

## Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
Benton SWCD Office  
456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110  
Corvallis, OR 97333

### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Jean-Paul Zagarola (BEF), Kelly Warren (Ducks Unlimited), Peter Kenagy (Oregon Farm Bureau, local farmer, and Willamette River landowner), Scott Youngblood (OPRD), Laura Brown (Benton SWCD), Jeff Baker (Greenbelt Land Trust), Emily Day (City of Albany), Aubrey Cloud (Willamette Restoration Volunteers), Matt Mellenthin (Integrated Resource Management, Calapooia Watershed Council Board Member, Willamette River landowner), Brad Withrow-Robinson (OSU Extension)

Laura Brown provided a short overview of the WMC and its history for new attendees, reminded attendees of their current roles and associated responsibilities, and reminded folks of the current mission statement. We also reviewed our “partners” slide to determine if there were any missing logos. **If logos are missing, please email Laura ([lbrown@bentonswcd.org](mailto:lbrown@bentonswcd.org))**

### WMC Action Plan Planning

**Funding:** We went through the “Funding Sources” section to brainstorm any new funding opportunities.

In search for long-term maintenance and control, Peter suggested that at some point the cities and counties need to step in for maintenance. Scott mentioned the potential for “Salmon Plate” license plate funds for some internal OPRD projects. These funds are available up to \$10,000 for internal projects and the total funding amount varies each year.

**Program Overview and Goals:** We went over the development of the goals and management recommendations. The original recommendations reflect the habitat assessments done by Carex Working Group as well as the direction and views of the steering committee. We then proceeded to go through each of the goals and strategic actions. Main points will be summarized below:

**Goal 1: Habitat Assessment and Restoration:** There was discussion about the title of this goal and the definition of “restoration”. Should we use habitat stabilization or enhancement. Our priorities are to hang on to quality habitats we already have and maintain those habitats versus active “restoration” like tree planting. Ivy control is more like stabilization. This group seems to be more weed control focused, but that doesn’t mean that we have to be. There’s room for collaboration for restoration, but so far it seems like we have not gone that direction through

the WMC. Half Moon Bend was restoration, but not necessarily collaborated on through this group.

We discussed the addition of plants to our watch list, and then to our priority list. We talked about yellow floating heart (which was previously added to our priority list) and Traveller's Joy (which is on the priority list and JP mentioned that it's swallowing 100 year old Doug Firs on the Luckiamute – fortunately it doesn't move that fast). Peter mentioned Virginia Creeper at his place. Creeper is really noticeable in the fall when foliage turns red. Knotweed is a species we're seeing more of, but it's still at a "treatable" point on our reach of the river. It's at some parks in Albany, across from Peter's house, Tripp Island, and upstream of Corvallis. ~5 plant locations in the mainstem in our reach. Could be a good idea to "knock them out" through one big collaborative effort. We also brought up South American spongeweed, southeastern wapato and Italian arum. This again brought up the need for clear differentiation between what we're watching out for versus what we're managing.

We also discussed the potential of adding *Arundo donax* to the watch list. The species was found in Linn county already and has the potential to be used as biofuel. Additionally, Kelly mentioned that DU is working to control this species in the Sacramento Valley and that it kills everything around it. Projects are currently coming across ODA's desk for biofuel, and they're debating listing the species or not. This sparked a conversation on the role of this group. How do we keep plants (and projects) like the Arundo biofuel projects from coming into our reach in the first place? Can we advocate and write letters of concerns for certain issues from the "WMC"? States/Tribes/Federal partners need more structure for letters of concern. But how, as a group, can we harness our power and advocate for not letting these species here in the first place? Each of us also represent a smaller group – so we don't want to alienate any of our community. But it's something to think about as we move forward.

We're all interested to see the WAIN Ludwigia prioritization report. It will help us determine what sites within our reach to concentrate on regarding Ludwigia treatment. Scott found Ludwigia overwintering in Sidney Ditch in January. Matt and Eliane Stuart (Portland Metro) are doing chemical trials this summer for Ludwigia treatment. For all species we want to identify better habitat pieces – we can't keep these species out of everywhere but want to manage them in high quality habitats.

We discussed adding the Oxbow System at Simpson Park to our priority list in the future.

**Goal 2: Outreach and Partnership Building:** We discussed the potential for an ivy workshop with landowners again. The majority of Hwy 20 from Collins Bay to Takena Landing will be treated for aerial ivy again this summer. Peter reminded us that there is more ivy beyond the trail system at Takena that was missed in previous years. Birds spread ivy seed and spread it all along the river. We hope to have a "Hwy 20 Neighborhood Cook-out and Ivy Treatment" party this summer where we invite land-owners who worked with us to treat the aerial ivy to a cook-out, then have them work with us more to treat the ground ivy that covers that area. Could be

neat to invite the paper to cover it – grabbing attention .That attention could then be used for the larger ivy workshop with landowners. This could be hosted at Tadena Landing and work with landowners to show how to treat ivy with herbicides or without herbicides. Additionally, this would build awareness and give credit to the organizations that are working on this.

