



Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting

March 27th 2019, 1:00-3:00 pm

Hood River Extension Service, 2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River 97031

Attendees: Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Mason Scharfe (USACE Bonneville), Katie Santini (USFS), Lynn Gibbons (Menucha Retreat), Cyndi Soliz (Skamania County), Jennifer DeShong (USFS), Carolyn Wright (DNR), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Beth Myers-Shenai, Christina Mead (USFS), Sarah Hall (USFS), Scott Susi (Wasco SWCD), Kelly Wallis (TNC), Mika Barrett (FOCG), Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation)

1:00 Welcome

1:05 Financial Update

Courtney Gattuso (on behalf of Sam Leininger)

- Invoices have recently gone out to partner organizations to support the Columbia Gorge CWMA for the FY 18-19 year.
- In total we expect a total partner contribution for the current fiscal year to total \$22,300.
- We will also be billing the Columbia Gorge CWMA \$13,282 for CWMA coordinator base wages. Benefits and overhead are contributed by Clackamas SWCD.
- This leaves an annual surplus of \$9018. The hope is that our annual contributions can bring us closer to converting the Coordinator position into a half time position.
- Currently the surplus is held in reserve to ensure financial stability to retain our coordinator and to support projects such as purchasing boot brushes for the upcoming Boot Brush Kick-Off event to raise awareness about invasive weeds and prevention.
- It is worth noting the generous contributions of all of our members, but most notably the significant increased contributions from the Mt Hood NF and Oregon State Parks.
- The CWMA leadership has also recently finalized a thank you letter for the current fiscal year to distribute to contributing organizations. So if you are a contributing partner please expect to see a thank you soon!
- The Columbia Gorge CWMA currently has \$23,616 in reserve.
- The significant increase in funding this year leaves the CWMA in very stable territory. We are drawing nearer to our goal of increasing our Coordinator staff time and are currently capable of continuing to support the development of more CWMA lead projects.

1:10 Coordinator Update

Courtney Gattuso

- **New Meeting Day**
 - The CWMA has recently changed its meeting day from 4th Thursdays to 4th Wednesdays, due to scheduling conflict with Hood River Extension staff meetings.

- Thank you to everyone for participating in our Doodle Polls to narrow down a new meeting day!
- We have secured a back-up location at the Hood River Fire Department if we can't continue to meet at the Hood River Extension conference room.
- **Teleconference Option for Meetings**
 - The Friends of the Columbia Gorge have been very gracious to let us try out their MeetingToGo teleconference account to see how remote attendees like calling in.
 - Thank you to Lucas Hunt for trying out the new system!
 - This will be a temporary option at future meetings; the CWMA may look into getting a teleconference account if the group sees it as an asset.

1:15 Education & Outreach Committee Update

Mika Barrett & Courtney Gattuso

- **Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop**
 - We had about 100 attendees at ISEP on February 28th!
 - Our speakers were very engaging and discussed a wide range of topics.
 - All presentations are up on the website under the ISEP Event Page!
 - With the exception of Jennifer Andreas (Flowering Rush Distribution in Columbia River) – needs to add photo credits, hopefully to be added soon!
 - Courtney distributed a survey to the attendees and posted the survey on the website as well.
- **Boot Brush Kick-Off**
 - The CWMA purchased 1000 packable hoof pick/boot brushes from State Line Tack (equestrian wholesale company) and wiped out their entire stock!
 - We had over 20 volunteers participate and left us great feedback from the event.
 - They handed out over 300 boot brushes, over 400 Worst Weeds of the Gorge booklets, and connected with over 1500 visitors over the weekend!
 - Logistically, it is a difficult event to plan, but Emily, Courtney, Cyndi, Sara, and Mika were rockstars and made it happen!
 - The CWMA has surplus hoof picks and will use the leftovers for next year's event.
 - King County showed interest in adopting a "kick-off" event of their own and were eager to hear about our event!
- **Stop the Invasion**
 - The event is happening next week on Thursday, April 4th!
 - Courtney has been advertising the event through various listservs but we're hoping to have more attendees than the registered amount (currently 17 people).
 - We are offering LOTS of credits (WSDA, ODA, OLCB, ISA)
 - Agenda and details can be found on our website.
- **Field Day**
 - We bumped the event day forward from May 28th to May 29th to stay consistent with our new meeting day.
 - The group is interested in seeing the high intensity burn areas, but access is limited.
 - Might need to limit the number of cars for carpooling
 - Registration and more details to be posted soon.

