

## High Plains Weed Management Association

### Board Meeting Minutes: May 29, 2008

The May 29, 2008 meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association was called to order by President Jeff Schledewitz at 1:13 p.m. Those in attendance included: Project Manager Dennis Beyer, President Jeff Schledewitz, Curtis Cloud, Georgette Jordening, Ron Moore, Secretary Kay Grote, Field Coordinator Roy Lyles, Nick Sanderson, Dallas Johannsen, Terry Raymer, Treasurer Owen Walker and Jennifer Rogers.

**2. Minutes:** The previous meeting's minutes (May 8, 2008) were reviewed. Motion made by Kay Grote to accept the May 8, 2008 minutes as amended; Nick Sanderson seconded. Motion carried - unanimous

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Everyone went over the Treasurer's Report. Deposits included: \$14,100 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the Summit Grant; two deposits from Paypal for \$.12 and \$.03 for account verification. Expenses included: \$120.00 to the Gering Civic Center; \$43.00 to the Emporium, \$129.50 to the Bridgeport News-Blade, \$1,037.76 to Smith, Snyder, Pettitt & Wallien; \$2,076.29 to the Star Herald; \$3,448.10 to Dennis Beyer (Summit handouts reimbursement); \$187.50 to John Noe; \$3,600.00 to Blackshirt Tree Removal; \$120.00 to Microtel Inn & Suites; \$2,440.00 to Ameristar; \$94.60 to Dennis Beyer (Travel Expense Reimbursement); \$759.00 to Bernd Blossey (Summit Speaker Travel Expenses); \$196.80 to Hostmonster.com; \$115.00 to the Nebraska Press Association; \$565.56 to Staples; \$1,070.00 to Panhandle Acceptance Company (Honda Lease); \$600.00 to Steven Gilmore (Summit Banquet Expenses).

Kay Grote requested information on the change in the Honda Pilot Lease. President Sch. went over the change; Honda Corporation turned down High Plains due to its relative newness; Frank Implement was able to do the lease with the Honda Pilot instead of going through Reganis; the new payment is going to be \$518.85. The \$1,070.00 to Frank Implement in the Treasurer's Report was the initial payment which included the sales tax, registration, etc. President Sch. polled the executive board members when the change occurred to get approval.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Nick Sanderson; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion carried - unanimous.

**Bills for Approval.** Everyone looked over the bills-to-be-paid. Motion to pay the "Bills for Approval" as presented once the advance from the Environmental Trust comes in made by Nick Sanderson; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion carried – unanimous.

**4. Reports:**

**a. Project Manager Report** – Project Manager Dennis Beyer went over some of the recent happenings of High Plains. The new office is up and running, and High Plains has their own phone line which is (308) 633-1264 and the email addresses are: [dbeyer@allophone.com](mailto:dbeyer@allophone.com) or [highplainsweed@allophone.com](mailto:highplainsweed@allophone.com).

Dennis also presented some photos of recent projects that are currently underway at different properties. The beginning pictures that Dennis showed were photos taken from projects completed last fall, including Blake's property. Blackshirt Tree Removal is the contractor on the projects and they are doing an excellent job. On one of the particular projects that has been recently completed, (Spring Creek Ranch property) the pictures show that there was over 90% kill with the spray (Habitat) and they were able to work around the cottonwoods so they weren't damaged. There is no resprout potential because they are dead to the root. Roy Lyles has before pictures, and Dennis and Jeff took the after pictures, which will eventually be showcased on the website. This project also brought up the issue of fences, so in the Landowner's Agreement, it was decided to add a line that clearly states that landowners are responsible for any fencing replacement or repair, not the contractor. Kay Grote also brought up the possibility of creating a "preferred contractor's" list to give incentive to potential contractors. They would make the list after they met certain criteria set forth by the Association. This will be brought up at the contractor's meeting in two weeks.

**b. Field Coordinator Report** – Field Coordinator Roy Lyles reported that there are more projects that are being lined up, including around Henry. There is also a project with Jim Massey that will be around fifty acres. Also, Dennis and Roy did an interview with KNEB and they want to ride along as well as Kerri Schnase from Ben Nelson's office when we do trips and landowner visits. These projects will really tie in well with Wyoming and Steve Brill's projects. In regard to the nesting season guidelines, on the current projects that are being undertaken, Emily Munter with NG&P is conducting site surveys and clearing the properties before the work in beginning in order to comply with those guidelines. Kay suggested having a map that is colored or marked on each area that's been completed. The group might be able to use the GPS equipment. Dennis has a pin dot map for Scotts Bluff hanging on his wall and would like more for the other counties. The group should try to keep them updated every two weeks.

## **5. Old business**

**a. LB 701 Funding** – Jennifer put together new expense reimbursement reports that everyone needs to complete for time spent on the LB 701 projects. We need everything by next Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, as the final report is due June 15<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer will put together a list of all the meetings to send out the information to everyone to have to put their information together. Jennifer also put together a spreadsheet of the funding left for the LB 701 for everyone to see where there is money for the individual counties.

**b. Potential Board Members** – The meeting was held on the fifteenth with the potential board members there were twenty total people there, including fourteen potentials. We had included the commitment forms that were just supposed to be for information, but the participants decided that they wanted to go ahead and sign the agreements in order to get the board put together as quickly as possible. Some said they didn't want to be on the board, but they did want to be on the committee or an advisory group that that still wants to be involved just not serve on the board. Jeff thinks we need to bring on three or four additional people to complement the existing members that have already dedicated themselves to the group. Kay's suggestion is to take the ones who have signed and push ahead to try and get them placed by getting four out of those signed agreements to bring on. The group decided to form a committee to pick the remaining board members, and request that the additional interested parties serve in an "advisory" capacity. The subcommittee will then report back on their decision at the next High Plains meeting. The subcommittee includes: Jeff Schledewitz, Roy Lyles, Owen Walker, and Curtis Cloud. They will meet on: Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Bridgeport (before the landowner's meeting) at the Prairie Winds Convention Center.

**c. Landowner/Guideline and Bidders Forms** – The committee met multiple times to put together ranking forms and releases, program descriptions, etc. This isn't written in stone because things might have to be changed or adapted as we get into the work. Landowners will be asked to fill out the initial "Landowner Application" and include aerial maps of the area if at all possible. The program description kind of spells out everything we will be doing.

Motion made by Kay Grote to accept the Landowner/Guideline and Bidder's Forms as presented with the provision that HPWMA attorney reviews them prior to the landowner and contractor's meetings; seconded by Terry Raymer. Motion carried – unanimously.

## **6. New business**

**a. Employee Computers** – The Association has purchased a desktop computer for Dennis and Roy to do their mapping and other Association work on. The total for the computer came to \$1,263.36.

**c. Landowner and Contractor Meetings** – Jennifer included flyers for the landowner and contractor meetings in the board packets, and can send out more to anyone who wants to hand them out or hang them up.

**d. Authorized Signature** – With approval of the Board of Directors, President Jeff Schledewitz needs permission to be the authorized signer to continue with the daily business of the Association. Different organizations such as banks and other financial institutions have been requesting minutes that show his authority to do so.

Motion made by Nick Sanderson to give authority to the President (currently Jeff Schledewitz) to sign for any and all relating documents for the daily business of the association; seconded by Kay Grote. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Next meeting time and date** – Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Bluffs Business Center

**8. Adjournment** – Motion made by Nick Sanderson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion carried – unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.