

Harney County CWMA

H.C. Court House Basement Meeting Room

February 16th, 2017 @ 10:00am

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 am. Those in attendance were:

Cyndee Hill-NRCS

Marty Suter Goid-SWCD

Dustin Johnson-OSU

Sarah Mundy-SWCD

Jim Campbell-Harney County

Skyler Hickey-SWCD

Karen Moon-HC Watershed Counsel

Steph Bonson- CWMA Coordinator

Lisa Foster-USFS

Ty Cronin-BLM

November 17, 1 2016 minutes were approved without any needed revisions. Motion to approve minutes made by Jim and seconded by Skyler. Approved.

CWMA Financials:

1. The current balance of the CWMA general funds is \$15,301.07, as of the meeting date. There are 2 other accounts besides the general fund. Miller Canyon grant, which is pending a draw of \$10,740.00 for seed. And the BLM agreement which has obligated \$30,000.00 to project/ CWMA work. These funds should be available this spring. There was discussion about SWCD funds and tracking it. It was decided that it would be beneficial to track the separate project work in a separate project account. The motion to approve financials made by Ty Cronin and seconded by Jim Campbell. Approved.

New Business:

1. Steph presented a PowerPoint of 2016 Annual report w/ fact sheet. There was discussion that we need to set a minimum fee & raise the overall fee, for the CWMA Coordination fee program. It is currently \$1 per acre with a 250 acre maximum. We will have more discussion.
2. Steph submitted a revised Beaver Tables Grant application in the fall. It has worked its way thru several review team meetings. It is currently recommended but toward the bottom of the list. She is planning to attend the OWEB board meeting in Salem to support the grant. Marty suggested that she

and some of the other partner agencies could go and show support. It was suggested that a landowner from the area, also attend. The group felt this was a great idea to show our partners & local landowner commitment to this project. Marty and Cyndee have volunteered to attend and represent their agencies. A landowner will be contacted and see if they would be interested in attending. The OWEB board meeting is April 25th & 26th. There was discussion on how to approach grant applications to better rank them. Perhaps, develop a plan for landowners to take more ownership of their treatment commitments, long term. Dustin offered to help develop a framework to create a long term plan. Steph, Cyndee, Karen and (Vanessa Shrader- Dustin's intern) volunteered to help.

3. Reviewed the 2017 Annual plan. Each member was asked what they would need from the CWMA. NRCS has a plan ready for submission. They are waiting for funding to know what they will have money for. They should know by April. They have 2 landowners from last year who will be treated for sure this year. SWCD is also waiting for funding in April. They are planning to have Steph do an aerial survey. Not sure yet who they will use to do ground truthing, but may use Steph. \$10,000 cap for the contractor services and \$5000 for the CWMA labor & fair booth supplies etc. Jim checked with Deanna and found that the loaded cost for the Coordinators time is \$185 per day. The County is planning for Steph to work 160 hours or 4- 40 hour weeks in April & May. Then 1 week in the fall for a Lambient test plot. The hope is to do a test on private land, perhaps a 10 acre test on a 100 acre treatment. Then take camera-on-a-stick photos and compare the results of 10 acres of Plateau w Lambient next to the 90(example) acres of just Plateau. There is no grazing restriction with Lambient. Not sure how soon you can seed behind this treatment. The BLM has plans for Steph to do an aerial inventory for them in the spring. They are also waiting for their funding, but it has been allocated, just not released. The Harney County Watershed Counsel has no current plans for the CWMA coordinator. Lisa Foster was in attendance representing the USFS, in Emigrant Creek Ranger District. She has already started an agreement with Harney County to do some treatments. The current agreement is for \$14,000. There may be some Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation money to do work in the forest. Jim commented that the staff may need to have different ODA licenses to do work in the forest. The CWMA coordinator may be used in combination with the County. In some cases, the forest has different weeds than we usually treat in the rangeland. Examples are: Hounds tongue, Diffused Knapweed, St. Johns Wort etc.
4. The BLM has done a trial run with a company to do remote sensing. Satellite imagery was recorded in June and pictures were taken in October. 30 meter pixel per 1 meter is the same as Land Sat. They won't have access to the data for a month or so. Not sure if the sensing will be able to differentiate between Medusahead and Cheat grass. The data costs .33 cents an acre. It will be interesting to see the comparison between the remote sensing data and the helicopter survey data.
5. Dustin was interested in a project to help grazing permittees spray on their BLM allotments. He would like to see a class or outreach program. Several members of the CWMA commented that they have tried this project in the past and it was not successful. There was difficulty with participation from the permittees. There are different requirements in different BLM districts on which herbicides can be used. After some discussion it was decided that the project should be tabled until next year.
6. Steph is organizing a 2017 Hay growers Class that is taking place in April. She has some speakers lined up, including Jim doing a talk on African Rue. She asked for some input from the board on additional

subjects and/or speakers. Dustin had just been to a meeting, where Mark Owens and other landowners presented a talk about irrigation efficiency using LESA/LEPA systems. He suggested that would be a great subject for the class. Jim suggested that we bring in an OSHA speaker to talk about PPE and Safety training. Also, Lauri Gordon does a talk on new changes in ODA licensing and pesticide updates.

7. There was some follow-up on the NRCS programs', RCPP grant program. Zola and Cyndee have given us some information about this program. The plan is for the CWMA to apply for RCPP grant using the Beaver Tables/Stinkingwater Area Medusahead Management plan. One advantage of this program is that they do offer Technical assistance dollars to the CWMA. The RCPP grant pre-proposal deadline is April 21st. Using the Stinkingwater Area Medusahead Management plan is a large scale project and gives the group flexibility to take action in the different phases as money and resources become available. RCPP and EQIP are 2 different pools of money. The hope is between the two, we will be able to fund compliment treatments as needed.
8. Cyndee is working on completing the NRCS CIS for the Beaver Tables project. She had some questions for the group on budgeting from the different agencies. She is doing a budget for the phase 1, in the Beaver Tables area.
9. The SWCD brought maps of their aerial survey project and it was determined that some of the acres have already been done. The hope is to do both the BLM & SWCD aerial surveys' at the same time and reduce costs. Of course, the aerial survey will be weather dependent. As well as the conditions and phenology of the Medusahead. Whether it is visible from the air or whether it can be differentiated from Cheat grass and other annual grasses.

With no further items to discuss, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm. Motion made by Marty and seconded by Ty. The next CWMA meeting is scheduled on March, 21st, 10:00am at the Harney County Court House Basement Meeting Room.