



HWMA
Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2019
USFWS Conference Room
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome: Susannah Ferson Manning, Co-Chair

Introductions (meeting participants): Susannah Manning (RCAA), Michelle Forys (CA SP), Andrea Pickart (USFWS), John Summers (MRC), Bryan Atkinson (Humboldt Co. Ag.), Laura Julian (NPS), Jennifer Wheeler (BLM), Crystal Welch (BLM), Marisa Formosa (RCAA), Jenny Hutchinson (USFWS), Stassia Samuels (NPS)

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the last meeting were not distributed prior to today's meeting. Minutes will be emailed to participants for approval.

II. Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) discussion

HWMA members discussed *Geranium lucidum* as an ongoing and increasing problem. At least 14 sites exist, most of which are on Caltran's property and county right of way. Laura brought in samples to assist with educating members on ID of this species. Laura explained that *G. lucidum* can set seed up to five times a year. Sites are expanding and once-annual treatments have been ineffective at control. Hand pulling has not been effective even in small areas. Susannah brought up concerns about the population on Yurok land having become out of control. An increase in treatments is necessary. Susannah also brought up the need to increase understanding within agencies and to coordinate with Caltrans and others to reduce the likelihood of vehicle assisted spread.

III. How to use \$60 we won at the fair?

Discussed simply depositing or using it as a conference fund.

IV. Update on the fabulous 3rd edition of Invasive Weeds of Humboldt County brochure

The new brochure has been uploaded to the Cal-IPC HWMA page, but the link is still directing to the 2nd edition. Once this is corrected a sticker file will be distributed to the group for printing. Stickers are to be placed on existing old editions of the brochure and will direct readers to visit the HWMA webpage for the latest version.

V. Revisiting NW Regional Plan

Some HWMA members attend DNWMA meetings and think we should consider revisiting the Northwest Regional Plan and have suggested holding a joint meeting. It was brought up that in the past WMA's had a budget of \$16k each, making it fiscally preferable to continue having two WMAs in the region with the possibility of each receiving funding. DNWMA is currently updating their MOU and by-laws. Many of their signatories do not attend meetings. Michelle will reach out to DNWMA to schedule a separate meeting to discuss these issues or HWMA may join DNWMA's regular meeting in Orick.

VI. Round Robin

- **Michele Forys:** Treating beach grass now that plovers are done nesting. Purple loosestrife sites are not decreasing but are holding. Knotweed treatment will begin soon. 90 kids from Pacific Union Elementary School participated in ivy removal at Trinidad State Beach. The school is interested in participating again.
- **Crystal Welch:** Surveying areas of the King Range for thistle and blackberry and mapping locations using V-map weed mapping program.
- **Jennifer Wheeler:** 41 plovers fledged on the South Spit from the restoration and recovery area. Raven populations are not high in the area. Carry Byrne at HSU is putting together a grant proposal for a study of velvet grass and fire response. CCC in Trinidad head is finishing pampas grass removal. Samara restoration nursery will be delivering plants that CCC will plant. A new agreement was made with FOD who will maintain Ma-le'l Dunes and map and remove weeds with volunteers. Beach grass pulling at the South Spit. Treated ivy and vinca at Headwaters Preserve. Removing broom on Red Mountain rd.
- **John Summers:** Two trips made to Randall Creek to treat pampas, climbing crew needed. Maltese Star-thistle was found in the King Range. Knotweed treatments are occurring. Three new sites have been located and treated. The budget for the WCB grant is exhausted. Finding a way to continue treating knotweed sites is a priority.
- **Stassia Samuels & Laura Julian:** Positive results from harding grass treatments. Down to under 3% of mapped polygons. Oxeye daisy and blackberry treatments in the Bald Hills are on-going. Reductions are noticeable. Will continue to target shiny geranium for removal in spring. New Dalmatian Toad Flax and Rosy Sand Crocus sites were found.
- **Bryan Atkinson:** Knotweed site treatments are on-going along county roadways and at the McKinleyville airport.
- **Jenny Hutchinson:** Biocontrol is being used on tansy ragwort with positive results. Advice is needed regarding treatment of Kneeland Prairie

Star-thistle on Mountain View rd. Locations are on both HRC and private land. HRC wants to treat.

VII. Open

- **PlayCleanGo & WorkCleanGo**

Michelle presented information from Dana Morawitz of Cal-IPC about this national campaign. The campaign goal is to change public and worker behavior in order to slow or stop the spread of invasive species and to do so through the creation of a single cohesive brand image to be used nationally.

Several members felt this was a good concept, but similar things are already in place and introducing new signage would be difficult. Some do not feel a cohesive campaign would be as effective as unique signage. It was suggested that it could be beneficial for park to park travelers. There seemed to be a consensus that hikers are less of an issue than workers.

- **Email List**

Crystal has updated the signatory list and will get it to Susannah and Michelle. Humboldt Ag and RCAA will maintain the list.

- **Pampas Grass in floral arrangements**

Sun Valley Floral Farms reached out to County Ag concerning the ability to sell pampas grass in floral arrangements. There was discussion about drafting a letter from HWMA to Sun Valley as was done in the past to Costco.

- **Tree of Heaven (TOH) Mapping**

Discussed creating a TOH working group like what was done with Knotweeds and mapping TOH locations using Cal Flora with the eventual goal being eradication within the County. It was suggested that a mapping request for TOH be sent to the entire HWMA group.

- **Future Spartina Removal**

Spartina removal on Indian Island is being looked at as a mitigation project for 101 safety corridor work. There is hope for the removal of Spartina in other areas through large mitigation projects.

- **WCB project update**

10-year long term of access agreement has led to some difficulty in getting agreements signed. Del Norte's agreements were for a single day. WCB is open to talking about access agreements. Grant has been extended for 1 year.

VIII. Closing announcements

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 13th, 2020
from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Arcata BLM Field Office