



**HWMA**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 16, 2018  
USFWS Conference Room  
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

**I. Welcome: Bryan Atkinson and Amy Eberwein, Co-Chairs**

**Introductions** (meeting participants): Bryan Atkinson, Humb Co. Ag; Amy Eberwein, NRS-RCAA; Jennifer Wheeler, BLM; Michelle Forys, State Parks; Mark Allee, CCC; Sean Rowe, HCRCD; Craig Benson, NRS-RCAA; Jenny Hutchinson, USFWS.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the last meeting on January 16, 2018 were approved pending one correction to Bryan Atkinson's Round Robin notes.

**II. Crocosmia at Local Costco:** Crocosmia spp. are an early detection plant in the parks and are known to be incredibly difficult to eradicate, especially in the coastal zone. They are currently being sold at the local Costco. Discussion regarding need for a join letter from the WMA, County, Parks, etc. asking them not to sell this species. Bryan Atkinson agreed to represent the HWMA and send a letter to them. Amy Eberwein offered to work with Bryan to create this letter and another basic letter template for other plants/stores for future occurrences such as this.

**III. Local Coastal Plan Update:** Updated review of coastal portion of Humboldt County General Plan update moved to Local Coastal Plan Update process. The Local Coastal Plan Update would address the proposed adoption of a change to the Humboldt County General Plan Section BR-S13- Principally Permitted Accessory Use for weed removal as a principally permitted use. Craig is very concerned about how adoption of this language would impact the Spartina control project on Humboldt Bay, as well as many other weed control projects in the coastal zone. The Local Coastal Plan revision may or may not have new CEQA analysis completed; Coastal Commission consistency review of LCP update put forward by County may meet an equivalent review requirement. It was discussed that the Beach and Dunes Plan under the Humboldt County General Plan remains the most current CEQA document for which the County bases its coastal decisions. A new CEQA document could incorporate current available science regarding coastal dune processes and sea level rise concerns. Next steps include tracking the development of the Local Coastal Plan update, and providing invasive weed project education in the coastal zone to Supervisor(s) with informal meetings.

**IV. Round Robin (informal member reports)**

- **Michelle Forys:** CCC's staff have been working from Ossagon to Fern Canyon. Keeping beach grass maintained. Lots of regular weeds work.
- **Jennifer Wheeler:** SCIPP (Shelter Cove Invasive Plant Project) pampas removal project planned for Earth Day in the Resource Improvement District golf course area and broader Shelter Cove community. BLM is hauling away the pampas.

Headwaters weed removal along Elk River trail underway and Trinidad Head pampas grass removal planned. Note that Humboldt Sanitation will not accept pampas grass as green waste, treats it as garbage.

- **Craig Benson:** Susannah Manning- new staff at RCAA has taken over weeds projects. Craig will be focusing on riverine restoration projects primarily. Prop 1 CDFW *Spartina* project purchased a Marsh Master for RCAA. This machine can cover 1 ½ acres per day (when monoculture) versus 1/20<sup>th</sup> of an acre by person. 450 acres of *Spartina* have been treated bay-wide to date.
- **Bryan Atkinson:** Been very busy with cannabis programs mostly. Humboldt Hill Gorse search. Spoke with Andrea Pickart who recently found *Ammophila breviligulata* in King Salmon (1<sup>st</sup> sighting in the county).
- **Amy Eberwein:** Lots of new *Arundo* sites in King Salmon. Finally received permission from new landowners to treat the Rio Dell Japanese knotweed site.
- **Jenny Hutchinson:** Laurel is still working on pulling *Coinzia* in Manila.
- **Mark Allee:** CCC's have been working on invasive removals at multiple sites. Mostly working with Domenic Bongio with Caltrans.
- **Sean Rowe:** New infestation of yellow flag iris in Francis creek in Ferndale after new construction. Working on a game plan for reed canary grass issues.

### III. Next HWMA meeting

Next meeting set for Monday, July 9, 2018 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Arcata BLM field office.