

# WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM COOPERATIVE

Thursday, November 20, 2014  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Benton SWCD Office  
456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110  
Corvallis, OR 97333

## Meeting Agenda and Minutes

In Attendance: Jeff Baker – GBLT, Patricia Benner – Willamette Spirit Journeys, Holly Crosson - BSWCD, Tara Davis – Calapooia WC, Crystal Durbecq - BSWCD, Marvin Gilmour – Gilmour Farms LLC., Peter Kenagy – Kenagy Family Farm Inc. , John Keogh - landowner, Debra Paul – Linn SWCD, Kendra Smith (conference phone) - BEF, and Scott Youngblood - OPRD

### Updates and Announcements

Bud Baumgartner's' retirement

- Tara was present in Bud's stead. There will eventually be another steering committee member appointed from the Calapooia Watershed Council. This will either be a board member or a staff member (project manager).

Ludwigia project at Collins Bay

- We looked at pictures of the Ludwigia population at Collins Bay, both before and after treatments at monitoring plots.
- We also discussed the yellow floating heart treatments at Horseshoe Lake.

Next – OSWB grant phase II

- The Benton County CWMA has decided to apply for another OSWB grant for 2015-2016 with Benton SWCD as project manager, to continue treatment of Ludwigia at Collins Bay and YFH at Horseshoe Lake. The project will also include workshops, volunteer weed pulls of Ludwigia in small pops on the Willamette, Youth Corp weed pulls, and possibly some survey work.

Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network

- Had inaugural meeting at Salem BLM office on Nov. 6.
- Discussed impacts of Ludwigia, which is the plant that originally brought this group together. Had presentation by Glenn Miller, who talked about Ludwigia aerial survey results and shared pics.
- Will continue to work with this group to develop priorities, coordinate efforts on the river, and find an efficient way to share info on Aquatic Invasives.

### OWEB – Willamette Special Investment Partnership (3-yr project)

Overview

- Total award amount is \$260,484 over 3 years; not sure when we will receive funding, probably not until next year.
- This project has the following goals, which were formed based on the WMC Programmatic Bylaws, past group decisions (meeting minutes) and recommendations in Dick Brainerd's Final Report:
  1. PROTECT high quality habitats through control and containment of target invasive plants

2. **PRIORITIZE** control efforts based on invasive plant population size and impacts on riverine habitats.
  3. **COLLABORATE** with all stakeholders to raise awareness and address weed control priorities.
  4. **PLAN** for the short and long-term management of aquatic and terrestrial invasives.
  5. **MONITOR** post-treatment site changes for impacts, success and future management needs. This includes water quality and non-target impact monitoring.
- The following priority weeds were listed in the final report and are the focus of this project:

<u>Priority Invasive Plant Spp.</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Water primrose (Ludwigia spp.)	50
• Ivy (Hedera spp.)	304
False brome (Brachypodium sylvaticum)	76
• Old man's beard (Clematis vitalba)	142
Total acres (Priority weeds)	<b>572</b>
• <u>EDRR Invasive Plant Spp.</u>	
Butterfly bush (Buddleja davidii)	
• Italian thistle (Cardus pycnocephalus)	
Japanese knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum)	
• Pampas grass (Cortaderia spp.)	
Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)	
• Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius)	
Spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe)	

#### OWEB-WSIP Timeline – Year 1

<b>Project Elements</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Permit Applications</b>	Winter 2014-15	Apply for NPDES and land access permits for aquatic weed work through Dept. of State Lands and DEQ.
<b>Landowner Permissions</b>	Winter 2014 -15	Collect permissions pre-implementation and have agreements in place for at least 3 years
<b>Contracting</b>	Winter 2014-15	Distribute Request

		for Proposals and hire contractors for implementation of invasive plant control.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Spring – Fall 2015	Establish and implement monitoring for each site both prior to, and after treatments.
<b>Invasive plant management</b>	Spring – Fall 2015	Begin treatment of target weeds
<b>Project Inspection</b>	Summer/Fall 2015	Monitor sites to determine treatment efficacy, and follow-up treatment needs
<b>Project Maintenance</b>	Fall 2015	Follow-up treatments and monitoring of sites previously treated
<b>Outreach</b>	All	Workshops, stakeholder meetings, and volunteer weed pulls will take place throughout the project for community and landowner outreach
<b>Project completion monitoring</b>	Spring 2015	Monitoring sites post-treatment to determine success

#### Priority areas for year 1 – Maps

- We reviewed maps of the project area with priority invasives and discussed areas to focus on for the first year of implementation:
- Crystal's suggestions:
  - Collins Bay – OSWB funding
  - Knife River/ Farm Home complex - Ludwigia
  - Hwy 20 near Albany, ivy
  - Bowers Rock – EDRR – false brome, Ludwigia and holly
  - EDRR on river – purple loostripe, knotweed, spotted knapweed and small Ludwigia patches. Will work with Scott.
  - Takeena Landing – City of Albany
    - Would like to hire Britany Murphy, owner of Goat Power to treat ivy using goats. OWEB review team was excited about this aspect of the project. Will send out more info and cost estimate to group to review. Also, since this is a very public area with lots of riparian habitat, would like to limit herbicide use.

