Monday, November 2nd 2026 Benton CWMA General Meeting Notes

Attendees

Albany Parks & Recreation: Jay Sharpe*
Benton County Public Works: Shea Steingass
Benton SWCD: Cierra Dawson (Coordinator), Michael Ahr*, Tatum VanHawkins
Benton SWCD Collaborator: Vanessa Youngblood
Corvallis Parks & Recreation: Jenna Leichner
Greenbelt Land Trust: Emily Day
Institute for Applied Ecology: Rolando Beorchia, Cam Oster
OSU Extension Service: Crystal Kelso
Private landowner: Peter Kenagy*
Rehabitat Natives: Chris Cornwell
U.S. Forest Service: Matt Smith
Western Invasives Network: Courtney Gattuso*
**Benton CWMA Steering Committee Member*

Agenda

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Let's Pull Together 2026 recap/updates**

Cierra shared a photo collage slideshow of the 2026 LPT projects and the site hosts who were present recapped their day. We had roughly 25 volunteers across four sites this year, which were **Takena Landing** (Albany Parks & Recreation) **Witham Hill Natural Area** (Marys River WC + Corvallis P&R), **Harkens Lake** (Greenbelt Land Trust), and **Marys Peak** (Institute for Applied Ecology + Forest Service Siuslaw Office).

Cierra is encouraging anyone in the CWMA who has a potential project site/idea to come chat with her about being a site host for a future LPT. *Project/site variety keeps people coming back!*

LPT 2027 will be on **Saturday, May 15th, 2027.** It typically runs 9 AM – 12 PM. All details are to be announced when registrations start in late April.

3. **Creating a vegetation management contact flowchart**
4. **County priority weeds list updates**

Agenda items 3 & 4 were combined in discussion. After the spring general meeting in March, Cierra sent out a google sheet where CWMA members could add to a list of priority weeds. The intention behind this google sheet is twofold:

1) To have a public compilation of priority weeds for Benton County as the CWMA, and
2) Develop a rough directory of organizations that have dedicated funding/technical assistance available for priority weeds.
    a. For example, many people in the community have come to know to contact Benton SWCD for oblong spurge sightings because of existing grant funding

to remove that weed. Likewise, many people look to the watershed councils for knotweed technical assistance.

We discussed the list and added a few more suggestions. This sheet is still a work in progress and open to editing by Benton CWMA members. Feel free to add to it if you/your organization has a weed of concern and/or have dedicated grant funding or technical knowledge of a weed on the list.

- Benton County CWMA Priority Weeds List -

5. **Summer 2026 EAB/MOB movements update**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) updates

We spent some time exploring the Oregon EAB Dashboard, which is the central hub of information for all things Emerald Ash Borer in Oregon. We visited the latest news bulletin and the Oregon EAB map. Importantly to the CWMA, the northeast corner of Benton County is now considered close enough to the nearest EAB population in south Salem that proactive measures are now warranted.

Crystal voiced a need for coordinating which organizations outside of the forest service are placing traps on their properties/project sites. Cierra encourages any CWMA members who have placed traps/are actively monitoring traps for EAB on their property to email her details.

Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) updates

As of a May 2026 bulletin from the Oregon Department of Forestry, MOB is now confirmed to be in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Marion, Yamhill, and Polk counties. There is a similar MOB trapping map available for viewing online.

6. **New A-listed aquatic noxious weed detection in Jackson County**

We discussed the need-to-know information about Hydrilla/Water thyme *(Hydrilla verticillata)* being discovered on a private property in Jackson County. See the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)'s bulletin about the discovery, the noxious weed profile, and this YouTube video by naturalistoutreach for more information on this species.

7. **Interagency Noxious Weed (INW) Symposium reminder**

Cierra shared a reminder that the 2026 INW Symposium is coming up! INW runs from December 8th-10th in LaSells Stewart Center on Oregon State University's campus. Additionally, there will be a Native Plant Conservation Symposium happening concurrently on December 10th also in LaSells Stewart Center.

8. **Partner updates**

Benton County Public Works

- Shea coordinates the Agriculture & Wildlife Protection Program (AWPP), which is a grant that provides up to $5,000 to farmers to protect livestock, crops and property

without killing wildlife. The application window for AWPP is **currently open until November 30th**. See the application page for more details.

Benton SWCD Collaborator

- Vanessa recapped the first season of a new Sessile-fruited arrowhead *(Sagittaria rigida)* project. This project is funded by the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) through their Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund (SLEF). Alongside Vanessa, Benton SWCD and Portland State University are collaborators. This project seeks to collect relevant data about the ecology of this species, which is on ODA's watch list, and could be a competitor of Oregon's native aquatic Wapato *(Sagittaria cuneata & S. latifolia)*.

Corvallis Parks & Recreation

- Corvallis P&R is building a new maintenance building at the Avery compound in Avery Park. The current maintenance facility will be tore down, and the oak/maple woodland behind the Avery office will be expanded.

Greenbelt Land Trust

- Habitat Biologist Andy Neill received Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funding for proactive Oregon ash tree thinning and removal at Bald Hill and Courtney Creek. Andy is the contact for any questions related to this project.

🗓️ Upcoming CWMA events

1. **Let's Pull Together 2027**
    a. Saturday, May 15th, 2027 9 AM – 12 PM (time may vary by site)
    b. Various locations TBA.
    c. Registration will be hosted via Benton SWCD website. Registration link to follow.

If you have an event you would like to be shared with the larger CWMA group, please feel free to share it by emailing it to benton-cwma@googlegroups.com. Note that your message will be received by the entire listserv.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 8th 10 AM – 12 PM. Location TBA.