



Approved July 20, 2021

**Clackamas SWCD Board Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2021**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>Directors:</b>	Jeff Becker (Chair), Roger Fantz (Treasurer), Don Guttridge (Secretary) Jim Johnson, Jesse Nelson (Vice Chair), Jan Lee, Joan Zuber
	<b>Associate Directors:</b>	PK Melethil, Anna Rankin
	<b>Directors Emeritus:</b>	
	<b>Staff:</b>	Nicole Ahr, Jason Faucera, Tami Guttridge, Lisa Kilders, Clair Klock, Chris Lapp, Sam Leininger, Eann Rains, Jenne Reische, Nathan Tucker
	<b>Partners:</b>	
	<b>Guest:</b>	Al Hrynshyn (Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District.
<b>NOT PRESENT:</b>		

**1 – CALL TO ORDER and ACCEPT AGENDA / PUBLIC COMMENT / DIRECTOR REPORTS / MANAGER’S REPORT ON COMMITTEES**

- A. Call to order** – Chair Becker called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 4:01 p.m., June 15, 2021, via the “Zoom” app originating from the Clackamas SWCD office at 22055 S Beaver creek Rd, Beaver creek, Oregon.

Chair Becker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. General Manager Lapp asked to add item 5E to the agenda to update the Board on the transition plan for Staff Rains position, and Staff Tucker asked to add the topic of an additional ACH payment to DEQ.

- B. Public Comment** – No public comment was given.

- C. Director reports** –

- Director Guttridge reported that the strawberry social at the Springwater Grange went well, especially since the rain held off until 7:00. He will be starting to cut hay this week.

- Director Lee reported that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) budget was passed this week and the Soil and Water Conservation District position has been restored. The Water Resources Department also got their budget passed and they will be filling 15 Assistant Water Master positions. Director Lee also requested that the District host a small open house for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff when they move into the Districts tenant office.
- Director Zuber asked if there was a move in date for USDA. Staff Faucera reported that USDA would be able to move their furnishings in beginning June 19, 2021. They will be unable to occupy the space until doors and sidelights are installed.

Zuber reported that she had attend the South County Citizens Planning Organization meeting. The main topic of discussion was the evacuation from the fire last year. Too many people were on the road at once and the evacuation of livestock was causing traffic jams.

- Director Nelson reported that he would have to leave the meeting at 5:00 but would return.
- Associate Director Rankin thanked the District for their continuing partnership. Rankin also extended a thank you to Staff Eden for his help with a landowner in her area. The Pudding River Watershed Council would like to form a "Restoration" committee, and if there were someone from the District who would like to participate, please contact Rankin.
- Associate Director Melethil reported that the Metro Parks and Nature bonds committee has met for a second time and are still getting organized. Melethil has contacted Staff Leininger about doing a couple of ride-a-longs with the WeedWise staff.

**D. Partner reports –** Al Hrynshyn with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) reported that the commission had made up their missed February meeting.

Hrynshyn also reported that Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has hired a new conservation planner and is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director.

East Multnomah SWCD is still struggling with director eligibility requirements.

Upper Willamette SWCD is in the process of transitioning to a tax-based revenue. They will be looking for a new office space and have passed their first official budget. They are hiring a conservation technician and will be looking for more staff within the year, including a financial person. They are also heavily involved in wildfire recovery.

**E. Manager's report on committees – General Manger (GM) Lapp reported on the following committees:**

- The Personnel Committee met on June 7, 2021, to give GM Lapp his six-month review, and to discuss the wage range for the new conservation planner.
- The Finance Committee has been exchanging e-mails.
- The Building Committee has been keeping in touch via e-mail, and Staff Faucera will report later in the meeting.

