

High Plains Weed Management Association
Board of Directors
September 11, 2008

1. Call to order – Jeff Schledewitz: President Jeff Schledewitz called the September 11, 2008 meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association Board of Directors to order at 1:33 p.m. The Board Members listened to a September 11 Remembrance Statement and held a moment of silence to recognize the significance of the day. Everyone was introduced. Those in attendance included:
Board Members: President Jeff Schledewitz, Treasurer Owen Walker, Mike Marker, Verlin Bruns, Gerald Davis, Vice-President Emily Munter, Terry McCord, and Secretary Kay Grote.
Technical Advisors: Richard McGowan, banner County; Cris Burks, Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Staff: Roy Lyles, Field Coordinator; Dennis Beyer, Project Manager; Jennifer Rogers, Program Assistant; Ron Moore, RC&D Coordinator
Guests: Becky McMillen and Gary Lillie
2. Minutes of last meeting: Everyone took a moment to review the August 14, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion made by Terry McCord to accept the August 14, 2008 minutes as presented; seconded by Mike Marker. Motion carried – unanimous.
3. Treasurer’s Report: Jennifer went through the September 11, 2008 Treasurer’s Report. With no questions or comments, a motion was made by Mike Marker to accept the September 11, 2008 Treasurer’s Report; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried – unanimous.
4. Bills-to-be-Paid: Jennifer went through the list of Bills-to-be-Paid. Motion made by Kay Grote to approve the Bills-to-be-paid; seconded by Emily Munter. Motion carried – unanimous.
5. Reports
 - a. Project Manager Report – Dennis Beyer: Dennis went through a powerpoint presentation; included were pictures of the equipment that is currently being used by the different contractors including: a tree saw, Marshall saw, and a shearer. All of the methods enable the contractors to cut at or below ground level. Scott Chase, one of the contractors also has the reservoir that he can put chemical in so he doesn’t have to constantly reload and get more chemical, which works really well. The chemicals being used on the stumps include a combination of Element, Stalker, and JLB Oil. They are definitely discovering some areas that have been sprayed in the past and either have new or re-growth coming. Next week, the project work in and along the river will begin, in which phragmites and salt cedar will be targeted. Dennis showed some pictures of an area within the city limits in which Scotts Bluff sprayed to treat a very thick stand of

salt cedar, which displayed the ability of the hand applicator to be selective and not spray species outside of our focus. Mike Marker questioned whether there are any programs right now that would allow the landowners to continue to follow-up and treat the re-growth or new growth themselves. The question of how High Plains can assist on areas that have been treated in the past has come up with some of the project applications and new or re-growth with the Environmental Trust. The preliminary word from the Trust is that we are unable to assist or provide cost-share on any projects that have been treated in the past. The Trust did say that we could submit a formal letter requesting clarification or the ability to provide assistance for these projects. Within the letter, it is important to stress that just because there may be re-growth on a previously treated area doesn't mean that it was a mistake or something that the landowner or applicator did wrong; these plants are considered invasive for a reason, and there is a huge need for follow-up control before things get back out of hand. The Board also suggested sending additional letters of support citing the need for High Plains to be able to assist with these projects in order to get a handle on these areas now. Motion made by Gerald Davis to send an official letter of request to the Nebraska Environmental Trust, asking to be allowed to provide assistance on projects that may have been worked on in the past that now have re-growth or new growth; seconded by Owen Walker. Motion carried – unanimous.

There are currently five contractors working, one more will be starting tomorrow, and two more starting on Monday. One of the contractors was getting worried that High Plains might be saturating the market and that there wouldn't be enough projects to go around, but the original goal for contractors, which has been proven to be accurate has always been to have ten contractors working simultaneously. Dennis concluded his report by providing a tutorial on how High Plains' mapping system works and the kind of product we are able to provide for different projects with it.

- b. Field Coordinator Report – Roy Lyles: Roy went through mapping system. Roy is working with Ryan from NRCS on obtaining infrared photos that can take the aerial view maps and use the infrared to detect our specific species.
- c. Communications Committee Report: Emily Munter reported that the Communications Committee held a meeting over lunch that day. She reported that the Weed Watch is finished and the funds that High Plains had to help cover it have been spent, so we're going to continue to pursue funds in order to continue that project. The Committee is also recommending a quarterly or biyearly newsletter for High Plains; Jennifer felt that doing the layout would be fairly straightforward so would like ask everyone to contribute ideas and articles. The Committee has also been discussing having merchandise with the group's logo and contact

information made available to the public, such as pens or tire gauges. No specific decisions have been made regarding what types of items to purchase. Motion made by Mike Marker to approve up to \$1500 for the Communications Committee to spend on promotional items to be determined by the Committee; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried – unanimous. The Committee also discussed purchasing button-up shirts with logos on them for High Plains personnel to wear and will be getting pricing information on those. Motion made by Gerald Davis to approve purchasing two shirts each for the Project Manager and Field Coordinator, as determined by the Communications Committee and the personnel; seconded by Mike Marker. Motion carried – unanimous. The Committee also discussed hosting educational workshops such as field trips for the Board of Directors or other resource professionals. The group would also like to pursue holding additional landowner workshops to keep the public informed and to provide additional outreach. In addition, the in-channel work will begin next week, so the Committee thought it might be a good idea to have some local contacts in each of the counties to direct calls to if necessary. Jeff Schledewitz will be the contact for Scotts Bluff County; Owen Walker for Morrill County; and Terry Raymer for Garden County. That concluded the Communications Committee Report. Ron Moore also wanted to make it known that he recently found out that the Morrill County Commissioners are choosing to not renew their membership with the RC&D organization and would just like to make sure that the members of High Plains recognize everything RC&D is doing to assist and support the group. Motion made by Mike Marker to send a letter of encouragement to local elected officials from High Plains regarding its support for the RC&D program; seconded by Terry McCaord. Motion carried – unanimous.

