

WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM COOPERATIVE STAKEHOLDER PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, March 11, 2014
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Benton SWCD Office
456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110
Corvallis, OR 97333

In Attendance: Jeff Baker, Patricia Benner, Meghan Chuites, Holly Crosson, Crystal Durbecq, Peter Kenagy, Becky Koepeke-Hill, Debra Paul, Kirk Shimeall, Kendra Smith (by phone), Kelly Warren, and Brad Withrow-Robinson

*Meeting notes are in brown text

Agenda with Notes

- 1:00-1:20 pm **Introductions and overview of WMC structure** – Individual introductions, short review of WMC bylaws and guiding principles and discussion of group needs
- Meeting frequency and role of group
 - We discussed meeting bi-annually, though we may have to meet more frequently at first to establish ourselves as a group and to plan for near future actions.
- 1:20-1:40 pm **December Stakeholder Meeting** – Impressions, conclusions and prominent themes
- Impressions:**
- This meeting helped us to make landowner contacts, and meet people who are interested in working more closely with us.
 - Our meeting focused on the assessment and how to use the info we have gathered. What pieces are still needed and how do we get buy-in from landowners.
 - **Themes from stakeholder break-out groups:**
 1. Develop short and long-term goals, define priorities and **create a plan** (hire a facilitator for the planning process)
 2. Work w/ partners to consolidate resources: Joint grants, share supplies, expertise, etc.
 3. Way to share info w/ stakeholders –database, website, listserv, etc.
 4. Targeted outreach is key, work w/ the CWMA to bring in partners
 5. Use existing plans/data/strategies for priorities and outreach
 6. More workshops & volunteer projects
 7. Address research needs for key spp.
 8. Address gaps in management on the river
 9. Identify and approach missing stakeholders
 10. Need a media campaign for work on river
 11. Maintenance for projects already underway
- Role of Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)**
- CWMA role in addressing broad focus issues
 - Outreach, resources, workshops, grants for implementation
- Missing stakeholders**
- This includes some private landowners, Knife River, DOGAMI, Pacific Power, Bonneville Power Administration, PG & E, Northwest Natural (new pipeline), and ODOT.

MMT – Willamette River Initiative and OWEB - Willamette Special Investment Partnership stakeholder planning efforts and how they relate to the WMC

Funding:

- MMT and OWEB are working together on a Focused Investment Strategy for the Willamette.
 - OWEB “Focused Investment strategy”:
 1. OWEB will develop a process for evaluating applications for Focused Investment Partnerships funding, in which applicants must:
 2. Identify the Focused Investment Priority the proposal addresses,
 3. Identify the specific Ecological Outcomes addressing (a);
 4. Clearly show those outcomes are within each organization’s current mission and scope;
 5. Demonstrate that the partners collectively bring a strong track record of conservation achievement;
 6. Demonstrate they have formed a productive partnership; and
 7. Have a strategic action plan that is ready for implementation.
- The OWEB-Willamette Special Investment Partnership Mainstem desired outcomes are:
 1. Increased channel complexity and length
 2. Improved connectivity between the river and its floodplain
 3. Expanded geographic extent and improved health of floodplain forests
 - The deadline for WSIP pre-proposal is July 14.
- Issue: We need to address ecological outcomes, but not every one of our projects fits in with WSIP objectives.
 - There is a need to be programmatic, not just project based
- This is a good time to provide input to OWEB, since they are still in the planning process.
- We should look at implementing projects w/ multiple sites and partners
- *Ludwigia* work could qualify as increasing channel complexity, and improved connectivity between river and floodplain since it opens up habitat for fish and other wildlife spp.
- Is there anyone capable of grading spp. for treatment based on impact to habitat on the OWEB technical review team?
 - Bernadette Hudson, Pam Wiley, Jarod Jebousek, Stan Gregory, Ann Centers, and David Hulse

1:40-2:40 pm

Priority Action Planning – look at assessment project maps and discuss areas and issues for focused planning with consideration of; native habitats, invasive species, gaps in management, Willamette Slices Framework, OWEB anchor habitats and existing projects

- **List of criteria to focus on when considering project areas:**
 1. Priority species including EDRR (from assessment and Dick’s report)
 2. Native habitat sites (protect the best strategy)
 3. Willingness of landowner
 4. Gaps in management
 5. Anchor habitat (for WSIP funding)
 6. Slices framework (for potential restoration)

Site specific needs, i.e., partner roles, site conditions, landowners, outreach, etc.

