

Harney County Weed Board

June 4, 2024, 2024
Courthouse, County Court Room
5:00 PM



The meeting was brought to order at 5:03pm.

Those in attendance were: Jesse Barnes, James (Red) Campbell, Tyler Goss, Kacie Otley, Carol Dunten, Sam Cisney, Bonnie Rasmussen, and Weed Control Jim Campbell

Approve March 5, 2023 minutes Carrol Dunten made a motion to approve, seconded by Tyler Goss. Hearing no opposition the minutes were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The board discussed adding new weeds to the Harney County Noxious Weed List. Hybrid cattail, Phragmites, and Smooth brome were specifically brought to the board attention from the Malheur Refuge's need to begin treatments on them. After much discussion the board decided that there was no need to list Hybrid cattail or Smooth brome as they are only issues on the refuge due to their unique mission of managing lands for birds. The Board did decide to add Phragmites to the list as an 'A' weed.
2. Jim Campbell (the County one) provided the board with a list of weeds that are listed as noxious in our neighboring counties to see if they should be considered for listing in Harney County. After going down the list of Malheur and Grant County, the board decided to add a few weeds. The motion to add these weeds was made by James (Red) Campbell and seconded by Carol Dunten. Hearing no opposition the following weeds were added at the Harney County Noxious Weed List at the described list level. Jim will update the County List and get it out to the board members and to our county web site manager.
 1. Phragmites (A list)
 2. Jointed goat grass (A list)
 3. Eurasian milfoil (B list)
 4. Dyers woad (A list)
 5. Japanese knotweed (A list)
 6. Sulfur cinquefoil (A list)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jim gave the board an update on the hiring of the SWAT crew and the additional workload that they would be dealing with this year. The SWAT crew is usually 4 people, 1 fulltime lead and 3 seasonal applicators. This year the Refuge and BLM wanted to expand their use of the crew so Harney County hired additional employees. We hired 6 seasonals to go along with our 1 fulltime lead. The BLM wanted to be able to use 4 people all year and the

refuge wanted to be able to use 3 people for three months this year. The crew still has the same 3-week workload from the USFS and 2-3 weeks with ODA to do as well. It is looking like a very busy season!

2. Tyler gave the board an update from the Harney Cooperative Weed Management Area (HCWMA).
 - a. This year the HCWMA is going to continue its work on the Purple loosestrife in the Stinkingwater Creek drainage. This year they are going to contract a drone to do the treatments on private. The access into some of these areas is very tough and can be very unsafe at times. Due to this, it was decided to use the drone.
 - b. This year the HCWMA once again did the Free Spray Day in the Big R parking lot. It was a very busy year as we dispensed about 1,200 gallons of premixed lawn herbicide to the public. We will be looking to help streamline the event even further as the wait times for the herbicide was very long. Harney County Weed Control will look at adding a third tank that we can use to fill the public's containers.
 - c. The HCWMA is once again going to put on a public Goat Head pull contest. We tried this last year with negative results. This year the HCWMA will increase their advertisement efforts and adjust their contest timing a little in hopes to increase the participation.
 - d. The HCWMA will once again put an informational booth up at Fair. The HCWMA will staff it Friday and Saturday and will provide the public with information surrounding noxious weeds and their impact across the landscapes.
3. There is a new solar farm being installed in Harney County. This solar farm is going to be located near Wagonfire on the county's western edge. The board has asked Jim to look into ensuring there is wording in their use proposal that the County Planning Department puts together to mitigate noxious weed spread in that area.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

The next meeting date was set for August 27, 2024, at 5:00pm.