



## Columbia Gorge CWMA Steering Committee Meeting

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teleconference

**Attendees:** Emily Stevenson (Skamania County), Christina Mead (USFS-MHNF), Courtney Gattuso (CSWCD), Sam Leininger (CSWCD), Marty Hudson (Klickitat County), Lucas Nipp (EMSWCD), Troy Abercrombie (WIN), Richard Visser (WDFW)

### 1:00 Welcome

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### 1:05 Recent Organizational Updates with COVID-19

All

- How are we handling COVID-19 hurdles? Are we still hanging in there?
  - Mika – wishes she were in the field these days.
  - Christina – risk assessment process, limited invasive species treatment work, including garlic mustard work, hopes to get into the field soon as well.
  - Sam – WeedWise is still working in the field while adapting to BMPs surrounding COVID-19, may be revising protocol around crews driving separate vehicles.
  - Richard – everyone teleworking right now, everything on hold due to stay at home order, doing same thing with separate trucks, supply lines down, everything is slowed down.
  - Marty – keep on killing weeds, been pretty good for treatments, weather has been decent, only 3 people on crew, easy to keep everyone apart.
  - Emily – Same boat as Marty, bringing on 3 new staff member first Monday in May, will get tricky with parking so many separate vehicles, looking at priority sites, working on shiny geranium and garlic mustard, used to having 7 staff in the summer, but will have 6 people soon.
  - Troy – working remotely already, easy to adapt to stay at home order, no longer lives on the coast, just moved to Sweet Home, taken up a lot of time, been working on a scotch broom symposium with WISC, will be a 3-day remote symposium.
  - Lucas – Contractors hard to line up, trying to get a lot of work done in house with limited trucks, garlic mustard is going really slowly, trying to work together on Mondays with staff, may not get to everything, mainly working from home.

### 1:20 4CCWMA Draft Website RFP

Courtney Gattuso

- Status of 4CCWMA draft website RFP and timeline of project

- Steering members want to see the cost of the contractor, want to see what Courtney’s capacity is with the website on her own.
- Suggestions include having 4CCWMA be the guinea pig and see how the process goes to see if it’s something we want to participate in.
- **ACTION:** Courtney will send the final draft RFP to the Steering Committee for their review.

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**1:40 Future Farm Bill**

Emily Stevenson

- Emily will be working on the next Farm Bill proposal; do we want to add in any requests?
  - Emily asks the group for proposals for the next Farm Bill (2021-2022), needs to get it in late July.
  - Having BBKO as a premiere event along ISEP, would maybe need to change language to appeal to APHIS.
  - OISC grantees may get awarded June-July meeting, but lots of uncertainty around the grant, and lots of silence.
  - CSWCD is the fiscal agent for CWMA, but District has overspent this year, may need to wait until July 1 to make any big purchases.
  - Troy asks the group if the CWMA would be interested in passing along a donation to make an educational video on proper cleaning equipment filmed at the SRT, used for various mountain bike trails.
  - Justin might be able to do a reprint of Worst Weeds booklets, Sam will reach out to Justin about reprint.

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**2:00 CWMA Event Statuses**

Courtney Gattuso

- Status of future events—where are we at with BBKO and Field Day?
  - The groups suggests scaling back BBKO and not making another boot brush purchase this year until we hear from OISC about the grant status and know more about trails reopening.
  - With the assumption that we won’t have as many volunteers this year with the fear of COVID-19 still circulating.

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**2:15 Resource Library – Brainstorm session**

All

- What are some valuable resources to highlight for partners on our website?
- Any additional thoughts on the creation of a “resource library”?
  - Currently called “Media” section, members are open to changing menu titles for ease of navigation.
  - Categories would be the starting point, ideas include:
    - BMPs
    - Management profiles
    - Distribution data
    - Reporting weeds
    - Contact lists – ODA and CWMA lists
    - Plant ID image library
    - Technical resources – herbicide information
    - Story Map
    - Contractor List – password protected page on WordPress
      - Maybe include contractors that have OLCB licenses for landowners

- IPM Calendar – taken from the 4CCWMA
  - Menu merge for ease of mobile navigation
- Lucas has offered to assist Courtney in the process.
- Resources embedded into our website might need to be asked for permission to share, in case the creator would like to edit down the road. Links to resources should be fine to share.
- **ACTION:** Courtney will do a formal “call for resources” to Steering members and she encourages them to send sources in the meantime.

**3:00**    **End (or earlier if possible)**

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## **Next Steering Committee Meeting (tentative)**

*July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020, 1:00pm-3:00pm*

*Teleconference*