

# WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM COOPERATIVE STAKEHOLDER PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, May 6, 2014  
10:00-12:00 pm  
Benton SWCD Office  
456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110  
Corvallis, OR 97333

## Agenda with Notes

\*Notes are in brown text, agenda and group questions are in black

In Attendance: Jeff Baker, Bud Baumgartner, Patricia Benner, Meghan Chuites, Holly Crosson, Crystal Durbecq, Lana Kenagy, Peter Kenagy, John Keogh, Debra Paul, Kendra Smith (conference phone), Kelly Warren, and Scott Youngblood

10:00 – 10:20am **Updates**

OSWB Ludwigia grant – Aquatic Weed workshops – OCEAN Connect Conference

- Progress on Ludwigia grant
- Aquatic weed workshop w/ contractors and land managers in Salem – April 24
  - **Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network – Started by Vern Holm with Oregon Invasive Species Council, email Vern at [weeds@cascadepacific.org](mailto:weeds@cascadepacific.org) if interested in joining the listserv.**
- Presentation on Ludwigia and aquatic weeds at Connect – Holly and Crystal
- Upcoming aquatic weed workshops sponsored by BSWCD, Willamette Riverkeeper and Oregon State Parks and Recreation:
  - Wed., June 18, 6:00-8:00 – landowner focus
  - Sat. June 28, 9:00-3:00 – recreationist and volunteer focus

10:20 – 10:40am **Potential sites for 2014 OWEB-Willamette Special Investment Partnership grant proposal**

Look at specific sites on weed maps

- OWEB – Focused Investment Program (FIP)
  - Ultimately supposed to bridge WSIP and FIP together
  - Just had first steering committee meeting and are hired a group to facilitate the planning process
- Considering Truax Island for a re-veg and culvert replacement restoration project. Would work with Stahlbush Farms and OPRD.
- Need to have a more programmatic approach, instead of treating sites piecemeal without a plan.
  - Need to have an EDRR strategy within this program;
  - Plenty of groups are hunting and picking sites, need to have a set strategy with partners working on a broader-scale
    - We need a basin-wide plan for dealing with invasive *Ludwigia*
    - Holly – It would take a minimum of 3-years to treat the *Ludwigia* in our reach
    - Kendra – on a WSIP application, be honest about the time-scale, even if it seems long
- Meyer Memorial Trust and Bonneville Power Administration contribute matching funds for OWEB-WSIP projects

- For OWEB grants it is really important to have letters of support and have a clear plan for your project from beginning to end.
- Should consider getting seed money for a 5-year program, w/ a public education component. OWEB and MMT could start this.
  - Need to find non-traditional funding sources such as private companies and landowners to fund the program.
  - Need to treat aerial ivy on the Willamette River and in Benton County
    - Benton County CWMA is working on a summer ivy removal project and possibly an outreach campaign, so we can tie into those efforts
- Should talk with City of Portland, Clean Water and Metro about their programs around weeds such as ivy and garlic mustard. Can get per acre cost figures for implementation.
  - For WSIP it is important to articulate a systematic approach to maintain and improve riparian forest health;
  - It is key is to avoid further degradation of "high quality" habitats; ignoring weeds is not an answer, they will continue to spread and make patches of good habitat and native veg. less productive.
  - Need to protect investments being made now, further down the road
  - Ivy is killing the pockets of remnant cottonwoods and other riparian trees. These areas were not considered high quality due to high weed infestation, but they are still important to river function. An example is the ivy off of Hwy 20 in Albany near Takena Landing.
  - Ivy creates a good public education opportunity
  - Saw signs in Georgia that stated "Ivy kills trees", maybe we could do something like this in Benton County?
  - Can showcase sights like the ivy on Hwy 20, since it is very visible site.

10:40 – 11:25am

### Break-out group discussion questions

Priority Categories:

1. **EDRR Species** – knotweed, Scotch broom, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, butterfly bush, Italian thistle, pampas grass and yellow-flag iris
2. **Priority Species** – *Ludwigia*, false brome, ivy (especially tree or aerial), and old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)
3. **Priority Habitats** – Native/High Quality habitats mapped during assessment

**Question 1** - What do we want to accomplish for each of the categories above over the next 5 years? What are some goals and objectives we may want to consider?

EDRR strategy – Eliminate all EDRR found and treat priority species as part of a 5-year program. We need to combine our strategies for both and work with landowners to control the weeds.

Should consider that treating all false brome is unrealistic at this time, it is too far spread; make it a goal to keep it out of high-quality habitats

BSWCD should utilize all possible opportunities for outreach to landowners. Partnering with other groups is key for the success of this program.