- Need to consider long-term sustainability of projects, i.e. funding and landowner investment
- How do we capture unique aquatic habitats, such as those utilized by freshwater mussels?

Habitats and invasives for focused consideration from Corvallis to Albany

○ **There are several strategies that could be implemented:**

1. Pick a species of focus based on list of priority and EDRR spp. from assessment
2. Pick an area to restore and focus on many invasive spp.
 - **Some areas w/ high quality habitat and priority spp.:**
 - **Riverside Landing** - Good habitat, surrounded by farming operations
 - **Truax Island** - Good habitat, lots of different uses and shared resources.
 - **Children's Farm Home/Knife River complex** - *Ludwigia* in open water, ponds and side channels, good habitat present; gap in mngmt.
 - **Takeena Landing and Hwy 20** - not much good habitat, but public with lots of ivy. Would be good for volunteer/outreach.
 - **Willamette Park** - not much good habitat, but very public, good for outreach/volunteer/community support. Can work w/ Benton County CWMA.
3. Name whole assessment area as our project area and protect all "high quality" habitats by removing invasive threats.
 - This could/should include widespread, high-impact species such as reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberry
 - Could consider focusing on 2-3 public land sites first with an x amount of acres to restore, then work our way to private lands as we show success
 - Identify "high quality" habitats as one project area and collaborate with partners to connect these habitats

Invasive control work:

- The most expensive part of contracted control work is the mobilization of crews. If they are already mobilized we can have them treat more than one spp. at once; assuming timing works for more than one species.
- It is good to focus on ivy treatments in the winter, when ivy is weakened and visible
 - Aerial or "tree" ivy is easier to treat than ivy growing as a ground cover
- We should use this year's *Ludwigia* treatments as a benchmark for future plans
 - Can use success as leverage, but should still plan ahead and include a plan up front
- It is important to treat all EDRR spp. mapped, since there are not many populations on the Willamette. These species include; knotweed, Scotch broom, butter and eggs, medusahead grass, butterfly bush, spotted knapweed, Italian thistle, pampas grass and yellow flag iris.
 - Priority species that are listed in Dick Brainerd's report from our assessment are; Ivy (especially "tree" ivy), old man's beard, water primrose (*Ludwigia* spp.), and false brome.
- *Ludwigia* at Knife River may be released into the mainstem through mining operations
 - ODFW will conduct a review of their mining plan, it would be good to touch base on this and voice our concerns.

Long-term and short-term goals

Five-Year Strategic Plan:

- It is important to have a strategic work plan
- We should develop a 5-year plan for the Corvallis to Albany river reach

- Each year will inform to next, be more specific for the first few years, and have a broader plan for years 3-5.
- We must look at this holistically, and plan for the long-term
- Landowner responsibility will be key
- Be opportunistic, and pick areas where landowners and managers are willing to work with us
- Need to consolidate assessment data and come up with figures for costs and times for treatments, monitoring, and evaluation to determine success
- Pick a few public areas for focused control work and outreach
 - Example: Ivy on Hwy 20, North Albany; should be contracted work and ask DSL and ODOT for funds

2:40-3:00 pm

Next steps for group

- Schedule next meeting
- Develop timeline for WSIP and other grants; start working on WSIP grant
- Crystal: send out Rocky Butte Ivy Paper, and create a map for unique aquatic habitats
- Need to work with Linn SWCD staff and board to keep them informed and complete MOU's for potential work in Linn County.