



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
COOPERATIVE WEED
MANAGEMENT AREA**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

March 18, 2019

In attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Carolyn Kelly	South Douglas Conservation District
Tim Behne	Landowner
Paul Malone	Producer
Aaron Rosenblum	Foster Creek Conservation District
Kim Veverka	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Melinda Hughes	Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Jessica Gonzales	US Fish and Wildlife Services
Dale Whaley	WSU Extension
Bonnie Orr	WSU Master Gardeners

- Aaron began the meeting by asking the group: “What does success of this program look like?”

Below are answers that were provided:

- Sounding board for weed problems in the county – For example, when neighbors get mad at neighbors due to weed issues. This group is an opportunity to provide help.
- Buffer for new weed problems
- Successful outreach education about new weeds
- Open avenues and doors for funding to implement on the ground projects – Cost share/technical assistance
- Educating citizens to identify weeds and empowering them to control the weeds confidently
- Example: “When the first ventenata shows up in the county, we have provided adequate education and outreach so that the landowner know what it is and why it is a problem. The steering committee is informed and is able to respond by assisting the landowner with assistance and funding to eradicate the know population. The group is

then able to notify surrounding landowners and conduct surveys to ensure the issue has not spread.”

- Branding: Website, Logos, mission statement, others...
 - The group discussed the CWMA mission statement for the first time. The following is the current version, which Aaron noted can be amended as we move forward: *“To improve invasive weed species management county-wide through increased communication, coordination, and the sharing of technical expertise and knowledge between landowners, natural resource managers, and all interested parties, as well as, to seek funding to improve and implement on the ground weed management projects.*
 - The group discussed the current CWMA webpage. Aaron asked if the steering committee would be willing to have their contact information on the webpage – Everyone agreed. The group agreed that the webpage should include a resources section that would include – who to contact for help – a link to the Washington State Noxious Weed Board website including the Noxious Weed List and “identify a weed” tool – other online resources. Aaron noted that the webpage will be an ongoing work in progress.
 - The group discussed the CWMA Logo: Aaron presented two versions and noted that yellow starthistle was selected because the bend matched the outline of Douglas County. The group agreed that they liked the version that spelled out Cooperative Weed Management Area opposed to the one with just CWMA. Goathead and bindweed were also proposed as weeds that could be in the logo. Aaron said he would play around with Photoshop and see what he could come up with.
 - Other items discussed for branding were t-shirts and badges
- Continue Group Discussion from last time: CWMA Priorities. Did we miss any?
 - The group discussed what was meant by the item from last time “CRP rules don’t line up w/ weed ecology: can we provide guidance to help?” – The basic idea is that CRP rules don’t allow for weed control in the spring during nesting season. This doesn’t align with most weed’s ecology, as the spring is an important window for control, especially to stop seed production. It was noted that the Weed Management Task Force can grant a waiver if it is requested, and so far all waivers have been granted. It was suggested that the steering committee could help coordinate applications within the landscape and

based on bird locations to help mitigate impacts. It was also suggested that the CWMA could sponsor volunteer group hand pull work parties during the restricted period.

- “Seek Funding/Cost-Share/technical assistance” was added to the on the ground projects category.

- The group then discussed specific weed species that are priorities that were not mentioned at the first meeting.
 - New species identified included: toadflax, spurge flax, bindweed, Russian knapweed, bull thistle, common bugloss, annual bugloss, leafy spurge, tansy ragwort, and puncturevine.
 - Equisetum (horse tail) was mentioned as a species that could be included on the list. The group had a discussion about whether or not it is native.

- The group then discussed how to go about prioritizing the different weed species for implementing on the ground projects. Aaron proposed two separate examples of how other group have done it.

AARON’S NOTE (post-meeting): According to the USDA Plants database, all species of equisetum are native to the PNW. <https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=EQUIS>

EX 1: The committee organizes each species into priority groups based on our own knowledge and expertise.

Example #1

- Priority Group 1
 - spotted knapweed, hoary alyssum, English ivy

- Priority Group 2
 - houndstongue; purple loosestrife

- Priority Group 3
 - black headbane, perennial pepperweed, white top, Baby’s Breath.

EX 2: Based on the species' current distribution in the county

Example #2

- Priority#1: Species not yet in Douglas County but likely to show up soon
 - ventenata, medusa head
 - Focus on outreach and making sure everyone knows what to look for
 - IF detected, then highest priority projects focused on Eradication
 - Priority#2: Species in Douglas County with limited distribution but potential to become widespread and damaging
 - houndstongue; Scotch Thistle
 - Will generally be highest priority projects with focus on Eradication where possible and containment where not.
 - Priority#3: Species widespread in Douglas County
 - Focus on providing technical assistance/education/outreach on IPM techniques
 - On the ground projects considered only if other two groups not present
- The group decided to use a hybrid of both. The EX 2 model would serve as a starting point, then at the next meeting, the group will re-evaluate and allocate species to different priorities based on local knowledge if there was consensus. Aaron noted that this exercise could and should be re-done on an annual basis.
- County-wide mapping of invasive weeds
 - The group agreed that there was no need to present a map to the public in any form on where current weeds are mapped around the county. However, this information is useful to collect for the group to be able to coordinate CWMA and individual activities.
 - Most in the group agreed that the benefit of cost-share would help overcome the apprehension of private landowners reporting their weeds.
 - It was suggested that the group could create generalized “watch zones” for certain weeds that could be publicly presented to help inform landowners of weeds that have been found in the vicinity and that they should be watching for.
 - Problem landowners: Dale suggested that the CWMA should have a protocol of what to do when a weed problem has been identified, but the landowner does not want to do anything about it.

- Suggestions included offering help with the problem and explaining the problem in common sense terms and/or economic terms.
- It was suggested that the information could be turned over to the Weed Management Task Force
- This topic will continue to be discussed at a later date.

- MOU – updates/edits/progress
 - Carolyn stated that the wrong authorities were cited in the beginning of the MOU. She believes the correct authority to cite is the *Interlocal Cooperative Act*.
 - Aaron will do more research and notify the group of edits.

Next Meeting Dates and Times:

- May 2019. Exact date to TBD through Doodle Pool. Time will be late afternoon, and location TBD.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Aaron will collect the needed information from the steering committee to put contact information up on the webpage.
- Aaron will begin to build out the “Resources” section of the CWMA webpage.
- Aaron will assign identified priority weed species to initial priority groups based on EX 2 for the group to re-assess at the next meeting
- Aaron will do more research into the MOU authorities and notify the group of changes.

NOTE: The entirety of this meeting was open to public comment

Questions or Comments,

contact Aaron Rosenblum 509-423-5990 or arosenblum@fostercreekcd.org

<http://www.fostercreekcd.org/programs/douglas-county-cooperative-weed-management-area/>