Weed Board Research Sub-committee Meeting
October 3, 2013
In attendance: Cindy McCain, Jon Pampush, Peter Kenagy, Becky Koepke-Hill, Heath Keirstead
Agenda:

Discuss research done to date
Discuss and assign next steps

To win over the Board of Commissioners, the arguments needs to be:

- attractive,
- non-threatening and
- as voluntary as possible
- We need to show that forming a Weed Board would allow us to accomplish things that CWMA cannot do. (A weed district allows you to legally interact…)
- Linda Modrell is retiring- not running again.

For BOC report, we should

- Try to get on working meeting agenda for BOC- shoot for March if possible.
- summarize activities for this year
- summarize any issues not adequately addressed this year.
- We need to present the commissioners with:
  - Here is the problem
  - Here is a voluntary approach- does it work or not
  - If it is effective, then let's push ahead and make it effective. Right now we lack money and regulatory authority
  - give update, not prepared to give weed board recommendation by 2014- shoot for 5 yr recommendation

At Oct 31 CWMA meeting, push for:

- Where do we want to be in 2014?
- a demonstration grant
- A vector strategy Propose adding a vector component to landscape strategy with specific recommendations
- An overall strategy for Benton County they are in fact managing vectors
- Propose economic analysis

Questions we need to address:

- how do we make CWMA and weed control district institutionalized?
- Are we being effective, yes or no?
- if no, what do we need?
- Need to build the political will with public and commissioners
- Need to look for opportunities for CWMA to do on the ground projects- like Ludwigia control along the river, a place with shared responsibility and shared benefits, maybe NFWF Pulling Together Initiative; to address a common goal. CWMA could be successful at something like ludwigia project- we could show that we can pull together across boundaries and make things happen. (Would be good to get Scott Youngblood from Oregon State Parks as CWMA member)
- Tie in with Landscape Level Action Team strategy: managing vectors: managing rights of way to sell BOC on Weed Board…maybe we could get documentation from Laurie on unmet ROW needs?
- Gravel pits…need to be addressed

Cost Benefit Analysis-

- to present to the BOC,
- to support the formation of a funded Weed Board/Control District.
- we might want to pick 5-10 weeds we know are in or near Benton County.
- Peter is most concerned about wind-blown plants like quack grass sow thistle prickly lettuce and Canada thistle. These widespread irritants have economic impacts. Look into noxious weed list for seed certification
- include investment costs in restoration sites, protecting organic ag in Benton County, focus on 5-10 weeds of concern, is it true that a lot of organic farmers don't have weed control programs??
- Check NAWMA website

Need to explore various funding strategies

- Maybe BOC could increase the $5k they give BSWCD to $10K (arbitrary number) and we could help bump up the county wide strategy and dedicate some money to the ROW management, because we want more active vector control
- 1% for nature
- Fees
- Increasing SWCD tax base with extra penny supporting CWMA

Next steps:

- Next week at Working Group Meeting: Lay groundwork for meeting in March
- Jon Pampush will do a lit review of existing weed board/weed control cost/benefit analyses
- Becky K-H will submit a report about her weed control efforts and efficacy
- Heath K will contact Carol Mallory Smith, Andy Hulting and Conservation Biology Institute? Maybe a grad student from the Professional Science Masters program?? Or an econ student? to do Cost Benefit Analysis