Staff Faucera asked that he be allowed to report at this time as he will need to leave the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Faucera reported on the tenant improvement work. Faucera, Director Guttridge, and Ian Anderson of Cedar Mills did a walk through on Monday, June 14, 2021, to discuss minor issues which needed to be finished. Doors are the major issue and Cedar Mill continues to work with the vendor. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be able to move furniture in beginning June 19 and will be working from home until the office is completed. Every month they are unable to move-in costs the District \$8,000 in lost rental fees. Signage is in progress and should be completed and installed before the end of the month.

Faucera also reported on the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) project. There will be a final public meeting to deliver results and collect input is scheduled on June 16, 2021, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The report is holistic in nature. It will cover the data gathered, the issues brought forth by the Technical Advisory Committee, and highlight the major issues. Turbidity, temperature, and harmful algae blooms need to be addressed. There will be continuing discussions regarding the needs of the public and the hope that municipalities will step-up to help with the issues. There is not enough data available currently to direct riparian restoration priorities. Outreach to landowners regarding a volunteer stormwater monitoring event later in the year may provide necessary data to address the turbidity issue.

Faucera noted there will be a Working Lands Committee meeting in early July.

## 2 – MINUTES

- A. **May 18, 2021, Budget Hearing minutes** – Chair Becker presented the Budget Hearing minutes from May 18, 2021. The minutes have been reviewed by the Board Secretary.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve the May 18, 2021; Budget Hearing minutes as presented. The motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. **May 18, 2021, Regular Board Meeting minutes** – Chair Becker presented the Regular Board Meeting minutes for May 18, 2021. The minutes have been reviewed by the Board Secretary.

Directors Lee/Guttridge moved/seconded to approve the May 18, 2021; Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

## 3 – FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. **Review and accept financial reports** – Staff Tucker presented the financial reports for May 31, 2021. Current total assets were 11.2 million, total liabilities were 7 million and total net assets were 4.2 million. Tucker noted that the negative accounts payable totals were caused by a timing issue with payments that were reported to the District in May but were not deposited until June of 2021.

Directors Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. The motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Disbursements** – Staff Tucker presented the disbursements for June 2021. Tucker reviewed the Automatic Clearing House payments that totaled \$ 2,860.02 for ADP, Abila, MasterCard, and Vertical Computers. He then presented the disbursement list. Checks were numbered 100638 to 100666 for a total of \$384,699.10 with \$6,690.46 from the conservation fund. Tucker noted payments to Zions Bank for the Conservation Resource Center, and to Cedar Mill Construction for the tenant improvements. Tucker also noted payment to the IRS for COVID-19 credits that were disallowed.

There was some discussion among the Directors regarding the payment of invoices that may not have been included in a resolution pre-approving payment for certain invoices at the beginning of the month. The Board asked to review the current resolutions regarding pre-approval of invoices to be included in the first of the month check run. Staff Guttridge is to send out the two most recent resolutions for the Board to review.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve the disbursements as presented. The motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4 – OTHER FINANCIALS**

- A. Request for third check run** – Staff Tucker asked for permission to process a third check run in June 2021. June is the end of the fiscal year, and the district tries to close out as many invoices as necessary by June 30, 2021. Also due to the early date of the board meeting some invoices have not yet been received. Tucker requested that invoices be submitted by June 23, 2021, and he will process checks on June 24, or 25, 2021.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve a third check run for June 2021. The motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approval for credit card purchase authority to program managers** – GM Lapp spoke with the Board regarding purchase cards for all program managers and giving them authority to approve purchases. Lapp felt that this would create more efficiency for the District. Staff Tucker had reviewed this request with the Finance Committee. It was suggested that staff members Faucera, Kilders, Leininger, and Reische be provided with cards with a limit of \$1,500 each and Tucker be provided with a \$9,000 card for major purchases. All purchase would be reviewed by the General Manager.

Directors were concerned that this would be to many credit cards in circulation and felt that as the financial administrator Staff Tucker should not have a card in his name. Staff Tucker stated that the District had protections against improper use of the cards.

Directors asked that GM Lapp bring a more detailed write up to the next Board meeting for review.

