

**High Plains Weed Management Association**  
January 17, 2008

A meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association was held January 17, 2008 at the Harms Advanced Technology Center in Scottsbluff, Neb. President Jeff Schledewitz called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Present were Schledewitz, Mike Sarchet, Dennis Beyer, Curtis Cloud, Kay Grote, Doug Haller, Cris Burks, Brian Hiett, Terry Raymer, Owen Walker, David Christian and new Banner County Weed Superintendent Gene Witt.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Moved by Sarchet, seconded by Walker, to accept the minutes of the Nov. 14, 2007 meeting. Unanimous on roll call.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Dennis Beyer gave the treasurer's report and explained that there were some discrepancies about a double payment for newsletter publication and an error in the account balance that had been addressed. Five hundred dollars for the President's Award presented to the HPWMA had been deposited into the account.

**4. Reports**

**a. Tamarisk Coalition** – Dennis reported that Tim Carlson had requested information on the Nine Mile project to apply to the Arkansas River project. Dennis also received call from the watershed coordinator for state of Utah interested in getting more Nine Mile project videos.

**b. Governor's Task Force** – Mike Sarchet reported that education efforts are continuing. The group is putting together legislation for next year and looking at controlling all invasive species in watersheds across the state and doing all tributaries. Surveys on the Republican River are beginning to show more population of invasive species than initially thought. As of Monday, they did vote to hold the spring meeting of the Governor's Task Force on May 8 in Scottsbluff. Of the five senators involved on the Task Force, three have already committed to be here in May. The task force is also looking at a comprehensive weed and invasive species management plan and will meet in March to set up protocol and funding.

**c. Summit Agenda & Brochure** – The group discussed the brochure for the May 7-8, 2008 Summit. Mike said the agenda and summit information will be linked to [hatc.wncc.net](http://hatc.wncc.net) and Kay Grote suggested also putting a link to all the NRD's websites. Sarchet said he wants to have the draft of the brochure finalized by January 21. Sarchet asked for input on how many brochures to be printed out and urged superintendents to start promoting the summit through their media. He also gave information on Colorado/Front Range land management workshop in June. Doug Haller with BASF suggested including helicopter and air boat demos and look into sponsoring one of the meals @ approximately \$5,000 and additional

funding if needed. The group also discussed ideas for the tours and allowing vendors to set up large equipment displays in the Sun mart parking lot adjacent to the Gering Civic Center. The group also suggested having a spray rig from each county on display at the expo. The group also discussed the possibility of setting up HPWMA booth/info at any upcoming expos. Garden County superintendent Terry Raymer will share space with the North Platte NRD at the upcoming expo in Oshkosh.

**d. Meetings coming up** – The Wyoming/Nebraska weed task force meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. Jan. 31 at the Harms Center and Schledewitz and Beyer will attend the Nebraska Weed Control Association conference in Kearney Feb. 19-21. Sarchet and Beyer will also be going to Casper next week to give a presentation at a Wyoming conference.

## **5. Old Business**

The group discussed the planned grant proposal to the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Association for educational programs. This grant would be co-sponsored with PRIDE. Cris Burks and Sarchet will work out the details and get it submitted. Moved by Sarchet, seconded by Terry Raymer, to co-host and support the PRIDE grant application stating that HPWMA will provide \$5,000 in-kind and share. Unanimous by roll call.

**a. Vouchers and payments** – Sarchet asked if the county superintendents want to work with and pay their respective newspapers directly on the “Weed Watch” newsletter and then get reimbursement through HPWMA. The estimated cost of the insertion for September 2007 was approximately \$900.

Form letter – The group decided that a form letter needed to make up to solicit donations. Landowner membership fees will be \$100 and the association will also ask for special donations towards the project(s) fund.

Membership certificate – The group decided that a certificate form needed to be made up to present to members to display.

Sarchet asked for input about the Association purchasing its own laptop for keeping files, minutes, accounting, presentation, etc. The money for the purchase would come out of the either the 701 grant money or the general fund. The group suggested looking into getting quotes and bringing those back to the board for approval. Moved by Curtis Cloud, seconded by Owen Walker, to have the officers research the prices and capabilities of a computer and to purchase an Association-owned laptop with a price limit of \$1,500. Unanimous by roll call.

Schledewitz reminded the weed superintendents that all project money needs to be used up by May 1, 2008 to continue with further grant funding.

**b. By-Laws** – The group addressed the need to write by-laws and suggested that they be written by the executive committee (current officers) and refer to PRIDE’s by-laws. Discussion was held on following up the forming of Board of Directors and ranking of projects for funding. The group directed the officers to

work up the by-laws and then form subcommittees to make reviews and decisions on project funding.

**c. Flat Bottom Boat and Motor** – Beyer reported at the December meeting the possibility of HPWMA purchasing a flat bottom boat and mounting a sprayer to go after salt cedar and phragmites on the river and tributaries. Doug suggested looking into a John Boat with a Go-Devil motor. Schledewitz said we'll collect more information and look into this again.

**d. Report on Organizations** -- Need to get letter done to solicit donations.

#### **6. New Business**

Agreement forms that each landowner must sign for any project work were handed out. The portion for cost share was set at \$50 per landowner.

#### **7. Next Meeting date and time**

Burks said she will get PRIDE's by-laws and email them to the all the officers for review. The group will then look over the draft of By-Laws at the next meeting, which will be Wednesday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. at the Harm's Center in Scottsbluff.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Schledewitz adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.