

High Plains Weed Management Association

March 14, 2008

The March 14, 2008 meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association was called to order by President Jeff Schledewitz at 10:05 a.m. Those in attendance included: President Schledewitz, Treasurer Dennis Beyer, Ron Moore (Panhandle RC&D), Cris Burks, Georgette Jordening, Owen Walker, Terry Raymer, Dan Weinreis, Nick Sanderson, Gene Witt, Mike Sarchet, Steve Brill, Galen Wittrock, Brian Hiatt, Dallas Johannsen, Curtis Cloud and Jennifer Rogers (Panhandle RC&D).

2. Minutes: the previous meeting's minutes (Feb. 27) were reviewed. Cris Burke moved to accept the February 27, 2008 minutes. Owen Walker seconded. Motion carried - unanimous

3. Treasurer's Report: Dennis Beyer went over the report - \$3031.59 (previous balance); deposit \$75.00; deposit \$115.00; deposit \$1000.00. Bills-to-be-paid: Garden County \$2235.26

The account now has a new balance of \$1986.33.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Nick Sanderson; seconded by Galen Wittrock. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. Reports:

a. RC&D Meeting – On March 13, 2008 Jeff Sch. and Dennis Beyer, as well as Kay Grote and Roy Lyles, met with the RC&D board of directors. A news release put together by Kay was included in the meeting packets which gives a summary of the new collaboration. The board voted to accept the HPWMA, so the new address is 1517 Broadway Suite 101, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. When the new manager is hired, he or she will reside in that office. The subcommittee for RC&D includes: Mike Marker (Scottsbluff County), Terry McCord (Garden County), Dave Ostdiek (North Platte NRD), Ron Miller (Scottsbluff County), and Gary Grubbs (Banner County). There was a lot of positive feedback and the members were impressed with the HPWMA's progress. The HPWMA subcommittee to work with the RC&D includes: Jeff Schledewitz, Owen Walker, Galen Wittrock, and Kay Grote.

b. By-laws acceptance – A copy of the current bylaws were included in the meeting packet and the floor was opened for corrections or additions. Motion to accept bylaws of the HPWMA by Terry Raymer; seconded by Nick Sanderson. Motion carried unanimously. Cris Burks made the suggestion of including the date accepted.

c. Summit update – Mike Sarchet said things for the summit are being confirmed. They are working on changing the agenda and condensing it in order to be more easily read. Copies were brought to the meeting. Registrations are already beginning; word is getting out. 17

registrations have been submitted so far. There will be a news release in the Star Herald at a later date. The first landowner meeting will be on April 16, and it was thought that it would be better to do more publicity for the event following that. The lesser charge for earlier registration will be extended to after the landowner meeting. The new copies include an update on the agenda and the sponsor list. Dennis Beyer thinks the press release might be better to be released before the landowner meeting, including distributing the agenda and registration forms. It was suggested to include something within the upcoming Farm and Ranch Edition in the Star Herald. Rick Meyers will be including information on the summit within this weekend's edition of Pride in the Star Herald. There will also be registrations at the door. There is room left for approximately four more exhibitors. There are currently 21 signed up already. There will be inside and outside displays (with most being inside). There are also 3-4 who will be setting up outside (for equipment, etc.). Solicitations to other organizations are still underway. It hasn't been discussed yet whether HPWMA should have a booth during the summit. There is another room available that could house all of the weed management projects across the state. If there are any pictures of the projects within the counties are available, those need to be submitted in order to include them on the display board. There is still a need for volunteers if anyone is interested. Mike Sarchet passed out a list of current booths.

5. Old business

a. List of potential board members – A list was included within the meeting packets for possible options for potential board members. Cris Burke and Mike Sarchet also brought up Gary Stone, Bob Wilson, John Berge and Stan Walker. A letter will be sent out to solicit the board members. And based on the response, the association will proceed from there. Ron Moore asked how the members of the organization would be represented. Jeff Sch. said he has made several calls to see how they would like that to be, and some of those names are represented on the list. Shawn Hopkins may also be another potential board member. The total board members will be seven to eleven. The hierarchy and subcommittee structure is laid out in the bylaws. The subcommittees will vary depending on the needs of the projects.

b. Form letter – Copies of the form letter put together by Kay Grote were made and passed out. This letter will be sent out to the list of potential board members. Dennis Beyer will work with Kay and RC&D to put the addresses together and get the letters send out. A motion to accept the form letter to send out to the list of potential board members was made by Owen Walker; seconded by Nick Sanderson. Motion carried unanimously.