- C. Status of IT management quotes** – Staff Faucera reported that he would be receiving a quote by the end of this week and expect another quote by the end of the month. He is looking for one more quote and hopes to have proposals for review by the next Board meeting. He asked if any of the Board members would like to participate in the review and it was decided that the Finance committee should help with this matter.



*Staff Faucera left the meeting at 4:58 P.M.*

## **5 – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS**

- A. District Annual Work Plan for submission to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) –** Staff Kilders presented the draft annual work plan for the Board’s approval before submitting to ODA. Directors complimented Kilders on her work, a well put together document.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz move/second to approve the Annual Work Plan and submit it to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Lee, Nelson, and Zuber. Abstained: Johnson. Motion Carried.

*Director Nelson left the meeting at 5:10 P.M.*

- B. Approval for the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Backyard Bird Habitat Program –** Staff Leininger reviewed the memorandum of agreement with the Board. The District has partnered with the Backyard Habitat Certification Program for several years. Leininger noted the District had budgeted \$25,871 for the program for fiscal year 2021/2022. The program has been working with the municipalities in Clackamas County and does have some other funding sources this year. Leininger asked the Board to approve GM Lapp to sign the agreement. Please see the briefing memo that is a part of these minutes.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve General Manger Lapp to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Backyard Habitat Certification Program for fiscal 2021/2022. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Lee, and Zuber. Motion Carried Unanimously.

- C. Status of position letter regarding water filtration project –** Chair Becker reported that he had met with Director Nelson and discussed the position letter regarding the proposed City of Portland water filtration system. The suggestion was to simplify the letter and send it to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Directors discussed the lack of transparency, and the planning process regarding siting the plant.

Director Johnson noted that the letter needed to be sent to the City of Portland. Multnomah County, Clackamas County and ODA should receive copies of the letter. ODA would only be involved once a permit is applied for and only regarding agricultural land use. It will be up to ODA’s director if they become involved.

*Director Lee left the meeting at 5:30 P.M.*

Directors discussed the need to involve more individuals and organizations regarding the lack of transparency and noted that the project has not yet been approved. The letter should focus on land-use and the protection of working lands, addressing valid concerns regarding the project.

*Director Nelson returned to the meeting at 5:37 A.M.*

Chair Becker reviewed the discussion with Director Nelson and will draft a letter for the Board to review.

- D. **Transition Plan for Staff Rains position** – GM Lapp reported to the Board that with Staff Rains retirement at the end of June 2021, he will be suspending the septic system loan program and the equipment rental program until such time as Staff Rains position is filled. Lapp will be overseeing the septic loan applications that are in process. Lapp hopes to also hire a part-time or term maintenance person with farm equipment knowledge who might be able to take over the equipment rental program.

## 6 – PERSONNEL

- A. **AIG retirement resolution 2021-004** – Staff Tucker presented Resolution # 2021-004 to reinstate the AIG retirement plan and accept the IRS amendments as required. The AIG retirement plan affects approximately 6 employees.

Directors Fantz/Guttridge moved/seconded to authorize Resolution 2021-004 to amend and restate the retirement plan "non-standardized" defined contribution plan. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Registered Agent resolution 2021-005** – GM Lapp presented resolution 2021-005 to change the District's Registered Agent to General Manager Lapp and to correct the registered address of the District.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to approve resolution 2021-005 to change the Districts Registered Agent to General Manager Lapp and to correct the Registered Address of the District. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Cost-of-living adjustment request** – Director Guttridge reported to the Board that he had an actual conflict of interest as this matter would affect Staff Guttridge's pay and he is related to her. He would not participate in the discussion or vote on this request.

General Manager Lapp asked the Board to grant a 1.7% cost of living adjustment to all employees per the Consumer Price Index for 2020. The cost-of-living adjustment was budgeted for in the 2021/2022 fiscal year budget.

