



## Columbia Gorge CWMA General Meeting Minutes

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, 1:00-3:00 pm

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

**Attendees:** Jon Wagner (EMSWCD), Jennifer DeShong (US Forest Service), Marty Hudson (Klickitat County), Chris Aldassy (EMSWCD), Jared Strawderman (Friends of Ridgefield NWR), Beth Meyers-Shenai (ODA), Lucas Hunt (WIN), Christina Mead (US Forest Service), Emily Stevenson (Skamania County), Mika Barrett (Friends of Columbia Gorge), Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Angie Kimpo (PWB), John Cowan (OPRD)

### 1:00 Welcome

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*Emily Stevenson*

### 1:05 New CWMA Coordinator & Partner Introductions

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*Courtney Gattuso*

- Courtney shared her professional background in volunteer coordination and vegetation management with the group, working for Oregon Metro, Clean Water Services, Mosaic Ecology, and the National Park Service, as well as her eagerness to work with the Columbia Gorge and 4-County CWMA's and CSWCD WeedWise Program!

### 1:15 Steering Committee Update

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*Emily Stevenson*

- The Steering Committee has been focusing on Coordinator priorities and upcoming events for 2019.

### 1:20 Coordinator Communications Update

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*Courtney Gattuso*

- Courtney plans on making updates and changes to the website (when time allows), which will include:
  - Adding a EDRR species curriculum
  - Posting minutes, agendas, event announcements, etc.
  - Monthly "Weed Reader" newsletters
- The Columbia Gorge CWMA is transitioning to a new Google Group email list, which will allow all members to post announcements and share information with the entire group.

### 1:40 Halloween Costume Contest Winner – Beth Meyers-Shenai!

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*Lucas Nipp*

- A big thank you to all of the ghoulish participants who dressed up for our super official *Columbia Gorge CWMA Halloween Costume Contest*! Laughs were had, candy was consumed, and Beth Meyers-Shenai wore a rockin' Rosie the Riveter costume that stole the show!

### 1:45 Education and Outreach Committee Update

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*Mika Barrett*

- **Stop the Invasion Training**
  - Will be held on Thursday, **April 4th 2019** and consist of two sessions over a full day to target more agency and organization attendees.
- **Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop**
  - Will be held on Thursday, **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019** – *save the date!*
  - Possible topics:
    - Sven-Erik Spichiger – Spotted lanternfly
    - Kaci Buhl – Pest research updates & laundry research
    - Weed ID Interactive Quiz (KAHOOT!)
    - Poster Session
- **Boot Brush Kickoff**
  - Typically on Earth Day weekend, but this year it falls on Easter weekend.
  - Instead, the event will be held on **March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**.
- **Field Day**
  - The group shared interest in hosting the 2019 Field Day in the Columbia Gorge Burn Zone, having it on a weekday to avoid crowds. Tentative date of Tuesday, **May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019**.

## 2:10 Financial Update

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*Sam Leininger*

- Call for fundraising requests for Columbia Gorge CWMA
  - Contact Sam if you have available resources to help contribute to our Columbia Gorge CWMA!
  - Keep an eye out for the Columbia Gorge CWMA Annual Report to show our accomplishments from our supporting partners.

## 2:15 Partner Updates

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- **Lucas Hunt (Western Invasives Network)**
  - Lucas will plan on making quarterly newsletters showcasing regional CWMA information.
  - At the end of next year, CWMA MOUs will come to an end.
  - Lucas will discuss with his steering committee about the importance of MOUs and utilizing them as tools
- **Emily Stevenson (Skamania County)**
  - Emily shares her observations of garlic mustard in Skamania County. Seedlings are flowering and setting seed prematurely! Observations show that garlic mustard is coming back with vigor in hand-removed areas.
  - Suggests controlling for butterfly bush while conducting knotweed treatment, or else it will come back roaring!
- **Lucas Nipp (East Multnomah SWCD)**
  - Lucas has been doing a ton of work at EMSWCD's Headwaters Farm, and has been applying thistle rust, a biocontrol, to thistles at the farm.
- **Sam Leininger (Clackamas SWCD)**
  - The WeedWise program has been wrapping up Japanese knotweed treatment season.
  - After a 3 year lull, CSWCD and other partners are rebooting the Sandy Basin Vegetation Restoration Coalition!
- **Jon Wagner (East Multnomah SWCD)**
  - Finishing up knotweed treatments for the year, showing that glyphosate application is effective.
  - Garlic mustard fall spray treatments have been successful!
- **John Cowan (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)**

- John and other staff have been monitoring burn areas and have noted that herb Robert is currently the most abundant weed in burn area.
- Garlic mustard control completed for the year.
- Volunteer efforts have been extremely useful post burn – very eager and valuable!
- **Jennifer DeShong (US Forest Service)**
  - Currently in the process of hiring a botany technician to help with surveying efforts.
  - Lots of herb Robert noted on Lewis River Trail.
- **Marty Hudson (Klickitat County)**
  - Flowering rush and Phragmites moving down stream of John Day Dam.
  - Purple loosestrife treatments are successful – looking good!
  - Skeletonweed seems to be flourishing after fire.
- **Angie Kimpo (Portland Water Bureau)**
  - Getting ready to evaluate current and historic hawkweed populations on Lolo Pass.
  - Working with Multnomah County to stop spraying RoundUp on Gordon Creek road – suggests using Garlon instead to prevent natives from being sprayed.
  - For anyone interested, Angie has native seed available for anyone who would like to conduct roadside buffer experiments!
- **Chris Aldassy (East Multnomah SWCD)**
  - Conducting lots of clematis control on Forest Service and State Parks land.
  - Observations show that herb Robert is less dominant in areas where the burn was more intense.
- **Jared Strawderman (Friends of Ridgefield NWR)**
  - Continuous treatment of indigo bush, yellow flag iris, knotweed, and poison hemlock.
  - Western Pond Turtle project – treated blackberry and reseeded at Pierce Pond.
  - Brush blender (Stihl attachment) is very effective at cutting blackberry!
- **Beth Meyers-Shenai (Oregon Department of Agriculture)**
  - Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium is on December 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, draft agenda is available online! Registration costs are \$180 before November 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Working on the final distribution of remaining county grants.
  - Weed free gravel certification online – contact Kevin Bailey for certification!
- **Mika Barrett (Friends of Columbia Gorge)**
  - Program development for Volunteer Coordinator position?
  - Citizen Science about 30 Native Plant Society people for EDRR surveying efforts
- **Christina Mead (US Forest Service)**
  - Will be hiring a botany assistant position soon!
  - Been collaborating with partners on invasive houndstongue removal efforts over a 14,000 acre area.

3:00 End

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## Next General Meeting

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2019, 1:00-3:00 pm

Hood River Extension Service

2990 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River 97031

*Happy holidays!*