

Harney County CWMA

H.C. Court House Basement Meeting Room

January 22, 2015 @1:00pm

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order at 1:03 am. Those in attendance were:

Brandon Six – Tribe

Jim Campbell-Harney County

Cyndee Hall – NRCS

Karen Moon- Watershed council

Dustin Johnson- OSU

Ken Denton – BLM Contractor

Ed Sparks – NRCS

Lesley Richman-BLM

Jess Wenick-Refuge

Steph Bonson – CWMA Coordinator

November, 20 2014 minutes were approved without any needed revisions. Motioned to approve minutes made by Lesley and seconded by Jess.

CWMA Financials:

1. Financials were reviewed. Jim said that the financials had some issues, mostly stemming from neglect. They were mostly caught up for the year-end, but not quite balanced yet. There were some ASAP draws that were found, that had never been reported to the CWMA. The BLM report showed 3 draws that we didn't have any record of. They may have been recorded into the wrong account. The draw money needs to be spent quickly, within 90 days of the requests. We have some plans to spend it. Unfortunately, we did another draw without knowing that the 3 prior draws existed. We are proposing a new format for the financials that is easier to read. The format uses similar form as the BLM report uses. New format is much easier to maintain as well. Hopefully the SWCD will also use this format and it will make it much easier for cross comparison. The new format matches the BLM figures. We need to add some columns to track draws, admin. We still want a copy of the Quickbooks report so that we can match the actual accounts with our own recording. We found several errors, not sure how it made it thru an audit. We want to take the BLM out of the general fund category. We need to track the BLM separately so we can tease out the categories. Also the BLM contracts are for 5 years. Need to close out old grants and transfer money to general fund. Trying to simplify receipts reporting by grouping together receipts on to a ASAP request. ASAP reports are due every 6 months. Financials need to be maintained more frequently, at least once a month. 2010 contract is still on report, even though it is closed out. Current Financial maintenance takes a lot of time, so many streams of revenue etc. Jim suggested that I transferred financial information to new form for ease of review. Motion to adopt new format made by Lesley and seconded by Jim. We have good amount of operating money for CWMA, to start off with. We have \$18,224 in general funds. Also there is the ASAP funds, \$6000 of it needs to be spent soon. TACA rangeland monitoring is not done yet, we have til August. BLM

contract, we have about \$13,000 left in it. \$13,000 is split 50/50 between wages and supplies. We need to do a MOD to get the \$13,000 moved to wages to get CWMA coordinator. August is the end of the agreement, it expires the end of 2015. There is \$11,357 in TACA rangeland agreement, that needs to be spent. 2015 BLM agreement needs to be zeroed out and start fresh with the new agreement. Poison creek is done, just need to do final report and we need to take pictures. Happy Valley #2 is completely done. Easy way to see if completely done, is if there has been 3 payments made, the last payment is made when the final report is finished and accepted. Zola made a motion to close this account, Leslie seconded it. Miller Canyon is 4 year project, had an extension because it got weathered out one year. We have 2 years left on it and the numbers are accurate. Inventory was in 2011-2012 there is more Medusahead. Sprayed in 2014. Need to do an inventory and see what it looks like this year, to know what will be our focus. Try to hire an airplane to do the work. Did a draw from OWEB on work we thought we would do. We did the work and the contractor came in higher, because we did more aerial acres. We paid the contractor the extra money out of the coordinator's wages. Marty requested additional money to cover the coordinator's wages. Motion to approve financials Karen Moon, seconded by Jess Wenick.

Old Business:

1. CWMA hiring update, Jim introduced Steph Bonson , as the new CWMA coordinator
2. NRCS Beaver Table Treatment- October putting in for a grant for inventory with OWEB, need to do a lot of planning. 9 million dollars need to coordinate with CCAA, don't want to double fund with rancher. Need to have CCAA picture so CWMA can do planning. CCAA is an agreement with landowners to do some conservation work for the sage grouse. Privacy information delicate with regards to landowners.
Hope we will know more by April. BLM already had a strategy for the Beaver table area, but plans changed with the fire. . After talking with Dustin, other groups have requested money to do inventories from OWEB. For example, we are doing some spraying at "Bob"s, then request additional funds to do inventory on the lands surrounding "Bob". BLM crews have already been inventorying Beaver Table area. BLM has money for helicopter survey; Leslie would like to do an aerial inventory. Check with Jordan Valley coordinator; see how they do their grants with OWEB. NRCS have a local work group meeting Feb 18th. Sometime in March, will be the next five year plan meeting. Need to clarify with SWCD about CWMA taking the lead on inventory, if that is true then move forward with Grant.

New Business:

1. The Annual Operation Plan 2015, basic outline. Funding that we are planning to get and activities we plan to do. Some assumptions are made on funding. This is a plan on what activities Steph will do month by month. Work correlates with the money that we get. We get reimbursed for jobs that are done. We put in for a Happy Valley and Poison creek grants. Things on the list are all projects that have been previously discussed; there are no new items yet. Dustin proposed that we should do an OWEB grant proposal in Feb/March. Submit a restoration grant, add inventory to restoration. Might

be easier to have activities by month, bigger and easier to read. 1 Action item per line. Break out who is helping with these projects. Maybe add a column for actual time vs. budgeted time. Free spray day is around Memorial Day. BLM paid for advertising and County paid for chemical. Had lots of volunteers. JR is doing a Jr. Master Garden class in June, Leslie suggested to use the BLM curriculum. Leslie said she would be happy to work with me on this. In April, there is Weed Short course, in Colorado. Leslie was saying that is a great novice course. Dustin motioned for Steph to attend the course and Jess seconded it. Jim asked if Leslie and the BLM would be able to reimburse the county for the course, and she said yes.

2. CWMA sees the continued need to train our Drewsey area landowners to identify Rush skeletonweed. After much discussion it was decided we may need to take a few key Drewsey landowners on a fieldtrip in the Vale/ Ontario area. Brandon Six said he would look into using the tribal bus for this trip. The Rush skeletonweed in the Juntura area is very remote and physically challenging to get to. The CWMA is interested in doing a Hay growers meeting. Steph will be soliciting ideas from board members.
3. Education Outreach, about the need to locate and maintain portable kiosk locations, has been lacking in the past. The CWMA still feels that these kiosks are an important education outreach tool. Recognizing that there will be busy periods of time that the coordinator may need assistance. In addition, the need to use technology to get our Education Outreach message across was discussed. Some of these ideas included, better utilization of the facebook page, link important information to that facebook page, also maybe hire an advertising consultant was discussed. Also maintaining our CWMA website.
4. The CWMA had an initial 2015 TACA projects discussion. The BLM has done a lot on their plan and has a good outline of their 2015 treatments. There is a serious need for the CWMA, NRCS, SWCD and DSL to begin the development of the acres/locations of the private and state lands they plan to treat. Once the individual agencies have a good draft, they need to bring information back for CWMA to coordinate. There is a lot of work to be done, as the project acres have ballooned to over three time's previous size.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next CWMA meeting will be held on February 26nd at 1:00 pm in the Court House conference room.