

Harney County CWMA  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2007 ~ 1pm  
HC Court House basement meeting room

Meeting was called to order at 1:08pm. Members in attendance were: Jesse Barnes, Lesley Richman, Kirk Davies, Jess Wenick, Pam Mather, Karen Moon and Pauline Braymen.

Lesley motioned to approve January 18<sup>th</sup> minutes, Kirk 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**Action Items:**

Jesse: Plan Up and coming events: City Wide Weed Treatments, Weed Tour, Spring Fling and Bird Festival.

Get the Burns Times Herald to planned events

Explore possibility of getting a Power Point presentation to the Round Barn Visitor Center

Call new owners of the Lamb Ranch

Lesley: Get AOP dates to Jesse of Cooperative projects

**FINANCIALS:**

Jesse gave an up date of the financials. There were only two transactions since January: reimbursement paid to Jesse for the purchase of materials at the Idaho Weed Conference and a bill from Maupin's was paid for medusahead work done last fall.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Election of Vice Chair-* Item was tables until the April meeting as nominated person was not present at the meeting.

*Grant Up Date:* Jesse gave the CWMA a grant update. This year we have two new grants with continuation of the Silvies River Corridor grant. The funds for the Silvies project need to be used by December of this year. This is considered the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of this project. The other two new projects are to take place in June. The first is the South Fork Malheur River Pepperweed project. This was funded by the OSWB for a little more than \$11,000. The Burns-Hines Weedy Project was also funded by the OSWB for \$5,115.00. There will be up and coming grant windows for possible fall or next spring projects through the OSWB and OWEB. There are also possibilities to go after some Access & Habitat funds as well as some Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation funds.

It was also stated that there was really good participation last year when the CWMA had the City Wide White top Wipe Out. Jesse recommended to the CWMA that this project be done again with targeting not only white top, but diffuse knapweed, spotted knapweed, scotch thistle and Dalmatian toadflax. Jesse has already spoken with Floyd and he would love to do the project again for the price of \$25.00 per lot. This project would also coincide with the Burns-Hines Weedy Project. The largest expense of the project would be the advertising. Lesley motioned to approve the expense necessary for advertising this project/event. Kirk 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Pauline Braymen-Kiwanis Club:* Pauline gave the CWMA a history on the Cottonwood Park located off of HWY 78 and Gordonia. This corner has been adopted by the Kiwanis club as a beautification project. They currently have made progress at the far east end of the park by planting competitive garden plants and watering. This has also helped keep people from driving through the corner. The Kiwanis ultimately

plan on having the entire area planted to hardy desirable plants. The Kiwanis is asking for the help of the CWMA in controlling the current population of Perennial Pepperweed, Russian knapweed, white top and crabgrass. This is something that the club is working on and they are not very effective as they do not know what to put on, how much or when. After some discussion on the future plans of the park area, Lesley motioned to aid the Kiwanis Club in treating the park located off of Gordonia and HWY 78, Kirk 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

*Annual Operating Plan:* Jesse presented the CWMA with the Annual Operating Plan from 2006 and asked the group for changes that needed to be made. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED. Jesse proposed that the Weed Tour highlight escaped ornamentals which would target the local garden clubs and avid gardeners. A tentative date for this would be May 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a Saturday, but that is best for most the audience that we are targeting. The Spring Fling which has been done in the past with the SWCD and Big R will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Bird Festival is April 13-15<sup>th</sup>.

*Harney County Weed Program Funding:* Jesse informed the CWMA that the Title II funds have not yet been approved. This means that the weed department will be taking about a \$65,000 cut back- just about over ½ of the current budget. This would mean cutting some of the herbicide line item back to about \$38,000 and some miscellaneous dollars out of materials and supplies and the rest would be cut out of seasonal employees. This puts the coordinator/supervisor in the truck more than in the office coordinating. The CWMA already contributes about \$10,000 to \$12,000 for salary. There is not that much more money to be moved over from the CWMA to the County. One possible financial help would be to move the CWMA administration and accounts over into the County. This was contemplated before. The SWCD is currently our fiscal agent and they take 8% of the grant funds for administration. The norm is 10%. After talking with Marty, the SWCD does not take any administrative fees off of the BLM funds that are deposited in to the CWMA. Last year the SWCD received about \$1,400.00 in administrative fees. After some discussion, a decision on moving the CWMA accounts over to the County will be made in April after receiving more information from the County Court and the SWCD.

*Possible Equipment Purchase:* Topic was tabled until further notice.

*Additional Items:* Jess stated that a possible way to reach more individuals about weed issues in Harney County is to have a Power Point presentation available at the Round Barn. He has found that the presentation the Refuge has for display is used frequently.

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the basement meeting room of the Court House.