c. LB 701 – The money left over from the LB 701 grant funds must be spent by the first of June. It is important to get out in the field in order to get those funds spent. Owen Walker asked about the contribution required by the landowner (\$50) per acre to receive assistance from the HPWMA. Some of the counties need a report on how much they have left in order to complete their projects. Jeff Sch. recommended continuing making the project contacts in case

there are funds left over from other counties. The LB 701 funds should be focused along the river, but can extend to other riparian and wetland areas. The \$4500 for each county is primarily to be used for mapping and treatment according to the wording in the grant. The figures will be put together and sent out to each weed superintendent in the next couple of weeks. The SPNRD can use the funds to complete projects in Deuel or south Sioux county. Mike Sarchet said it might be better to have visual maps when it comes to reporting. Cris Burke mentioned that through the Nebraska Weed Association, there are maps that can be pulled up through a program and utilized within the local areas. The same release from last year should continue to be used with landowners. Terry Raymer asked if there would be any contract made with the landowners that would require them to continue the control in order to keep the results in their areas. This might be something to include in the Invasive Species Control Agreement to the landowners – to recommend treatment for the next several years.

On the new LB 701 funds in 2008-2009, any recipient will be required to control phragmites. The NWCA board of directors voted to approve phragmites' inclusion on the noxious weed list. An individual county can put phragmites on its own list of noxious weed as well. If something becomes a noxious weed, the NET funds will still be able to be used. On March 19, there will be a meeting in Grand Island by NDA for grant applications to LB 701. Jeff Sch. and Dennis Beyer are willing to attend the meeting with approval of the board. Dennis is currently working on the application for the upcoming year, and this could be helpful in having proper representation at the meeting. Jeff will donate vehicle and gas if the group can cover the remaining expenses. A motion was made by Cris Burks for Dennis Beyer and Jeff Schledewitz to attend and the group to pay for lodging and meals; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion passed unanimously. Dennis said the new grant application will basically be the same, with changes in the budget. Dennis has tentatively put down to request \$1.5 million in the application. The state is expecting requests to exceed \$10 million. This will mean the coalition of support organizations listed in the application is going to be extremely crucial. This time the requirements include targeted watersheds including the Niobrara and others across the state. The committee will look to make sure the budget justifications are very sound. The application is due April 7.

6. New business

a. News articles for “Weed Watch” spring edition – Jeff Sch. received an email from PRIDE saying that they are getting their news articles for the upcoming “Weed Watch” together. The last week of April is the projected date for the next release. This only allows approximately two weeks for getting the articles together. Mike Sarchet said that the close date will be April 21st in order to have everything ready to go to the printer. Rough drafts would be needed by April 7th in order to proof the submissions. Jeff said that one topic the HPWMA should include would be the Environmental Trust award and what will be done with those funds. Other possible topics: the upcoming summit including a registration form and a mention of the day passes; an article on Russian olive seeds and removal methods; '07 fall control; the president's award at

Grand Junction; the Hope of Nine Mile Creek video; available federal programs for next year. There is a lot of space to be filled and this is a good opportunity to get the individual counties' needs and issues out there. The bill will go to the counties initially and then the counties will submit a reimbursement to the HPWMA. The local media can also be contacted to collaborate and assist with the local articles.

b. Goshen County has gotten a couple of grants to start some new projects and is continuing the collaboration with Nebraska groups. There will be a Weed Awareness Week in Wyoming that the governor has signed off on and Barbara Cubin will be sending out a "Dear Colleague" letter in order to continue the efforts in Wyoming. Mike Sarchet said that Representative Smith has agreed to partner with Representative Cubin on the "Dear Colleague" letter. There will be a state legislative conference, which will include Nebraska, in Fort Collins. The Department of Agriculture staff will be formally invited to participate with the other six states of the rocky mountain region. The conference will be held June 3-5.

c. Dennis Beyer has submitted his resignation of HPWMA as treasurer as of March 4. The replacement would be a short-term position until the board of directors formally voted on a permanent treasurer. The person would need to be the second signer on checks and would receive the assistance of Jennifer Rogers of RC&D. The temporary position would last approximately two to three months. There will also need to be a meeting sometime next week in order to sort out the financial situation with the switch from Twin Cities to RC&D. Motion passed unanimously to have Owen Walker serve as temporary treasurer.

7. Next meeting time and date – The next meeting will be held in the Panhandle RC&D office in the Bluffs Business Center at 1517 Broadway in the meeting room. The next meeting will be Friday, April 11th at 10:00 a.m. The April 14th Nebraska Environmental Trust 2008 Grantee Seminar will be held at the North Platte NRD office, and is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with the actual grant reporting and award announcements to be held at 10:00 a.m. The RC&D subcommittee and the HPWMA subcommittee will meet on Thursday March 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Panhandle RC&D office to discuss the new collaboration.

8. Adjournment – A motion was made by Galen Wittrock to adjourn; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by President Schledewitz.