



## 4-County CWMA Steering Committee Meeting

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March 8th, 2017, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Clackamas County, Abernethy Grange, 15745 Harley Ave. Oregon City, OR 97045

### Attendees

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Aaron Shaw, Tualatin SWCD

Chelsea White-Brainard, EMSWCD

Elaine Stewart, Metro

Jeff Lesh, Clackamas SWCD

Kara Hauge, Clark County Veg. Mgmt

Michelle Delepine, WMSWCD

Mitch Bixby, City of Portland

Sam Leininger, Clackamas SWCD

Sarah Hamilton, Coordinator

### Welcome, Approve Agenda

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Elaine Stewart

Add to next Steering Committee meeting agenda:

- Grow Safe, Grow Smart
- Tualatin SWCD nascent invasive species program

Add technical committee meeting in April

Add to the Technical Committee Agenda:

- Weed Free Gravel

**Decision:** Agenda approved

### CWMA Letters of Support and Advocacy

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Elaine Stewart

#### Questions:

- When are they “positions”?
- When are they sharing facts?
- When are they advocacy?
- How do we tease out whether to write them and whether they need broader approval beyond the steering committee?

#### Discussion:

- There are a variety of organizations belonging to the CWMA, each with their own rules and instructions regarding advocacy.
- There are political issues that have impacts on the organization, however, public organizations are unable to expend public resources to support political statements.
- According to internal guidance at the Clackamas SWCD, employees may offer testimony which is fact based but doesn't advocate for a particular position.
- Sarah is a public employee, and therefore must follow these guidelines.
- Suggestions:
- How do we decide if we should submit a letter?
  - If we have the expertise to speak to.
  - If it impacts our mission directly.
  - If we can reasonably assume a level of concurrence within the CWMA.
- How do we reasonably represent member organizations?
  - There was a suggestion to have members look at the testimony letter and make any edits prior to sending advocacy letters. This would be timely and potentially conflictual. It could prevent us from being able to respond in a reasonable way to issues.

#### Decision:

- The CWMA will produce a guideline document to keep with steering committee materials, which will lay out answers to the above questions.
- The group agrees to defer to the chair. The chair will seek the input of the steering committee prior to sending letters. This will allow for timely and relevant letters.
- Sarah will prepare a document for the group, in a timely manner (by the end of the summer). She will use the state document as reference. Committee members will provide edits.
- The letter sent by the CWMA in support of ODA will be reviewed and sent to the Ways & Means Committee. Sam will provide edits and send it to Elaine.

#### Weed Free Gravel

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- Clark County already certifies gravel. They have only certified 3 pits, so it has not been a huge drain.
- There may not be a lot of gravel pits in our district, not all of them will want to be certified, so this may not be a large work load.
- It would be good to have just 1-2 entities doing the certification.
- There is a high demand coming from MHNF. They need certified weed free gravel, straw, etc. for every project.

- Dave Lebo suggests quarantining gravel pits that are not weed free, not certifying weed-free gravel. But that is unlikely to happen soon.
- Weed Free Straw and Hay is certified through the commodities division at ODA, so the gravel certifications should also be included under commodities.
- Is there an organization or CWMA members that have bandwidth and knowledge to implement this? And what are the requirements?
- There is a need and a market. The SWCD boards may struggle with this, seeing it as regulatory.
- Suggestion to send an email to the larger group asking for a skilled botanist and person with bandwidth. There is also a suggestion to hire a contractor to do the work. SWCDs could help offset the cost. Or there could be a cost to getting certified.
- Suggestion to circle back to ODA about including this in the commodities division, with Weed Free Hay and Straw. **Michelle will do this.**
- Whoever does the certification will need consistency, training, and plant knowledge.

#### Decision:

- The Technical & Scientific Review Committee will review the program and suggest an approach.

#### Pull-Together Wrap Up

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- 121 registrants, our biggest ever.
- We received good feedback via the survey.
- We came out approximately \$80 ahead.
- We will start planning the next one soon. Expect a planning invitation for a meeting in May.
- One potential issue: we could have lost ~\$5,000 if the zoo had not cancelled the event, but the speakers could not make it. It would be good to have more of a buffer in the future in case of a similar situation.

#### Other

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- **Add Kara to Education & Outreach Committee**
- **Add Justin to Mapping & Data**

#### Next Steering Committee Meeting

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August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Multnomah County