

High Plains Weed Management Association
Board of Directors
October 9, 2008

1. Call to order - The October 9, 2008 meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association was called to order by President Jeff Schledewitz at 1:33 p.m. Those in attendance included: Jeff Schledewitz, Terry McCord, Gerald Davis, Dan Weinreis, Jeff Schledewitz, Kay Grote, and Robin Lapaseotes. Technical Advisors in attendance included: Georgette Jordening. Staff in attendance included: Dennis Beyer, Project Manager; and Roy Lyles, Field Coordinator. Guest: Justin Rust, Rust Enterprises (contractor)

2. Approval of Minutes -- A review of the minutes of the Sept. 11 minutes was conducted by the board. Moved by Kay Grote, seconded by Gerald Davis, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried – Unanimous.

3. Treasurer’s Report -- Dennis Beyer presented the treasurer’s report dated 10/9/2008. Discussion was held on the increasing chemical costs. Jeff Schledewitz pointed out that the increasing prices have not affected anything yet, but we could expect to see some oil and chemical cost increases in the spring. Moved by Gerald Davis, seconded by Dan Weinreis, to accept the October 9, 2008 Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried – Unanimous.

4. Bills to be paid – One bill, to Panhandle RC&D, was submitted to be paid. Dennis pointed out that one other bill was submitted from Blackshirt Express for \$22,500 for work completed. Moved by Gerald Davis, second by Terry McCord, to approve the Bills-to-be-Paid. Motion carried – Unanimous.

5. Reports
 - a. Project Manager Report – Dennis Beyer reported on recent work that is being completed and showed pictures of the progress. Some contractors are experiencing slow down due to freezing temperatures last week. Also, work on salt cedar is slowing as salt cedar needs to be in full blossom to spray and kill, so the spraying is suspended until next summer. Dennis reported he gave a presentation to the Morrill Rotary about the purpose and scope of High Plains Weed Management Association projects. This public awareness effort resulted in three more landowners signing up for removal and management work.
 - b. Field Coordinator – Roy Lyles reported on removal work in Morrill and Garden Counties on the Kraupie, Neeley, and Paisley properties. Roy reported that there have been some concerns about vegetation removal in relation to fall turkey, deer and elk hunting. Jason Rust of Rust Enterprises gave an overview of work east of Bridgeport including airboat work on phragmites between the Minatare bridge and Scottsbluff. The river channel work is now done. Rust estimated about 10 percent of the Russian olive trees are now frost killed and the phragmites has mostly gone dormant due to the freeze. Contractors are now beginning spot treatment. It was reported that salt cedar has been located in Garden County on the Olson and Maurice Brown properties. Phragmites is also being found in Garden County and around Blue Creek. Contractor Dan Lyles thought he might have identified about 100 acres of phragmites, however it needs to be determined if it is the native variety. but might be native. Jeff Schledewitz

suggested taking samples of the phragmites to determine which variety it is. Schledewitz cautioned that taking out large clumps of native phragmites, also known as common Reed, could leave the association in trouble with landowners who want it left standing since native phragmites is not listed as a noxious weed.

c. Communications report – Dennis Beyer provided a handout on the communication’s subcommittee in Emily Munter’s absence.

d. Legislative Committee Report – No report.

d. By-product Committee Report – The by-products committee has not met yet as a group.

6. Old business

a. Environmental Trust/Re-growth Update – Discussion was held on the original grant application which did not include a budget allowance for re-growth or new growth treatments. A letter was submitted to the Nebraska Environmental Trust on September 18 requesting “formal permission to let these applications be considered for our cost-share program.” A reply from the Nebraska Environmental Trust was sent September 24 stating the trust had developed new guidelines for the program that differentiate between treatment for “initial infestation” and re-growth or new-growth” applications. These guidelines are on file with the HPWMA project manager. It was decided by the Board that the association needs to set apart money in the budget for yearly follow up in accordance to these guidelines and not spend all funds on removal projects.

b. Grant Applications: BASF Program – Dennis Beyer reported on the \$20,000 grant application made to BASF. The grant application has been submitted and the award should be announced in November. Doug Haller, who has worked closely with the HPWMA as a BASF representative, has been transferred Raleigh, NC. The HPWMA will now working with into Dr. Joe Vollmer from the University of Wyoming.

7. New Business

a. Winter work policy – Roy Lyles explained that two contractors have asked what the winter policy is for on-going projects. Some have expressed concern about treating stumps and then having to leave to complete other contract work, if their contacts will still be effective with HPWMA in the following spring. They also asked about the safe storage of equipment and chemicals while they are called to other jobs. The executive group (Beyer, Lyles, Schledewitz) has talked to the contractors and determined that it would be best to switch from JLB oil used in stump treatment to a heavier oil or diesel oil that work better in winter. They could stay in field and continue work as long a chemical is viable. The HPWMA currently has a total of nine contractors working steady on projects from the Wyoming state line to Garden County. HPWMA staff believe that is enough contractors to keep working effectively through the coming winter season. Moved by Robin Lapaseotes, second by Gerald Davis to have the HPWMA staff put a freeze on the hiring of additional contractors as of Oct. 9. Motion carried – Unanimous.

b. Follow-up grant budget allocation (addition) – Dennis referred to an addition to the Nebraska Environmental Trust fund budget that would need to be submitted to reflect the follow-up treatment part of the projects. The Board advised the staff to adjust the budget as needed to fit the grant.

8. Next Meeting time and date – The next meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, 10:00 a.m. at the Bluffs Business Center Board Room.

9. Adjournment – With no further business to be discussed, it was moved by Terry McCord, second by Gerald Davis, to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Motion carried – Unanimous.