

Willamette Mainstem Cooperative – Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2019, 9am-1pm

Attendees: Laura Brown (Benton SWCD), Scott Youngblood (Oregon State Parks), America McMillin (City of Corvallis), Collin McCandless (Calapooia Watershed Council), Peter Kenagy (farmer), Brad Withrow-Robinson (OSU Extension), Cris Salazar (Calapooia Watershed Council), Joe Deardorff (Albany), John Kehoe (landowner), Kelly Warren (Ducks Unlimited), Emily Day (Albany Parks), Troy Abercrombie (WAIN), Lisa DeBruyckere (Creative Resource Strategies, LLC).

I. **Where we have been and where we are going** (*L. Brown*)

Laura reviewed the mission, activities, focus, and partners of the WMC. One of the key elements of the initiative is outreach; three events are funded annually (peer-to-peer workshops, community workshops, and paddle/weed pulls). In 2019, funding will be requested in 2020 for 3 events (2 paddle/weed pulls and one workshop). Efforts initiated here are expanding in locations up and downriver.

2019 Ludwigia Control Treatments – 15 acres this summer – more than 30 landowners, including public and private. ODA will not fund new Ludwigia sites until WAIN prioritization is complete. Backchannels from here to Keizer are choked with Ludwigia. Funding was received from Willamette FIP to study Ludwigia, research rate of change in growth/patterns using imagery, and assess rates of change to growing conditions and treatments. **Comment:** Increase hydrologic flow (remove culvert) – but it doesn't take much river rise to overtake culvert.

Yellow Floating Heart Control Treatments – No re-occurrence of YFH at Lower Kiger side channel or Tripp Island (in 2018 or 2019), but it was found again at Horseshoe Lake (treated in July and did not find again in August/Sept). A new population was found just downstream of Crystal Lake during the Great Willamette Cleanup. Willamette Riverkeeper is

developing an EDRR fund to address new populations (funded by State Weed Board). A study conducted with Portland State University shows that native species are increasing, e.g., wapato, waterfowl use is increasing, but there remains persistent invasive cover – it’s a maintenance-type situation. The question is – what to do with the remaining mats of Ludwigia? Received funding to do a study of mechanical removal of Ludwigia (Aquamog) – if economically feasible, this type of control could be implemented. As part of this process, a decision framework was incorporated (what’s the problem, and how does it change seasonally, diurnally, and spatially? What are the underlying reasons for the problem? And what are the consequences of the issue – e.g., increasing water temperature and sedimentation? What is the desired future condition? What are potential management strategies to address each problem, can one strategy address multiple problems and what is the long-term maintenance? Can the river do the work?). Wapato Cove treatments have been successful – no Ludwigia in some areas that were infested in 2019 – the flood may have contributed to these outcomes. Lower Kiger Alcove has less Ludwigia now than in 2016 (after treatment).

Ivy and Traveller’s Joy – Treated the entire stretch of the Benton County side of the river (30 acres and 4 miles of aerial and ground ivy). Hosted a Dead Ivy Potluck with landowners – followed by landowner informational packet distributions.

6th Annual Let’s Pull Together – Bowman Park and Bryant Park – more than 100 volunteers – pulled ivy, shiny geranium, and blackberry.

Table 1. (Green is Ludwigia – Blue is ivy)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Collins Bay	\$4,256	\$8,329	\$7,295	\$5,059
Wapato Cove	\$4,918	\$6,726	\$7,050	\$7,101

Horsheshoe Lake	\$475	\$0	\$636	\$785
Crystal Lake				\$773
Lower Kiger Alcove		\$477	\$630	

OWEB \$221,643 (remaining \$12,360)

MMT \$40,000 (remaining \$34,223)

MMT \$27,742 (all remaining)

Oregon State Weed Board \$32,990 (remaining \$9,401)

Discussion: Are there ways to leverage the content developed by Benton SWCD to reach member organization affiliates as well?

- II. The outcomes of the survey instrument that was presented to WMC partners prior to today's meeting was presented. These were distributed to WMC partners with the updated draft action plan and these meeting minutes on December 1, 2019.

- III. Criteria that should be used to prioritize projects in the WMC Action Plan update (weighted according to each individual situation). Members will document the criteria/reasoning used for investing in a project/site based on specific criteria.
 - Controlling invasive species that are in close proximity to high quality habitats
 - Species designated as priority invasive species, including EDRR
 - Monitoring that enhances early detection
 - Projects that engage local landowners in control efforts
 - Maximizing collaboration and mutual focused impact from the cooperative' s constituents

- Projects that have a high chance of succeeding and being sustained over medium to long term
- Supporting projects that align with core mission and values and enhance the ability of the collaborative to market and sustain itself and serve as a model based on collaboration and focus (should be reflected in philosophy/mission section as well).

IV. Next meeting of the WMC is December 9, 2019 at 9am at Benton SWCD.

Member updates:

- Benton SWCD
 - Willamette FIP – Assessing Ludwigia through time; looking at existing data and how it affects fish; water quality monitoring
- Oregon State Parks – new management position (Willamette River Greenway manager) – 2 seasonals next summer, and another position to help with river work
- Corvallis Parks and Recreation – Willamette Riverkeepers is doing a lot with the parks department, picking up garbage.
- Ducks Unlimited – NAWCA – 4 projects finished this year (300 acres in Tualatin, 1 in Willamette Mission State Park, 1 in Greenbelt, and 1 in Eugene) – submitting another NAWCA grant in 2020 – doing a lot of tidegate work (OWEB working group) and opportunity searching on the coast. Been involved in new strategic planning process. Working on management plans for conservation easements acquired in the past.
- Landowner – Eradicated tansy ragwort.
- Broadcast treatments of nightshade on floating mats in 2.5 feet of water; attempting to seed over it. Removed 60 nutria this past month. Developed Integrated Pest Management Plan, emphasizing the “do nothing” approach relative to invasive species is not an option (doing

nothing also has water quality implications). Willing to host a WMC tour in late spring or summer.

- Calapooia mainstem – Bowers Rock - treated Ludwigia – it's a connection project. Through time, we anticipate seeing Ludwigia slowly disappear because of increased water flow – 2 years of spraying will occur at Bowers slough before construction will occur to increase water flow. A minor infestation of false brome at Bowers Rock; Oregon State Parks treated a patch there once. A total of 12 acres is being treated at Bowers Rock. Truax Island – site prep is completed, planting will occur this winter (grant from Pacific Power – Blue Sky Habitat Fund). Common tansy exists there. Next project is Oxbow system in Albany (at least 2 lakes have Ludwigia – about 6-10 acres estimated).