



# **WALLOWA COUNTY WEED BOARD**

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## **Minutes**

February 15, 2022 3-5 pm, via conference call/Zoom

- Call to order at 3:05 and Introductions
- In attendance: Beckijo Smergut-Wall, Teresa Smergut, Janet Hohmann, Chris Cunningham, Joe Simms, Andy Marcum, Mike Beachy, Mark Porter, Ted Benson, Shanda Zettle, Ingrid Cook, Kelly Birkmaier, Susan Roberts

Teresa motions to approve January meeting minutes. Janet seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

- **Review and discuss action items**

- Field season coordination updates
  - plan to have a coordination meeting about upcoming projects
  - Shanda has job openings

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

- Senator Wyden went to DC on opposition to SB 192. They have put a pause on the involvement in DC. There will be more information coming out at a later date after renegotiation.

Approval of 2022 Weed List

-Review of the edits on the weed list. Do we need to define the meaning of the watch list? Mark Porter defines the state watch list. The state watch list is not regulatory but something they keep an eye on. Is it appropriate to change the wording on the watchlist definition? Mark and Teresa will work together to adjust the wording. They will take a vote to approve the list with the caveat of adjusting that wording. Andy agrees that there are several plants on the list present in the county that they are watching. Beckijo suggest that we put the list in alphabetical order, also change wild parsnip to queen annes lace. Mark clarifies that the plant in question is different from

queen annes lace. Beckijo clarifies she meant combine wild carrot and queen annes lace. Motion to approve list made by Kelly Birkmier, seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION :** *Reword Watch list/Alphabetize all lists (Teresa)*

### **Approval of 2022 Annual Plan**

-Teresa has made all changes that were suggested at the last meeting. Are there any other thoughts or recommendations?

Kelly would like to visit privately with Teresa regarding her roles and responsibilities.

Beckijo: Is the weed board involved with the annual grass planning, if not, we should add this item under planning for 2022. The weed board is available and supports the annual grass plan and should. Beckijo: under enforcement, what are we enforcing?

Andy: requiring landowners to follow noxious weed laws. Beckijo would like the definition clarified in the 2022 Wallowa County Weed Board Annual Plan. Does Andy need help at the hay station in 2022? Andy- in 2021 he used the parole crew to unload the hay. It saves the county \$500 and is a good program for everyone. Teresa- Some people would be happy to man the hay station as well. They begin to staff the hay station during buck season and bull season. Andy will keep people posted and is happy to have volunteers.

Chris: please clarify what we are changing with enforcement. Andy: Enforcement of noxious weeds on private land in compliance with ORS statutes. It doesn't have to be herbicide, but they must take care of their weeds. Andy will email the definition to the weed board. Chris- We need to make sure we do what we say and are careful with word smithing. Teresa will make the suggested edits and send out the 2022 Annual plan for approval.

**ACTION :** *Clarify definition of Enforcement. Add AIG assistance wording. (Teresa/Andy)*

- **Partner/Updates**

Counties –

**Wallowa-** Has been quiet. ODOT has a new guy that would like to be part of the weed board, Casey Crum. Excited to have someone with weed experience at odot. There is a training coming up in partnership with Union and Baker County. Andy will send out the announcement. Andy plans to write another grant for the new ODA Cycle due March 15th.

**Union-**Shanda states that the Union County update is similar to the update given by Andy.

**Baker**

**Tri County-**Shanda has applied for three ODA grants and is waiting to hear back from them before making a decision to apply for the next round March 15<sup>th</sup>. There are

currently 3 job openings at Tri-County. Shanda plans to put out contracts at the beginning of March after hearing about OSWB grants.

**BLM-** \$205,000 to fires through Wallowa Resources plus some for Grande Ronde river work in the annual plan. It is a big funding year due to the ESR funds. BLM is the Lead agency. Chris: how are you prioritizing the Joseph Creek fire? Ted: they are planning mostly aerial treatments. How is the money divided and where is it going, it probably isn't enough to spray both areas? Teresa: is this only spray or seeding? Ted: seed will happen as well but will be separate funding. Ted does not have the details with him at this time. Chris: Joseph Canyon has been sketch mapped and he is expecting 80% of the area burned to convert to yellow starthistle. Joe should have the sketch mapping and Chris would like to see the mapped area prioritized. Joe: They will start aerial inventory in March, and spray elbow creek and Joseph canyon. Chris thinks the previous inventory will be very useful because all the existing skeletons have now burned but they were present at the time of the previous inventory.

**Wallowa Resources-** Looking at new ODA cycle, working with contractors and landowners, getting oriented with everyone and the locations.

**TNC-** Slow time of year. planning for the next season. They do have funds available for 2022 weed treatments. Plan to start treating in March. Early target species are scotch and bugloss.

**USFS-** Working on partner agreements and getting them in place. Has one seasonal starting mid April- Sept. Still waiting for a permanent seasonal to be approved so may be lucky to get someone on before field season begins.

**ODA-** State weed board meets on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be welcoming new members and reviewing grants. Applicants will have answers after that meeting. Things are looking good for northeast Oregon. There is a new round due March 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a total \$2 million coming through OSWB board for on the ground work this year. Please contact Mark to discuss options before applying in the March 15<sup>th</sup> cycle.

#### **Private landowners**

Kelly- starting to get contractors lined up for properties she works on

#### **Other**

The new members have many questions still. It would be nice to set up a group meeting for these members.

- **Planning**

Projects for groups of volunteers? state parks project is in the works for working at the park near the lake. Does anyone else have a need for volunteers?

Biannual Partnership Meeting Plan and agenda- Teresa is not familiar with this plan but believes it is very important to get started. Is there anyone familiar with it to take the lead on this?

Mark: in the past it was weed managers meeting for OSWB planning meeting. Mark can assist with this after the OSWB meeting. Beckijo: these meetings were designed to discuss projects to make sure we are not overlapping or leaving gaps. In the past this is agency people but weed board members are welcome.

***ACTION :*** Mark will help coordinate a partnership annual planning meeting.

- **Membership/Officer update**

Several folks have expressed interest in the Secretary position. Open for nominations. Shanda has volunteered today to relieve Beckijo of the duties but if Marci would like to continue in the future that would be great. We need to confirm with Marci that she is still interested. Nomination for Marci by Shanda upon her acceptance. Second by Janet. motion passes.

- **New Discussion Items**

Please contact Teresa with any questions or concerns.

- **Next Meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup> hopefully held in person.**

- **Topic on the agenda: planning for the commissioners meeting presentation.**