



Columbia Gorge CWMA Steering Committee Meeting

July 17th 2019, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Teleconference

Attendees: Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Emily Stevenson (Skamania County), Christina Mead (USFS), Mika Barrett (FOCG), Sam Leininger (CSWCD), Marty Hudson (Klickitat County), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD)

12:00 Welcome

12:05 Coordinator Update

Courtney Gattuso

- **WIN Coordinator Vacancy**
 - Lucas Hunt is no longer the WIN coordinator; he took another position about a month ago. The next WIN coordinator position will be full-time, not a shared position as Lucas's was.
 - There is no interim coordinator currently, but Lucas Nipp, who serves on the WIN Steering Committee, said the position will be posted soon.
 - **ACTION: Lucas Nipp will keep Steering in the loop on WIN updates; Courtney will advertise the position on the CWMA listservs once posted.**
- **Hood River OSU Extension Conference Room**
 - The Hood River OSU Extension has received funding until June of 2020, funding afterwards for FY20-21 is uncertain.
 - They have adopted a new conference room fee policy, which started July 1, 2019
 - \$25 less than 4 hours of use; \$50 more than 4 hours of use.
 - The rest of our 2019 meetings will be \$25 for the day since we booked prior to new fee structure, but will increase starting January 2020.
 - We do have the City of Hood River Fire & EMS Community Room booked out for the rest of 2019 as well as a back-up plan, which might be the more feasible option for the group.
 - Waived government fee for the CWMA; but there will be a fee if food and drink are served/catered (\$50 for 4 hours; \$100 over 4 hours).
 - There is no telephone in the room.
 - **ACTION: Courtney will make the final decision on where to hold the next meetings; she will report back to Steering and advertise the upcoming General Meeting with details.**
- **2020 Calendar Dates**

- Courtney plans on lining up next year’s calendar with tentative dates for meetings and events by September 1st.
- She plans on working with Emily and Mika on upcoming event dates.
- **ACTION: Courtney will send the tentative 2020 Calendar to Steering for final thoughts once it’s wrapped up.**

12:20 Leave No Trace

Mika Barrett

- Mika attended the Leave No Trace Gorge Hotspot workshop week and represented the CWMA as well as Friends of the Columbia Gorge. There were communication workshops for both land managers and the general public to discuss how to implement best management practices for visitors who recreate in the Gorge.
- There will be an executive summary written including action items from the event which will be released soon.
- **ACTION: Mika will present on the Leave No Trace Gorge Hotspot Week at the upcoming General Meeting on August 28th.**
- Note from Mika: Next Spring, Sara Woods and Mika Barrett will launch crew leader program and wants to extend the orientation training to the CWMA partners. More information to follow.

12:30 Farm Bill Future

Emily Stevenson

- Next year’s 2020 Farm Bill was accepted and the APHIS agreement is in the works.
- The funding will cover the upcoming ISEP event, but we will not be hosting Stop the Invasion in 2020.
- Emily is working out the details for the upcoming Farm Bill, wants to know if we should include another field day event, but it will need to include pest/disease component.
- **ACTION: Emily will ask the General Meeting attendees for ideas on a hosted event that could benefit the CWMA, funded through the Farm Bill.**

12:50 General Meeting Topics

All

- The group agreed that a guided discussion topic would be a good idea for the upcoming General Meeting on August 28th.
- Draft agenda topics include:
 - Coordinator update - Courtney
 - Leave No Trace - Mika
 - Farm Bill - Emily
 - WIN Update - Lucas Nipp
 - Management Plan – All
 - Partner Discussion: Failures & Successes of Field Season – All (time limit needed)

1:10 “Official Documents” Renew Review

All

- Not only is the CWMA MOU expiring at the end of the calendar year, but the Management Plan is as well.
 - The group believes the current MOU is still relevant and no strong changes or revisions are needed at this time. We will ask for partner signatures for the MOU with the funding ask later this year.
 - Steering will revisit the Management Plan and make any revisions if necessary.
 - Steering member nominations (every 2 years) will be held at the October General Meeting.
 - **ACTION: Courtney will send Steering the Management Plan in GoogleDocs to make changes collaboratively.**
- The Operating Plan is an annual document that has not been updated for a while, but it aligns with the Coordinator Work Plan which Courtney actively refers to.
 - The group agreed that it would be beneficial to transition the Operational Plan to the Coordinator Work Plan.
 - **ACTION: Courtney will send Steering a draft Coordinator Work Plan/Operational Plan for 2020 for approval.**

1:30 BMP/Website Updates

All

- **BMPs**
 - Courtney asks the group for suggestions on potential BMP revisions or candidates.
 - Emily recently revised the Tree of Heaven BMP a few months ago. The group thinks revising the most visited BMPs would be a good route.
 - Top 5 most visited BMPs (since initial posting on website):
 - Tree of Heaven
 - Canada Thistle
 - Himalayan Blackberry
 - Scotch Broom
 - Meadow Knapweed
- **Website Blitz**
 - Courtney has plans to spend Fall/Winter time to a mini “Website Blitz”, devoting a chunk of time to updating the website.
 - Potential ideas for the website:
 - Over The Counter Herbicide Formulations document
 - Needs revision
 - Interactive Partner Map (Google Earth)
 - Could be a “time sink”
 - Updated CWMA documents and meeting minutes
 - Project Highlights – joint organizational projects
 - Ask members for submissions (annually?)
- **Google Drive Upload**

- The group agreed that a shared Google Drive for Steering would be an effective organizational tool, allowing members to obtain documents without going through Courtney.
- All other public materials will be posted on the website.
- **ACTION: Courtney will start chipping away at these tasks when time allows.**

2:00 End

Next Steering Committee Meeting

August 28th 2019, 11:30am-12:30pm

*Hood River Fire & EMS –Ty Taylor Fire Station (Leonard Hay Community Room)
1785 Meyer Parkway, Hood River, OR 97031*