We should take a comprehensive approach, there is a need for a plan that outlines the scope of the problems identified from the assessment. Each category needs to be considered in the plan, and broken down into manageable units.

Need for a conceptual 5-yr plan

Do we have an outline for a programmatic plan for management of aquatic invasive species (AIS)? We need to draw from existing resources to address reach-wide AIS issues. Should include a strategy for at least 3 different scenarios, (e.g., no action, manual/mechanical only, herbicide and manual/mechanical control). AIS would be a separate issue from riparian species, and would require different strategies. Consider habitats like cold water refugia, and backwater and in-water habitats. Employ strategies for issues already identified.

Crystal will look into finding an existing AIS management plan, similar to what we want to develop.

List of partners who can be involved with this effort includes, Benton County CWMA, Cities of Corvallis and Albany, Benton and Linn Counties, OR State Parks, ODA, ODF, ODFW, DSL, ODOT, Women League of Voters, USGS, USFWS, Army Corp of Engineers, Willamette Riverkeeper, other non-profits, etc.

Need to consider non-traditional funding sources (private and industry) and get "seed" money from grants

Should have a goal for the eradication of known EDRR populations, such as 2-3 yrs. Thinks that spotted knapweed and Italian thistle may be beyond EDRR on the Willamette.

#### Group Comments

3-5 yr plan for connecting good habitats or expanding where possible; for these areas all weeds should be addressed including reed canarygrass and blackberry.

In addition to an EDRR strategy, monitoring and prevention must be included with a programmatic approach.

Need for an AIS outreach campaign, separate from terrestrial plants.

Need for an ivy campaign, e.g., "ivy kills trees", No Ivy League in Portland – the Benton CWMA is a good mechanism for this

Where the river is the vector, control efforts must be systematic and coordinated

- Can work with a river weed outreach campaign and expand to a broader outreach effort

**Question 2** - What are the steps for accomplishing our goals for each of the categories? List funding opportunities, who will be involved with each strategy (partners), and target audiences.

Form a strategic plan for each priority category

Encourage partners to help with planning and implementation efforts. It would be good if partners could contribute time, funds or both to support these efforts.

Need to develop a plan outline to determine where we could use help with this program

Warm Springs Tribe can possibly assist in grant writing or labor, or provide letters of support or technical support for a grant. WST has 320 summer employees who do on-the-ground restoration work. May be able to hire a crew (~15 people) to do work in the Willamette Valley or on the river.

Peter can contribute \$1,000/yr for 5 yrs in weed control work on the Willamette

River Spirit Journeys can contribute \$1,000/yr for 3 yrs

Is the Linn SWCD board interested in being involved with these efforts? They need to know the details before committing resources.

Crystal and Holly just presented project updates to Linn SWCD board at April, 2014 board meeting

Should utilize partnership with Stahlbush Island Farms, and try to work with a local brewery like Sky High for event fundraising support.

Squirrels and 2-Town Cider house often contribute to local charitable events.

Possible funding sources - Jubitz Family Foundation, Freshwater Trust, Duck's Unlimited, Trout's Unlimited, NRCS (EQUIP & CREP)

Consider data management needs, Confluence could work for this. Should be addressed in the near future to ensure standardization of info.

- Talk to Jerry with OACD to get Confluence for SWCD's.

## 11:25 – 12:00pm **Discussion of break-out question responses & Next Steps**

### Focus points and strategies from the group

- Elimination of EDRR species, except Italian thistle and spotted knapweed.
- Control of priority species, though false brome may be too far gone.
- Removal of tree ivy, and removal of ground ivy in priority areas
  - Use hwy 20 to showcase work on ivy
- Keeping weeds out of priority habitats, and removing them if they are already there
- Begin with a focus on one species, and expand to management and treatment of the rest
- Land owner cooperation is key, begin working with the willing landowners
  - Work with SWCD's to identify landowners who are interested in projects
- Organize and compile ideas and concepts into a 5-yr plan
- Break up the project area into manageable units for implementation
- When treating an area for one species, do concurrent treatments on other species where possible
- Be creative when seeking funding, look to the community
- Monitoring component to program, look for new populations and monitor existing
- IPM methods for weed control
- Prevent further degradation of habitats and spread of weeds into high quality habitats

### Next Steps for Group

1. Research management plans that address similar issues - Everyone
2. Formulate a set of tasks for stakeholder group members based on plan outline – WMC Coordinator
3. Create an outline for a 5-yr plan – Coordinator with help from individuals
4. Develop pre-proposal for OWEB-WSIP grant, due July 14, 2014 – Coordinator with feedback from group
5. Research other funding sources - Everyone