

**Harney County CWMA**  
H.C. Court House Basement Meeting Room  
November 17, 2011 @10:00 am  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order at 10:05 am. Those in attendance were Lesley Richman-BLM, Karen Moon-HC Watershed Council, Tom Segal-ODF&W, and Jim Campbell-CWMA.

After reviewing the minutes from September, Lesley motion to approve the minutes, Karen seconded, all in favor.

### CWMA Financials:

1. Three more projects were closed out, Weedy Evening, Harney County Fair and Targeted Grazing. Jim will be emailing this out to the group and then dropping them from the packet if no objections are raised.
2. Jim needs to get a better understanding of the financials and then develop an easy to follow top to bottom summary spreadsheet. It is believed that this will make it much easier for the CWMA members and Jim to understand what is happening within the financials.
3. Jim, with the aid of Jesse, needs to develop a CWMA Coordinator salary budget sheet. It is thought that this sheet should show where the money is coming from also for what and when it is used by the CWMA Coordinator.

### Old Business:

1. The new MOU Signature page and agreement page was reviewed and the motion to ratify it was carried.
2. This year's medusahead aerial spray project has been completed and it did not go smoothly. We had to push the spraying out one extra week and we experienced a lot of rain followed by warmer days. We sprayed 1767 total acres out of the planned 4000+ acres. After we sprayed 1320 acres (1133 acres of private lands) Mark Hanson found some emergence. The decision was made to stop spraying at that point due to the fact that Plateau, the chemical we were using, is a pre-emergent chemical and once emergence was found Crop Production Service and BASF would not guarantee any further spraying. There was one landowner that still wanted her land sprayed, with the understanding that there would be no guarantee. We added sticker to the mix and sprayed her land along with the DSL land, Potluck Summit. Mark Hanson will be here during the week of November 21<sup>st</sup> to talk to each landowner we sprayed prior to finding emergence to let them know there may be an issue and that Crop Production Services will back-up the performance of this year's aerial application on their lands.

3. The Cottonwood Ranch OWEB grant has been completed and is in to OWEB for approval. Karen Moon from the Watershed Council says that we should hear if it is approved by OWEB in January. If this grant is approved, the project is set to begin in the spring with the spraying of Whitetop and Pepperweed on their place. Then in the fall the Russian Knapweed will be sprayed and a portion of the land will be reseeded. The reseeding will be done over a 3 year time period so the land owners can rotate their cattle's winter feeding grounds with the reseeding.
4. The Southend and Drewsey Grants are moving forward. Five land owners in the Southend have signed up to be a part of that grant and four land owners in the Drewsey area have signed up to be a part of that grant. ODF&W is also working on a project in the Drewsey area and Tom said they would like to partner up with the landowners on this grant. Now that the Oregon State Weed Board grant applications have been opened Jim will begin to fill these grants out and get them in prior to the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Most of the Riley Medusahead inventory has been completed. The Miller canyon area is done, and Jim found about 2,500 acres of Medusahead on private lands in this area. Maps were made and sent out to those landowners with a letter asking them to contact the NRCS if they want to be a part of the EQIP program. A section of State Land was also found to be heavily infested, and Randy Wiest has given us a verbal commitment to address this section when we spray the private lands in the area. There are a couple more landowners around Chickahominy Reservoir that will need to be inventoried next spring.
2. Bonnie has suggested a new Title II grant in the Poison Creek area. She says there is a lot of Knapweed in this area and it is encroaching on Forest Service land. Jim will be working with her to put this new grant opportunity together.
3. Karen says that Highway 78, north of the lake, is beginning to be infested by several different weeds on many private lands. It was decided to address this during the next grant cycle.
4. Additional topics
  - a. Lesley has heard of an alternative method of fighting Medusahead and Cheat Grass. The ARS has found that some natural occurring soil organisms' in concentration can kill these annual grasses and then even hold that ground for extended periods of time. It was agreed that we should maybe try this on some ODF&W land in the Riverside area next year. Lesley said she would find out more about this, but it could be an exciting new way to combat these grasses.

- b. Tom Segal stated that we may need to explore other Range Drill options. He said that ODF&W has two, but they are in high demand and filling all the needs of the county is becoming an issue. If anyone knows where we could get another Range Drill please contact Tom at the ODF&W office.
- c. The group thought it would be a good idea to look at using a contractor to spray whole lots during next year's free spray day. This has been done in the past and worked well if we got a dependable applicator. Jim will contact several applicators at see if we can obtain one at a good price for this project next year.

With no further topics the meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm. It was agreed to not hold a meeting in December due to the Christmas Season. The next meeting will tentatively be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the court house basement conference room. We would like to use this meeting to present 2011 year end wrap-ups from all the members of the CWMA.