- Group members are concerned about the cost per acre being high (about \$3,000/acre or \$425/day), and that not many acres would be treated (4 ac.). Need to make sure that this will not significantly impact the amount of funding that we have for ivy.
- Work with partners to identify priorities; ex. Horseshoe Lake, Willamette Park, Truax Island, etc.

Group suggestions:

- Ludwigia: control outlying populations and work our way in to the larger populations or the “nucleus” of the infestation. Focus on areas that are connected to the river first, and then start on sites that may be disconnected except during flood events. Work with partners to treat populations, such as the Ludwigia at Horseshoe Lake. May be able to cost share, once we have contractors mobilized and permits secured.
  - What about areas that were not surveyed such as the Little Willamette and Colorado Lake? The aerial survey for Ludwigia completed by ODA in summer 2014 should show these areas and we can narrow down areas for ground-truthing.
- Ivy: work with ODOT to remove ivy on Hwy 20. Ensure that goats are worth the cost.
- EDRR and other weeds: Only treat false brome where it is threatening high quality habitats, or outlier populations. Would be good for outreach to treat areas that are public.

Permitting: NPDES Permit

- Required to obtain this permit if we go over 20 acres/yr., will probably do this, so want to get the permit. Also need to develop a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan for permit, and report annually to DEQ on activities. May contact individual group members for help with this. Supposed to have a Pesticide Discharge Management Team. Would like to have a NOAA, USFW or ODFW contact to consult on this project.

Other needs?

- Monitoring – Changes in water quality, impacts to non-targets, and wildlife spp. utilization of infested sites.
  - Suggested that we talk to Stan Gregory about the ongoing OSU fish study on Willamette. Maybe they can share changes in fish utilization of habitats before and after treatments. Do not need to do our own sampling, if it is already happening through other groups. Piggy-back on existing efforts.
  - Need to show relationship between salmonids and decreased habitat due to aquatic invasives (Ludwigia). Showing this link and having a solid argument will help to secure future funding. At least utilize existing data, and show that we are looking into this.
  - Luke Schultz, USFW works on Santiam. May have replaced Randy Wildman.
  - Shorebirds require mudflat habitat, show connection between Ludwigia and fewer habitats for shorebirds. Contact ODFW & Audubon. Bob Aultman with American Bird Conservancy.
  - Linda Ashkena, SAS – Fish and Wildlife expert w/ OSU
  - ODFW – Karen Hans
  - NOAA – Dan Bottom, Fish Biologist, Estuary research, OSU
  - Should also look at changes to spp. composition and abundance

- We should utilize what we know from other sources and look at impacts to habitat and wildlife.

## Strategic Planning (5-7 yrs) for the WMC

### Facilitation

- Plan on hiring Lisa DeBruckere for at least 2 meetings with a planning team.

### Planning Team

- Volunteers include Peter K., Debra P., Holly C. and Crystal
- May contact individuals to see if they are interested
- Would like to have a Fish and Wildlife person involved in this process

### Timeline

- Plan on having framework complete within first year of MMT grant cycle (Aug. 2014 – July 2015).

### Schedule next meeting

- Sometime in Jan/Feb. 2015, will Doodle Poll

## Annual WMC Stakeholder Meeting

### Within Our Reach Conference

- Not planning on having a large annual meeting this year, due to the Within Our Reach Conference fulfilling this need. We will instead hold a smaller, focused, evening meeting for Willamette River landowners.

### Other Comments:

- Scott treated half of the knotweed at Simpson Park, and will treat other half next year. Also treated knotweed on Tripp Island. Plan to do treatments at Bowers Rock on Ludwigia, false brome and holly.

### Action Items:

- Scott and Crystal - Kendra needs a map of all areas treated by Dec. 3, to track activities on the mainstem and to share at Within Our Reach
- Scott – will look into sharing the OPRD Pesticide Discharge Management Plan
- Crystal – hire contractors and facilitator, permissions from landowners for weed work, apply for NPDES permit, write Pesticide Discharge Management Plan, contact Stan Gregory about fish sampling and monitoring, and apply for OSWB funding for Phase II.
- All – find ODFW, USFW, Audubon, NOAA, or other Fish & Wildlife expert who could work on strategic planning and/or consult on aquatic weed management (may just be for phone calls and 1 or 2 site visits). Keep eyes open for water quality monitoring funding opportunities. Anything else you want to help with. 😊

## Upcoming Events

December 2-3

Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium, OSU

December 11-12

Within Our Reach Conference, OSU

December 12

ODA – Oregon State Weed Board Grant App. Due