



Columbia Gorge CWMA Steering Committee Meeting

September 23rd 2020; 1:00pm-3:00pm

Teleconference

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

1:00 Welcome

1:05 Pulse Check: COVID-19, Regional Fires, Apocalypse?

All

- Let's take a moment to check-in with everyone.
 - How are you all doing?
 - Have the regional fires been affecting your organization? Mental health? Both?
 - **Sam** – District got evacuated to a level 3 evacuation order, he was at the office when the call came in, started the Tuesday after Labor day, fire traveled 17 miles in a day. Affected our staff, since many had their homes in evacuation zones, we will be picking up the pieces in the spring since fires are still going on. Areas impacted are outside of CWMA boundaries, brainstorming ideas to get volunteers in the door to help, Beachie Creek and Riverside fires active in the County. How will it affect weeds following? Already cut at the knees with funding, tough financial situation. Much harder to formulate a response due to our financial situation. Working on getting more funding for Sandy Basin. Should be in a better spot next year, went on a spending spree last year. Will be looking towards Gorge folks for recommendations on how to proceed since they went through it during Eagle Creek Fire.
 - **Emily** – All is well, 5 staff are still on, managing to keep work going, has a decent population of hedge parsley.
 - **Mika** – No home schooling, just homeschooling a dog, started volunteer events in July, cancelled a couple events due to air quality, have an upcoming event on Saturday, highlighting the Land Stewards Program, volunteers go out on their own time to remove invasive plants, will be talking with USFS and OSP to see if they're interested in the program, trying to wrap head around planting season if it will happen, fearful for what COVID-19 will look like, reducing group size to 5 volunteers instead of 10-15 volunteers, working longer shifts to make up the lost people.

- **Marty** – survey along Columbia shoreline for flowering rush, from John Day Dam to east county line (Boardman-Crow Butte), Eurasian milfoil is horrible on north shoreline, working on puncturevine, finished doing roadside brush, doing a little medusahead work, smoke has affected them heavily in the area, it has cleared out, RCG on Kiickitat River, has tons of hedge parsley (T. arvensis), has a native hedge parsley in the area too.
- **Lucas** – trekking along, Jon and Chris are working part-time due to home daycare, doing well, no fires in their District’s management area.
- **Courtney** – mainly covered in Sam’s update, personal life update: will close on her first home tomorrow, won’t be far from current residence, only a 7 minute drive away in north Milwaukie (Clackamas County).

1:25 Sponsor Packet – Timeline & Responsibilities

- Annual Report: Partner project submissions
 - Other duties
 - Opening Chair statement – Lucas
 - Partner list – Courtney
 - Partner Projects – All
 - Courtney – Lolo Pass
 - Mika – Volunteerism/McCord Creek
 - Cyndi – Love affair between Skamania and Klickitat Counties
 - Sara – might submit along with CLT
 - Mika suggests maybe have partners just submit photos with captions and have a photo page of partner projects.
 - ISEP – Courtney
 - General Meetings – Courtney
 - Steering Committee – Courtney
 - Education & Outreach – Courtney
 - Accessibility – Courtney
 - Financial Update – Sam
 - Steering Committee – Courtney
 - **ACTION:** Courtney to send partner project submission reminder to listserv.
- 2021 Calendar
 - The group reviews the 2021 draft calendar that Courtney made—doesn’t include BBKO for next year.
 - BBKO Update from Mika - Trail Ambassador Program was struggling to get participation with volunteers, Mika is hesitant to have BBKO in 2021 with volunteers who are high risk, maybe have a week-long video series of partners using boot brushes, have people sign up to clean/maintain boot brushes at trailheads. Have videos serve as outreach material on our website.
 - The group approves next year’s calendar. Field Day date is TBD, will most likely be help remotely.

- Chair Letter – Emily and Lucas
- MOU & Management Plan
 - Courtney requests Steering members to review MOU & Management Plan to make sure we're on track for upcoming funding ask.

2:20 October General Meeting Topics

- What topics should we cover in the October General Meeting?
 - Speakers? Discussion topics?
 - Joel Price has agreed to present on the knotweed biocontrol at the General Meeting in October.
 - Other topics/ideas include:
 - CWMA Updates
 - ISEP & BBKO updates – Mika
 - Financial update – Sam
 - Steering/Sponsor packet – Lucas/Emily (TBD)
 - Halloween Contest?
 - Poll? Have people vote for favorite costume via chat on GoToMeeting.
 - Post Treatment Season Update – partner discussion

3:00 End

Next Steering Committee Meeting

October 28th 2020, 11:30am-12:30pm

Teleconference