

**Harney County CWMA**

**H.C. Court House Basement Meeting Room**

**February 20, 2013 @ 10:00**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 am. Those in attendance were Lesley Richman-BLM, Jesse Barnes-Harney County, Dustin Johnson-OSU Extension, Kyle Heinrick-Burns Paiute Tribe, and Jim Campbell-CWMA

January 23, 2012 minutes were approved without any needed revisions. Motioned to approve made by Jesse and seconded by Lesley.

**CWMA Financials:**

1. Financials were approved with a motion from Dustin and seconded by Lesley:

**Old Business:**

1. The CWMA, led by its NRCS and SWCD members, held a landowner meeting at the Suntex School outside of Riley. The meeting covered a few topics, but the focus topic was Medusahead and the upcoming treatment project the CWMA is putting together in that area. The NRCS talked about the threat that Medusahead possess if it left unchecked and some basic of what Medusahead looks like. The CWMA coordinator then talked about our OWEB grant that we are putting together for the landowners that are not under a NRCS EQIP contract for 2013. Not many landowners identified to have Medusahead were in attendance, but the few that were left with an understanding of the issue and what the CWMA is trying to do to help them out.

2. Jim has finished up the initial draft of the Riley area OWEB grant for funding Medusahead treatments in that area. He has sent out this draft to Dustin Johnson and Marty Goold for their comments and revisions. Once this step is done it will be sent out to every member of the CWMA for review and comments. Jim will then send this revised draft to Karan Linedecker for review prior to submitting this grant application.
  
3. Lesley and Jim had a conversation with the upper management in CPS to ensure they were aware of the issues during the 2012 Medusahead treatment project. They were very embarrassed in the level of service they provided during this project. All of the personality and logistic issues were brought to light during this conversation to ensure they were aware that this will never happen again, regardless of who the contractor is going forward on these projects. They committed to draft a letter for every private landowner that received treatments during this project, and this letter would clearly state that every acre was covered by the CPS guarantee. This letter would also apologize to the landowners if they felt like they had to sign the CPS assignment of payment form and clarify that this was not nor would ever be a requirement by CPS. They also stated that they would send a 'team' of folks out this spring to perform the post treatment surveys and start putting together the needed retreatment areas due to skips. With all this said, we are all still watching and waiting to see this become a reality.

### **New Business:**

1. The CWMA budget and plan was the only new topic for this meeting. After Jim put together the budget, it was clear that there would be a funding shortfall for our CWMA this year. The other glaring problem was even if we pull all our funding together and scrape through 2013, 2014 would have no funding to even start the year. Jesse has suggested that we use the CWMA coordinator to perform some on-the-ground projects, and that the county, by using the coordinator as a part time road sprayer, could pay for some of these. Lesley has committed another \$5000 to the program, and these 2 additional funding sources secure the immediate future of this program. The 2014 picture is still pretty bleak and funding, other than state grant funds, will be needed to maintain this program at its current level. Jim has sent out a 'pick list' to the CWMA members for them to use in guiding them to the needs of the CWMA and options on how your organizations can help. The first item on this 'pick list' is "Coordinator will work for funding". What this means is, if you have any on the ground activities that you

need temporary help, please consider using the CWMA coordinator to perform these tasks, if his skill set fits the need. Jim will send out a revised version of the CWMA budget and annual plan.

### **Additional Topics:**

- Kyle Heinrick from the Burns Paiute Tribe has approached the CWMA and asked us to help him grow his education and outreach efforts with the tribe. After some discussion with the group it was decided that this was a great opportunity to pull this community into the overall weed control effort in the county. The CWMA is planning on helping him organize a seminar with the tribe. This seminar would include games for the kids, educational booths, a free spray day style chemical handout, and educational speakers focusing on weeds that are an issue to the tribe. We are targeting the month of May for this event. Anyone that wants to get involved with this exciting event please let the CWMA coordinator know.
- Our annual weed awareness workshop topic was also discussed during this meeting. With Dustin already working with landowners on monitoring and the fact that we are ready to roll out our photo monitoring technique, we thought that having monitoring as a focus of this workshop would be a good fit. We are hoping to get Dustin talk about his monitoring topic and then we could introduce the 'camera-on-a-stick' technique. We also want to get back to the weed tour portion of these workshops, so we thought we should take the group out to the African Rue site just east of Burns. We could also use this to have the folks perform some hands on with all the monitoring techniques. The timing for this workshop would be early to mid-June at this point.

**With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm. The next CWMA will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am (note the time please) in the large meeting room located in the basement of the Harney County Court House.**

