

Harney County CWMA

H.C. Court House Basement Meeting Room

May 19,, 2015 @9:30am

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order at 9:34 am. Those in attendance were:

Cyndee Hill - NRCS

Lesley Richman- BLM

Jess Wenick - Refuge

Steph Bonson - CWMA Coordinator

Jim Campbell - Harney County

Zola Ryan - NRCS

Karen Moon - Watershed Council

Via conference call for part of the meeting:

Marty Suter- SWCD

Bonnie Rasmussen - ODA

CWMA Financials:

1. Jim & Steph gave an update on the financials. Jim, Steph, Marty & Cindy have met a couple times to get the financials back in order. The four accounts that were voted to be closed, have been officially closed; 2013 Now Happy Valley, 2013 Poison Creek, 2013 S. Alvord, and 2014 The Now Happy Valley. The 2013 Stinkingwater account will soon be closed. Jim submitted an invoice for reimbursement of CWMA coordinator's salary and benefits, today. It had not been added to the financials yet. He also said that Harney County did not have a mechanism in place to pay the CWMA directly. An ODA check had been accidentally paid to the County, instead of the CWMA. This has happened on several occasions and so the County has added a line item to their budget to be able to reimburse the CWMA in the future. Randy Weist has been contacted in regards to the DSL balance and he is finding the correspondence regarding moving those funds to general fund. Lesley motioned to approve the financials and it was seconded by Zola.

Old Business:

1. Group discussed the plans for the Beaver Tables. Cyndee pointed out that the plan was to use an OWEB grant for an inventory in 2016 and then EQIP & OWEB money for treatments in 2017. After some discussion between CWMA members an idea was determined for the Beaver Tables inventory. The SWAT crew will be doing some spraying and inventory work in the Beaver Tables area in mid-June. Lesley suggested that we could use Steph, to go with the SWAT crew and do the Beaver Tables inventory this year. Further, that we could use leftover BLM funds to pay for this inventory. Zola

explained the way the EQIP program works. That the Beaver Tables is part of a large project broke into smaller phases. This will give the project some flexibility. Lesley talked about the inventory project time frame. Steph would start approximately June 24th, with the SWAT crew, and that they would project it to take 3-6 days. Jim thought that it would take much longer, probably around 3 weeks. It was decided that Steph would work with the SWAT crew 10-12 hour days for a week, then Steph would go out on her own for 2 weeks or however long it takes to finish it up. There was concern that the inventory would run over into the large Medusahead project, which is planned to start at the end of July. It was recognized that the entire inventory may not be completed this year. Zola motioned that we use the remaining BLM agreement money for Steph to do the Beaver Tables inventory. Marty seconded it.

Zola discussed the original Medusahead plan. How the big focus area was the Stinkingwater area and for there to be phases, starting with the Beaver Tables. It takes 2 years for the NRCS weed projects to get to the ground. The NRCS will not be able to offer funding for this project until 2017. Lesley asked if we could come back to the table in late fall or winter to discuss the NRCS role, and it was agreed that would be a good idea. The OWEB grant needs to be in by October.

Cyndee discussed the landowner meeting and that 4 landowners attended. It was agreed that the meeting went very well. The NRCS outlined the requirements for the land owners doing the EQIP program. Jim explained what the CWMA does and does not do, including they are not able to eradicate Medusahead completely! Jim told the landowners that the CWMA would be charging a \$1.00 an acre, maximum \$250.00, for the CWMA coordination services. All the landowners present felt this was a fair price and wanted the CWMA to coordinate for them. In addition, the land owners were given contractor contact information and told that the BLM was using a helicopter contractor, and two fixed-wing contractors. The CWMA will coordinate using the BLM aircraft. The SWCD will not be holding the contract for helicopter applicators this year. The Agro Flite Company will be doing helicopter application and have verbally quoted \$34 per acre. Schott Air has verbally quoted mid-20's per acre. There is a land owner who is located in a very remote & difficult area, who is outside the coordinated area. The contractor is going to meet with the land owner separately and work on an estimate for his work. NRCS said they would contact land owners who were not at the meetings and let them know about what was discussed. Zola felt that these meetings did a good job of making it clear what NRCS & CWMA does. Also the message was clear that the CWMA will not be able to coordinate outside the areas, not being focused on by the group. It is good that there is flexibility in doing the project in phases, but that we need to have meetings to communicate changes to the group. It was discussed that the original plan maps and phases were talked about in previous meetings last year. Zola remembers making some shape files and will try and find them. It was agreed that the focus is the Beaver Tables first and then Crane/Buchanan area. We will not need to meet on this project until fall.

2. Marty mentioned that she would like to have a meeting before July 1st, to discuss CCAA information etc. It was agreed that we would have our next meeting in the evening to help those who are doing field work. The next meeting is set for June 18th, 6:00pm at the Big Bear Lodge.

3. Free Spray day advertising has been submitted to the paper and radio station. The radio station has already started ads. Poster will be distributed around town, with Karen Moon's help, Thanks. The SWAT crew will be helping with the Free Spray Day, which will be held at Big R, on May 30th, 8am-1pm.
4. Previous meeting minutes were not reviewed, so they will be reviewed at the next meeting.

With no further items to discuss, Jess made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Lesley. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am. The next CWMA meeting will be held on June 18th, at 6:00 pm at the Big Bear.