

**Wallowa County Weed Board  
Minutes  
March 15, 2022**

**Attendance:** Andy Marcum, Mark Porter, Mike Beachy, Joe Simms, Mike Hale, Cynthia Warnock, Marci Schreder, Ingrid Cook, Teresa Smergut, Pete Schreder

Mike made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February, Joe seconded the approval.

Ingrid Cook: is also new to the weed board. Teresa has been filling her in. They arrived in Wallowa County in 2005. Is actively involved in addressing weed issues. Teresa made a motion to approve Ingrid to the weed Board, Mike seconded the motion. All approved.

**Review and discuss action items:**

- Field season coordination meeting about upcoming projects

Andy: County Commissioners meeting to approve the weed list 2022

Teresa: Sent the weed board list to commissioner along with cover letter

**Partner Updates:**

*ODOT - Casey:* interested in participating on weed board

*Wallowa Vegetation Department: Andy*

- Andy will be at commissioners meeting tomorrow
- Recently updated website for the county. Updated weed board list and other folks involved.
- Received budget sheets for fiscal year. March is noted as the time for budget review, however, not April meeting – county budget will be discussed. No major changes. Andy is planning to get a hay station placed at Flora Junction. Andy is looking at obtaining 20 tons of hay for this purpose.
- Weed levee will occur in 2023 – 5 year. We need to start thinking about this in preparation (outreach, etc.).
- The county did get their state weed board grant (plumeless thistle). Will be focused on Ant Flat area. Mike asked if future UHV sites would be considered in the future. Inventory needed.
- New ODA grant due this afternoon. WR will be applying for a drone.
- Contractor meeting held in La Grande last week. 50 attended, mostly contractors, plus ODA and others organizational representatives.
- A big education push is needed county wide (county fair, other events). Many new folks in the area. Get partners together to assist. Cynthia mentioned her SWCD newsletter could be a good outlet for information. News article regarding upcoming events will be submitted. Small garden newsletter reaches many people within town. The Chamber of Commerce also sends out a newsletter. Andy will reach them as well. Pete will also place in the OSU newsletter.
- Andy will be working on spraying along the railroad in April.
- Andy has funding for puncture vine on Dug bar and Troy roadways. Will be spraying soon.

- Teresa mentioned that the board will start planning county commissioner presentation – spring (May). Have a few slides showcasing what is planned county wide. Some of the board attends.

#### SWCD: Cynthia

- Focused on support
- Will be placing an Agrimet station (looks at evaporation rate, wind, has curves for plants that grow and can look at water needs for plant species, crops, grass/alfalfa fields) Better for Noah station.

#### TNC: Mike Hale & Mike Beachy

- Getting a new ATV sprayer
- Starting to assess conditions for the season. Getting equipment ready.
- Contract with Work Horse.
- Will put in TNC match to WR ODA grant

#### USFS: Beckijo Wall

- PSE position moving forward. Will fly position by end of month.
- Temp position starts 11<sup>th</sup> of April
- Circle C pits – spraying project with Idaho
- Turkish thistle contract placed
- Held a range tour last month for feedlot restoration
- Adding indazaflam on docket by June (very active for annual grasses, pre-germination)

#### ODA: Mark

- Gave out last round of grants recently (over 1 million)
- Offered another \$500,000 for project recently – ODA due today. This grant is general fund dollars, can be used for equipment.
- State Weed Board met last month to look at state weed lists. Rose brush is a newly listed species, really invading grasslands. Cost share dollars can be utilized for this species. 4 species of rose bushes (Sweet briar rose, dog rose, round leaf rose, multi flora rose). ODA will be developing a brochure. Thorns that stick down – means non-native rose. All behave the same from herbicide treatment. They also did a risk assessment for Blue weed. Its similar to bugloss, it is covered with fiberglass spikes. Growing in places like Meham. ODA will be providing more info. Wheeler, Grant, Union, Baker counties are all having issues with these.

#### WR: Joe & Marci

- Joe Simms introduced himself to the board as the new Canyonlands Manager
- Joes will be sending weeds photos and article to newspaper monthly. This will also be placed in the WR newsletter. Treatment options will also be included in descriptions.
- ODA grant will be submitted today to treat Big and Little Sheep Creeks, purchase of a drone and Intelli-weed sprayer. Multiple species will be sprayed. Partners include the county vegetation department and ODOT.
- Funded by ODOT recently for Grande Ronde treatment.

- Mark mentioned that there is a new plant species – Hoary False Alyssum. This species on our target “A” list. It can become very aggressive. Toxic to horses. They won’t eat in the pasture, but in hay it is toxic. Produces a white flower. Stays in bloom all summer long. There is one site in Wallowa. Baker County has found two large patches. Mark also found some near Grant county. It might be worth putting an article in the paper.

Teresa will send out a message regarding noxious weed species so folks can determine which species should be showcased each month. For April “Bugloss” will be showcased. This will be place in the Chieftain.

**Planned Volunteer Projects:**

1. Moraine: a couple days of spraying planned for trails – scotch thistle, Canada thistle, hounds tongue issues. Could be hand treatments or herbicide.
2. Iwetemlykin – head of lake near trails.

Mark, Andy and Cynthia spoke about the issues with Hawk Weed and thistles – east of the Moraine.

**General Information:**

Mark spoke about Bristly Dogs tail, which is also popping up in many locations (east side Moraine, Hells Canyon dam site, etc.). Currently not a listed IAG, but does seem to be appearing in several locations.

Cow Creek Trail: Beckijo sprayed blackberry last year, results were very positive when she revisited in February.

Teresa:

1. County commissioner meeting – planning to be at April meeting
2. Update committee for IWMP next year. Several folks will be working on the document. Potentially incorporate into IAG SAP plan

Meeting adjourned at: 4:15pm.