000# hay remaining. Someone tore cash box off wall, but no money taken. New one built and will be installed and anchored into building. 3 new farmers willing to grow weed free hay in 2022. There has been an increase in demand and County will target 15-20 tons. Kris asked about a weed station on the North highway. Will be discussed this year.
- State right of ways vegetation biggest complaint for County. Will coordinate more in 2022

Union County – not present

Baker – not present

Tri County

- Will be coordinating with USFS on agreement. Shanda wants to get with Beckijo to discuss last season. The board is interviewing for the new director. Tri County is planning for 2 full time employees and one 9 and one 6 month employee.

Wallowa Resources

Staffing change- Kris will be done with his position at the end of January. Marci Schreder and Joe Sims will be sharing the Canyonlands and invasive species positions for WR. WR received \$s from BLM to aerial treat Joseph Cr. and Elbow fire areas. They have also received 2 OSWB grants to treat meadow hawkweed, skeleton weed, bugloss, Turkish and plumless thistles. (On private lands I think).

TNC

No updates. Mike shared that Keith Naughton is using a new herbicide (Terraview ?) on Kochia.

USFS

- Hiring a permanent seasonal and a seasonal position for 2022.
- Planning for projects 2022

ODA

- Grant reviews. \$3million every biennium for grants. Meeting with OSWB in February for final funding decisions. Wallowa County well supported with funds. Lots of applications and very competitive.
- 50% of time dedicated to inspecting Hemp fields in 2021. Crisis over and 100% committed to weeds now. Lots of catch up.
- Have Hoary alyssum in Wallowa Co. It was the only site in NE OR until a year ago until detected in Haines area. A listed State and County Weed. Concern is transport in Hay. Toxic to horses. Be aware when purchasing hay from Baker Valley.
- ODA position open in W. Oregon. Central OR position filled.
- 3 risk assessments being written...Sweet briar rose/dog rose, rose campion and vipers bugloss. Trying to get these listed.
- Canada thistle rust – established on alder slope. Hoping to use as collection site.
- YST biocontrol update – new agent on the ground in CA. Crown boring weevil. Reducing seed production. Very hopeful. Trying grow agent in lab and have been unsuccessful. Legal, approved, and in the states. Oregon in line to receiving agent.

Private landowners

- Kris Cunningham. YST concerns and expense to control. Canyons are definitely changing.

Other

- Pete Schreder announced that there will be 4 credits available for a training at the Cloverleaf Hall for applicator's license, February 19th.

● Planning

- 2022 Annual plan updates- Teresa went through and highlighted discussion items.
 - Commo and Outreach
 - website – and links to websites – WR does social media for outreach and covers both WR and County. Leave statement

as is. Andy would like to get County web page back up.

- Real-estate – fliers have been distributed. Completed, remove for 2022.
- Herbicide Resistance workshop – completed, remove for 2022
- Planning
 - Annual partnership meetings - keep in the annual plan
 - Items b and e – combine and all will be published.
 - Review/revise County weed list (see minutes under planning)
- East Moraine management plan – taken over by Wallowa Land Trust. Getting close to a final draft and someone in the manager position. Additional 80K for a committee to oversee the plan – county acquired revenue and will then transition over to county management. – no update from the weed board needed for plan since direction has changed. Would be good to have a weed board member present at meetings though. Andy will stay up to date on the progress of the management plan. Outdated line item and will be removed from annual plan.
- Membership and Representation.
 - Fill open weed board positions
 - Officer positions are for one year terms, board positions are for two. (see membership/officer update in minutes)

Review/revise County weed list

- Mike Hale pointed out a correction to foxtail barley and scientific name should be changed to the non-native (*hordeum murinum*). Common name should be changed to foxtail or hare barley.
- Mark Porter suggestions to watch list... add wild parsnip (non-native), hedge parsley (Buford creek), bristly dogs tail (Snake river, Imnaha and UMA county and also found on Moraine. Acts a little like medusahead and cheatgrass.)
- Please review list and can discuss further at next weed board meeting

- **Membership/Officer update**

- Mike Beachy term up, Jean position vacant, Kris position vacant
- Mike Beachy 2023
- Joe Sims nominated to take the place of Kris as WR rep.

- Marci Schreder nominated to join board
- Janet Hohmann nominated to join board
- Teresa Smergut 2022
- Kelly Birkmaier 2022
 - Mike Hale seconds nominations, all board members in favor
- Secretary position is vacant
 - Shanda expressed interest once Director's position for Tri-County is filled.

Unanimous decision to accept nominees to board.

- **New Discussion Items**

- Info on IWMP (Teresa) – IWMP expires in 2023. Meeting planned with Justin Jones on 5 year plan and how to update it.
- Projects for groups of volunteers for 2022?
 - Would like to get a group of volunteers for this summer – pulling knapweed on Iwetmylakin. Will put an ad in the paper to help pull weeds. Any other ideas are welcome for next meeting. Patricia bass is the volunteer coordinator for state parks and would be a good contact.
- Teresa submitted outreach article to Chieftain (Bill Bradshaw) – sent to Susan Roberts and Kelly for review. Letter is for an outreach to the county to help serve on weed board
- Next meeting February 15th.

- **New Infestations of Concern and plans to deal with.**

- **Public Comments**

Adjourned – 4:26 pm