1:45 Partner Updates and Observations

All

- **Mika Barrett (Friends of the Columbia Gorge)**
 - Seasonally late snow has pushed back planting and weed removal projects
 - Just hosted 6 planting events with OPRD
 - Last weekend was doing removal with USFS and volunteers
 - Corbett area volunteers planted at a FOCG event
- **Beth Myers-Shenai (Oregon Department of Agriculture)**
 - Attended OSWB Meeting in February
 - They updated their list and she will send it out tomorrow to Oregon Weeds listserv
 - Added Ventanata, Bohemian Knotweed, and split Dodder into 3 species
 - All ivy cultivars are quarantined now
 - Fund a number of grants
 - Over 1 million in grants
 - Grant awardee will be receiving data collection instructions soon
 - ODA has put a temporary ban on Aminocyclopyrachlor
- **Carolyn Wright (DNR)**
 - Just got back to work last week, been busy getting caught up!
- **Jennifer DeShong (US Forest Service – GPNF)**
 - Carol Chandler (Program Manager) retiring on May 3rd
 - Getting everything in place until replacement is hired
- **Jeanette Burkhardt (Yakama Nation)**
 - Mouth of White Salmon River
 - Planted last spring and seeded, seeds of monocots got washed away when Columbia River flooded
 - Lotus corniculatus (bird's foot trefoil) coming in, looking for treatment recommendations
 - Looking to get a boot brush installed since it is a restoration site, local cabin stewards are willing to maintain boot brush
- **Lynn Gibbons (Menucha Retreat)**
 - Partnering with Chris and Jon (EMSWCD) to tackle garlic mustard; fall treatments tend to give false negative in the spring
 - Worried about the ivy, had Mosaic treat ivy over many hours
 - Mostly tree ivy, but also on the cliffs
- **Scott Susi (Wasco SWCD)**
 - Fire rehab for cool weather grass, snow has been delaying the project
 - Lower Deschutes CWMA partnering with them to treat rush skeletonweed and scotch thistle
- **Kelly Wallis (The Nature Conservancy)**
 - Boardman Area
 - Sent in rush skeletonweed work to local group; volunteers helped pull and even helped spray some
 - Their local weed meeting helped them figure out that they have ventanata; will be mapping this season and trying to get a hold on it
 - Wondering how much info the group has on medusahead? She needs some assistance on how to treat it in central Oregon
- **Katie Santini (USFS)**
 - Volunteer parties coming up to hand pull weeds

- Yellow bells showing up and the ticks are out!
- **Christina Mead (USFS)**
 - Introduces Sarah Hall to the group, excited to have her and her expertise on the team!
 - Working on grants and agreements
 - Garlic mustard coming up soon, still too snowy to treat yet
 - Seasonal crew this year to map and inventory
- **Cyndi Soliz (Skamania County)**
 - Gearing up to hire field crew, posted positions on County website
 - Fall treatment of shiny geranium is very effective
 - Emily is currently at flowering rush meeting in Boardman
- **Mason Scharfe (USACE – Bonneville)**
 - Lots of volunteer groups through spring and summer working around dam
 - Teaching grade school students about the terrors of invasives
 - They will help convert a gravel parking lot to a pollinator area
- **Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD)**
 - Gearing up for garlic mustard, slow season, still waiting for snow to melt
 - 12th year treating garlic mustard, still hoping to have a biocontrol
 - Chris has been doing a lot of Gorge ivy treatments
 - In 2-3 weeks will have crews lined up and ready to treat garlic mustard

3:00 End

Next General Meeting

August 28th 2019, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Hood River Extension Service

2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, OR 97031

(unless otherwise noted)