HWMA
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 4, 2016
BLM Large Conference Room
1:00 – 2:30 PM

Minutes

I. Steering Committee Membership Update (1:00)

Introductions (meeting participants): Jennifer Wheeler, BLM; Stassia Samuels, Redwood NP; Kaleb Goff, BLM/CBG; Stephanie Klein, CNPS; Elaine Weinreb, Trinidad No Ivy League; Elijah Portugal, NRS-RCAA; Domenic Bongio, CAlTRANS; Bryan Atkinson, Humb Co. Ag.; Bruce Bryan, Humb Co. Ag.; John Summers, MRC; Craig Benson, NRS-RCAA (facilitator); Ben Morehead, Trinidad Coastal Land Trust; Judy Haggard, Mckynleville Land Trust; Dana Morawitz CALIPC (joined by phone).

Jennifer Wheeler: background on the formation of the HWMA, discussion with everyone around other organizations that should be invited to participate (PG&E, local timber companies, all local tribes) Bruce Bryan previously invited the listed entities to join, update the bylaws and internal structure of the WMA, history of the formation of the M.O.U., explanation of a new supplemental page to the MOU to be signed by original signatories to MOU, doesn't change the MOU just an affirmation to continue the original agreement until August 11, 2019, MOU does not exclude any entity that is not on the signatory page, no line item funding for the WMA currently but still value in the WMA for fundraising, planning and coordination of weed removal efforts, recap of public outreach efforts discussion around reprinting the weed booklet(s) prior to the Humboldt County Fair, Craig proposes he become more active in the leadership of the WMA because of RCAA's acquisition of the WCB grant for the Regional Invasive Plant Grant Status,

Possible new signatories to the MOU: Trinidad NO IVY, City of Trinidad, City of Fortuna, Trinidad Rancheria (all local tribes and Rancherias), PG&E, local timber companies

Action Items: update the email list, need everyone that is an original signatory of the MOU to sign a new supplemental page created by Jennifer Wheeler, J Wheeler will send an electronic version via email along with a history/background of the WMA, identify who should be on the steering committee, Stephanie Klein will contact PG&E and ask for their participation in the WMA, send the signatories that are not present the meeting minutes, reprint the weed booklets, consider elections to the steering committee, create a new letter inviting org's to join the WMA

II. Round Robin (informal member reports) (1:15)

Updates from all org's present:
Stephanie Klein (CNPS) – nursery survey related to not selling invasive plants in local nurseries, working with NO IVY League on ivy removal efforts; prioritize/coordinate with other groups on ivy removal.

Elaine Weinreb (NO IVY League) – Patricks Point and Trinidad State Beach ivy is a big problem mostly invading the Sitka Spruce, focus removal efforts along trails, mentioned a public outreach tool called nextdoor.com

Ben Morehead (Trinidad Land Trust) – concerned about ivy and other invasives, ongoing efforts working with other orgs to remove ivy, pampas grass, scotch broom, focusing efforts along roads, wants to prioritize ivy removal along HWY 101 corridor around Trinidad, wants to work with CALTRANS and Humb Co. Ag. on this, county wide collaboration, wants more of the weed management booklets, will update WMA when upcoming events are happening

Dominic Bongio (CALTRANS) – mostly been working in Mendocino and Del Norte Counties, in Humboldt scotch broom removal in the lagoons area (Big to Freshwater), manual removal also applied to remove shiny geranium and knotweed, discussion about an insect to control scotch broom

Bruce Bryan (Humb. Co. Ag.) – Wants to move tansy beetles into Humb. Working on knapweed removal around Mad River hatchery (?), some scotch broom removal along road to Petrolia, Bruce is going to retire at end of year and is training his replacement Bryan Atkinson (present at meeting), plans to work with local high schools post-retirement to organize invasive removal efforts

John Summers (MRC) – update on scotch broom removal (seems to be declining on its own in some areas in the Mattole), Tansy is spreading, MRC is removing Tansy on private property, discussion around a flea beetle to control tansy, promoting fee for services activities, in the process of creating a Mattole area strategic planning document to prioritize weed removal (this will be modeled after a similar document created by the Salmon River Watershed Council, wants to start a " adopt a site" program, wants to coordinate with the county on its mowing efforts

Craig Benson (NRS-RCAA) – 2 large scale regional efforts under way 1) Spartina removal in Humboldt bay which falls under a programmatic EIR, experimenting with different manual techniques for removal, 600 acres still to remove in Humb Bay, working with many local orgs on removal primarily in existing restoration areas, updated group on all the units that have been treated and have yet to be treated, 4 grants out to continue this effort, update on a USACE grant that was awarded then the money was never distributed. 2) WCB Regional Invasives Plant Grant, updates on the public outreach and landowner agreements, overview of the coordination with other treatment organizations, tabled most of this for the following meeting of the Knotweed working group, additional updates on other invasive removal efforts; working with USFS on lower Trinity/Mad River to treat star thistle, knotweed, others, working with PG&E on small scale spartina removal around power plant. Discussion about a recently identified (in Humb. Co.) knotweed hybrid called Bohemian knotweed

Judy Haggard (Mckinleville Land Trust) – updates on ivy removal and other invasives, started committees for different properties, wants to see a 'adopt a site' program – discussion around a 'adopt a polygon' program in reference to a map of ivy stands within the Trinidad area, wants to see a reprint of the weed manual, recommends working with community services districts

Jennifer Wheeler (BLM) – updates on the mapping and invasive removal in Headwaters Forest Reserve, many updates of county wide successes at removing invasives in a variety of places with a host of partners, Ocean Day discussed where schools come out to do invasive removals on beaches June 6th, Invasive plant week June 11-12th(?), suggested the HWMA create and maintain a Facebook page similar to Cal-IPC Facebook page, BLM treated fennel and Pride of madeira (*Echium* sp.) at Black Sands beach trailhead.

Stassia Samuels (Redwood National Parks) – removed 20 acres of harding grass with the average cover down to ~ 4%, treating using strategic herbicide application focusing on trails and removal of fennel, treated 2 knotweed patches in park then vinka (sp?) replaced the knotweed, 3rd year of getting an EA established and once in place this allows for additional treatment options

Action Items: Jennifer Wheeler will head efforts to reprint the WMA weed manuals and will solicit funds from participating org's, create an ivy working group to prioritize blocks of area that can be effectively removed/controlled that fit into org's management priority areas

III. HWMA 2016 Goals (2:00)

This portion of the agenda was effectively tabled until next meeting in the interests of time but the following list was generated:

Host elections to the steering committee, invitations to join the WMA, public outreach around WMA efforts (fair, flyers, radio, press releases, etc.), reprint the weed manual, letter to CALTRANS about ivy removal, for an ivy working group, request that local nurseries not carry invasives

IV. HWMA Meetings and Next meeting (2:20)

Discussion around the frequency to host meetings, general agreement to meet more frequently over the next few months with the goal of reviving the WMA then possibly meet quarterly, next meeting in ~mid-July before the Humb. Co. Fair and have weed manual reprinted prior to this meeting, discussion about coordinating the meeting with other counties WMAs (Del Norte) so as to not double book WMA meetings

Action Item: Craig will send a doodle poll to schedule next meeting for some time in mid-July, Elijah will send minutes to group that was present at this meeting and others (Jennifer?) will send the minutes to other org's that were not present at this meeting.