Additionally, it would be nice to have some highly visible sign along Hwy 20 about ivy control and the work that has been done. Visual outreach so people know the ivy didn't just disappear on its own. Laura will send Kelly some slides for a slideshow for the Ducks Unlimited banquet. Lots of Benton County landowners attend and can see what we've all been doing for ivy treatment.

**Goal 3: Monitoring and Evaluation:** This goal brought up a lot of conversation for how we're doing currently and what the future looks like. Are we looking back at the whole reach to survey plants? Can we look again (similar to the Carex Survey) to see what we've done? If not now, when should we? 5 years? 10 years? If we don't look, we don't know what's there. When this project was initiated, the hope was to go back in ~10 years and do surveys. How realistic is that with current funding? Paddle and Pulls do that to some extent, Scott's out there, we're all out there looking. Maybe we could sponsor reaches for surveys? So just map out where we are doing our surveys and report back, trying to cover the whole reach.

Whatever we choose to do, we just need to clarify that it is what we are doing. It seems like we do all want to see the hopeful progress we've made. If there hasn't been progress, then we need to change our approach.

As Diego Franco is treating ivy along Hwy 20, maybe one of his tasks could be to report on what he's seeing on the ground for species and potential restoration efforts. We should work to pull together what we do know. Aubrey has mapped knotweed already. Where are the current gaps?

We have the Fulcrum app for Willamette Riverkeeper Surveys – but those are aquatic species and don't include the riparian area.

We also will be surveying landowners in the coming year. Include ivy control workshop, what else can we do? Is this effort of value to you? Are there any services/advices/techniques they need information from? What are your property concerns? Send them a letter with a summary of what we've been doing, then a pre-stamped postcard with some survey questions on it. Look for this in the future from Laura. She will be seeking opinions on it.

**Goal 4: Expand financial and human resources:** This goal did not stoke much conversation.

**Hiring a Facilitator:** What's the value of a facilitator more than what we would get out of just meeting? A big pro of a facilitator would be to address the fall off of funding... help us to develop a strategy to continue the WMC and the work we're doing. Ultimately, how do we build the WMC into a long-term sustainable effort? Even though funding is disappearing, the

need for the WMC won't be disappearing. Make sure that our work with the facilitator is valuable. They are effective, but we should decide what we want from these meetings. For Laura, it would be nice to have someone else to work with regarding the issues that we need now. The suggested facilitator is Lisa DeBruyckere of Creative Resource Strategies, who crafted the 2015-2020 Action Plan for the WMC. She knows the group and what we do. We need to decide what we want from these meetings and what we want for the WMC.... This is a turning point and a time to reevaluate.

What do we want from WMC 2020-2025? Track a positive path forward in a sustainable fashion. Figure out funding etc. There's been a transition in membership, so lots of good reasons to hire a facilitator for the new action plan, but again make sure that the meetings reflect what we want and our desired outcomes.

Lisa suggested 2-3 days, our group would rather commit to 1, maybe 2, sessions.

**To help answer these questions, Laura will be sending around a WMC group survey. These questions are to help gauge what and where everyone is in this process and where they see the WMC. Keep an eye out for that survey. It might even come with the minutes for this meeting...**

### *Timeline:*

Action Plan Facilitated Meetings - Fall 2019

Action Plan Complete – Winter 2019/2020

### **OWEB Grant Application**

Laura is intending on applying for an OWEB Technical Assistance grant for using mechanical harvesting techniques on Ludwigia at Collins Bay. The group made very beneficial suggestions. For something that's new, there needs to be a strong scientific basis. Removing Ludwigia and then potentially dredging the bay could lead to increased cold water habitat or create off channel winter habitat. Collins Bay is a unique site that we could place a boom at the mouth of the bay to keep the fragments from escaping. We have these established off channel places where the processes of the whole river are not the same as they were historically (nor will they ever be the same). We have less frequent flushing and increased sedimentation in some of these areas. If we want the functions, we may have to maintain them. This process may possibly support more functions. It also has the potential to be messy and expensive. Other suggestions included keeping costs down by disposing of the plants near the site (sacrifice a few acres and spread it thinly out). Also could come up with a logging cable to pull a rake across the site. Then we wouldn't have to worry about trying to get an excavator in the bay. Work with the people who would likely be prohibiting it... fish and biological community.

## Partner Updates

Let's Pull Together Event – May 18, 2019

Peer to Peer Workshop – June 4, 2019 (Site visits to Bowers Rock and Wapato Cove)

Community Workshop – June 27, 2019

Paddle and Pull Events – July 18, 2019 & July 30, 2019

Kelly from DU is looking for project ready projects for a NAWCA application. DU is planning on going in on one large NAWCA grant. DU would be the facilitator of the grants. Projects of interest need to get to Kelly within the next month. They need to know match and acreage and DU will likely be applying for over \$1,000,000 for this grant. Email Kelly at [kwarren@ducks.org](mailto:kwarren@ducks.org)

JP would like to know if anyone knows of large untreated patches of knotweed (ideally over an acre). Please email JP at [jpzagarola@b-e-f.org](mailto:jpzagarola@b-e-f.org)