



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
COOPERATIVE WEED
MANAGEMENT AREA**

Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area Steering Committee Meeting Video Conference

July 7th, 2020 at 10:30AM

Meeting Objective(s):

- ❖ Discuss the current status of the Douglas County CWMA and outlook for the future, including funding, activities, and the Steering Committee

In attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Lefler	Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD)/CWMA Coordinator
Lee Hemmer	FCCD/Land Owner
Rich Finger	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Melinda Hughes	WDFW
Tim Behne	Land Owner
Alex McLean	Land Owner
Dan Hammond	Community Member
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Clarinda Wilson	United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Carolyn Kelly	South Douglas Conservation District
Corinna Hanson	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Tara Calloway	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Bonnie Orr	Washington State University (WSU) Master Gardeners Association

- Partner/Committee Member Updates
 - Ryan Lefler:
 - 15 acres of Russian knapweed were sprayed on private land along West Foster Creek using CWMA grant funds. Follow-up is currently underway.
 - 22 acres of Scotch thistle were sprayed by a contractor on private land in the St. Andrews area using USFWS Partners Grant funds. Follow-up is currently underway.
 - 2 acres of Scotch thistle were sprayed on private land in the McNeil Canyon area using CWMA grant funds. Follow-up is currently underway.

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- Ryan mapped all priority noxious weeds on approximately 1400 acres of land within the McCartney Creek TNC preserve and also did some chemical treatment.
 - Early Detection Rapid Response postcards were sent to all land owners within the CWMA management zones for houndstongue in order to promote education and awareness. 1 land owner requested assistance with an infestation in the China Creek area. Ryan conducted a site visit and is working to decide how to approach the situation.
- Carolyn Kelly:
 - SDCD had a site visit with a landowner where they looked at the condition of already established biological control insects. Populations appeared healthy.
- Tara Calloway:
 - Tara introduced herself to the group. She is taking over Jessi Gonzalez's former role as Sagebrush Ecosystem Coordinator. She will be working with Elizabeth Jackson on the Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan and is also the pollinator coordinator for central and eastern Washington. Tara works in the same division as Kim Veverka, and will be taking over her role as USFWS representative for the Douglas County CWMA.
 - Kim has received final word on funding for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program for the year. She has funded 2 projects. Some additional projects were funded through the Recovery Fund, which supports projects benefitting the recovery of USFWS priority species. The Recovery Fund Request For Proposals typically comes out in December each year.
- Dan Hammond:
 - Dan hopes to get out to the 15 acre Russian knapweed site to do clean-up spraying within the next 1-2 weeks
- Mary Fee:
 - WSDA will not offer Class A weed control funding next spring due to COVID-19 related delays. The grant will be offered in July 2021 instead.
 - County weed control efforts across the state have been impacted by COVID-19 because crews were not able to carpool in early spring, which limited early spring weed control efforts.
- Discuss how to use the remaining CWMA grant
 - Ryan Lefler:
 - FCCD was approved for an extension of the CWMA funding grant through October 31st, 2020. There is approximately \$35,000 left to spend.

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- Ryan brought up the land owner on China Creek with the houndstongue problem, and asked the group for ideas on how to solve the problem. The infestation is in excess of 10 acres, and likely affects multiple land owners along China Creek including WDFW.
 - Tara suggested talking with Vaughn Pope at Chelan Public Utility District about success they have had in using a combined approach of herbicide and biological controls.
 - Ryan plans to have some treatment of first-year rosettes in the fall.
- Dan Hammond:
 - Would like to see an in-person weed identification field tour happen whenever it is possible to do so. Bonnie concurs with this statement.
- Mary Fee:
 - Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) can provide educational materials to assist with outreach.
 - The State Noxious Weed Control Board would like to partner with the CWMA on a booth at the North Central Washington Regional Fair the next time that it happens, and could provide materials such as a booth setup.
 - Mary would like to see education on poison hemlock, which is a newly designated Class B noxious weed in Douglas County
 - Mary brought up the idea of a Facebook page for the CWMA. Ryan is interested in this idea, but is unsure who might have time to manage the page.
- Tara Calloway:
 - Tara would be interested in having interviews with producers to discuss how they manage weeds on their land. Tara would be interested in interviewing someone.
 - Bonnie is a trained oral historian, and would be willing to assist with interviews.
 - FCCD has audio/video equipment they could use.
- BLM – WSDA Project Proposal Grant
 - Clarinda Wilson:

County weed boards can apply for grants to do projects on or bordering BLM land. The Douglas County CWMA is encouraged to apply, as Douglas County has not had applications in the past.
 - Ryan Lefler:

The CWMA cannot accept funds due to the lack of a bank account. The application would have to come from a member organization, but could be endorsed by the CWMA.
 - Mary Fee:

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The CWMA could also approach the Douglas County Commissioners and ask them to apply under the County Legislative Authority. The CWMA would then manage the funds. Another option would be to have WSU or one of the Conservation Districts apply.

- Carolyn Kelly:
This might be a good opportunity to partner with the Douglas County Weed Management Task Force.
 - The CWMA needs to identify a project. Ryan will look for priority areas around Jameson Lake, and Carolyn will look for priority areas in South Douglas.
 - Clarinda will provide examples of past year proposals for reference.
- Appointing a Chair Person
 - Ryan Lefler:
Ryan has compiled a list of ground rules for appointing a chair person, and went over the ground rules with the group.
 - Bonnie suggested adding a provision for removing a chair person.
 - Lee Hemmer suggested the chair person should have the responsibility of working with the Douglas County Weed Management Task Force.
 - Since a simple majority quorum of Steering Committee members was present, the group decided to vote on appointing Carolyn Kelly as chairperson. All present Committee Members were in favor. Carolyn Kelly was appointed chairperson.
- Meeting Adjourned

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ryan and Carolyn will look for suitable weed control projects on or adjacent to BLM land.
- Tara will send an email to the group to gauge interest in land owner interviews – **Completed**
- Ryan will send out a contact list of all group members present to all in attendance - **Completed**
- Ryan will send out draft ground rules for chairperson appointment and chairperson duties to stakeholders for input - **Completed**

Next Quarterly Meeting: October 2020.

- ❖ The entirety of this meeting is open to public comment

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