- d. Legislative Committee Report: Dennis Beyer reported on the Legislative hearing with Senate Committee held the previous month to discuss return stream flow. Dennis himself did not speak, but High Plains received some kind words from other people that did speak regarding its efforts. The day after the hearing, Jeff, Dennis and Roy went on a local tour with two senators and Department of Natural Resources staff and took them to Roger Williams' property in order to give them an idea of what work is being accomplished. Kay Grote also reported on a meeting that took place with state Senator John Harms, Roy, Dennis, Cris, Jeff, Kay and Jennifer earlier in the week. The Senator spent about an hour and fifteen minutes with the group discussing what the association has been accomplishing and what additional needs are still there as far as funding this project. The main points covered included: additional funds for removal (approximately \$10 million over the next 10 years) and byproduct development. The Senator was very interested in getting the legislature involved and setting up a meeting with some additional Senators to see if this project could be part of legislation that may already be being

introduced or brought forward on its own. The Senator suggested that the Association establish some long-term plans to present to the committee. He also said that holding a meeting with the Governor would also be very important.

- e. Byproduct Committee Report: Roy Lyles reported that Channel Nine news out of Denver had a piece on wood pellet needs in Colorado and the demand is higher than what they can supply. Roy provided a printout of the company that was discussed for the committee to work on. The Byproduct Committee includes: Curtis Cloud, Georgette Jordening, Verlin Bruns, Dennis Beyer and Jeff Schledwitz.
- f. Platte River Partners: Dennis and Jeff went to Lake McConaughy and met with invasive species officials from Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming that are interested in forming the “Platte River Partners” to provide a multi-state effort at addressing invasive species. The group is attempting to pursue funding to begin work in Colorado and then they will attempt to continue funding in the future for other states.

6. Old business

- a. Video Services: Becky McMillen from Insight Creative video services discussed the work she did on the Nine Mile Creek project producing the video. Her plan for the project along the North Platte River is to make a similar film to address the water and invasive species issues. She presented a proposal in the amount of \$20,000 for her services, not including travel expenses. She believes that this will probably be a three-year project, so the breakdown would include \$5,000 up front to begin the project, and then \$5,000 for the next three years. Motion made by Mike Marker to hire Insight Creative to do the video project not to exceed \$20,000; seconded by Kay Grote. Kay would like to see an amendment to the motion stating a deadline for the end of the project of December 2011. Mike Marker moved to amend his motion to include the end date of December 2011; seconded by Kay Grote. Motion carried – unanimous.
- b. Mailings: Motion made by Emily Munter to continue using stamps.com for High Plains’ mailing needs; seconded by Gerald Davis. Motion carried – unanimous.
- c. NAWMA Meeting: Jeff reported that previously the group had approved to send up to four people to the NAWMA meeting in Billings, MT, but everyone was unavailable to attend due to the start of the work along the river. All of the funds that had been paid were refunded.

7. New Business

- a. Grant Applications: Motion made by Gerald Davis to give authority to Dennis Beyer and Jennifer Rogers to continue to pursue and apply for additional grant funding as they see fit; seconded by Terry McCord. Motion carried – unanimous.
- b. Circle K Contractors – Item tabled until next meeting.
- c. Panhandle RC&D Memorandum of Understanding: Prior to forming the current Board of Directors, the High Plains Executive Committee signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Panhandle RC&D, in which High Plains would pay RC&D \$40,000 per year to cover the expenses the RC&D had for the services it provided. Recently, the RC&D requested that High Plains increase this amount to \$46,000 a year to accommodate additional expenses the organization would be having. This amounts to an additional \$1,500 per quarter and will cover the additional hours toward Jennifer's compensation that she has been providing to High Plains Motion made by Gerald Davis to approve the addition of \$6,000 per year in High Plains' payment to Panhandle RC&D as per the Memorandum of Understanding; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried – unanimous.

Board members Terry McCord and Verlin Bruns wanted clarification regarding whether Board Members could be reimbursed for their mileage associated with official High Plains business, including attending monthly meetings. President Jeff Schledewitz said this has been the policy of the group in the past, and it will continue with that policy.

8. Next Meeting time and date – the next meeting of the High Plains Weed Management Association will be held on October 9, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Bluffs Business Center Board Room. The November 13th meeting of the Board of Directors will be moved to 10:00 a.m. in order to accommodate the Panhandle RC&D Annual Meeting.
9. Adjournment – With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.