Directors Johnson/Fantz moved/seconded to approve a 1.7% cost of living adjustment for all employees beginning July 1, 2021. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Abstaining: Guttridge. Motion carried.

- D. **Proposed selection of Conservation Planner** – GM Lapp reported to the Board that after reviewing 31 applications and narrowing the field down to 5 candidates, he and several staff members had conducted interviews with four candidates. The fifth candidate had taken another position. Lapp reported that he had discussed the recommendation with the Personnel Committee. Staff recommends a proposal to offer the position to Suzi Cloutier with an hourly wage at Band C, Step 12. Lapp reviewed Cloutier qualifications and asked that the Board approve her hiring.

Directors Johnson/Guttridge moved/seconded to have General Manager Lapp offer the position of Conservation Planner to Suzi Cloutier at Band C, Step 12 wages. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. **Recruitment for additional Conservation Planner** – GM Lapp reported to the Board that with grant funding from the Oregon Department of Agriculture there was an opportunity to hire another conservation planner under a term agreement. Lapp has checked with Staff Tucker that there is available funding to cover additional dollars that would be needed to cover the position. This would be an entry level position and Lapp asked for permission to move forward with recruitment.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to authorize General Manager Lapp to move forward with the recruitment of a limited term conservation planner. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. **Conversion of General Manager to regular status** – Chair Becker reported to the Board that the Personnel Committee had met to give General Manager Lapp his 6-month review. Becker reported that the Personnel Committee recommends to the Board that Lapp be made a full-time regular employee with access to vacation days and eligibility for the Districts retirement plan.

Directors Guttridge/Nelson moved/seconded to accept General Manager Lapp as a full-time regular employee. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- G. **Assigning hire/fire authority to the General Manager** – Chair Becker reported that with General Manager Lapp approved as a regular employee, he should be assigned hire and fire authority as a part of his duties.

Directors Nelson/Guttridge moved/seconded to assign hire and fire authority to General Manager Lapp. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

- H. **Exempt Status for Program Managers** – General Manager Lapp reported to the Board that he is working on having position descriptions updated. Lapp has been working with Special Districts Association of Oregon to review the positions descriptions and make sure that all employees are correctly classified as either exempt or non-exempt. All position descriptions will be run through a classification test, to make sure they meet the "Fair Labor Standards Act". It is possible that program managers status will be changed.

Director Johnson noted that this is very important and supports GM Lapp working to get this correct.

## 7- BOARD AND MANAGER REPORTS

- A. **Associate Director Toops status** – Chair Becker reported that he had exchanged e-mails with Jim Toops. Toops submitted his resignation as an associate director. Toops noted he had enjoyed his time working with the District, and he wished the District well. Becker thanked Toops for his work. Becker asked that Toops e-mail address be removed from the District website.
- B. **Board of Director Elections** – Chair Becker asked if the Board if anyone wanted to leave their office or be elected to any other officer position.

Directors Guttridge/Fantz moved/seconded to retain current officers for another year. Motion carried as follows: In Favor: Becker, Fantz, Guttridge, Johnson, Nelson, and Zuber. Motion carried unanimously.

C. **Management reports** –

- Staff Reische reported that the planners have been busy with technical assistance. Staff Eden had been making many pasture site visits and noted that there is considerable concern about the lack of rain. He is working to help customers with ways to improve grass species. Reische thanked Staff Kilders for help with Oregon Water Enhancement Board grant applications. She also thanked GM Lapp, Staff Faucera & Eden, and Associate Director Rankin for their help in the selection of the new conservation planner. Please see the planners report which is a part of these minutes.
- Staff Kilders reported that the outreach department has been busy getting the Oregon Department of Agriculture scope of work and district capacity grants filed. There are articles posted on the Districts website for the WeedWise Boot Bush campaign. Kilders reported on articles regarding home-site preparations for wildfire season will be published in local papers. She also announced an article regarding cover cropping being done by a cooperator, Fred Kaser will be published in the Molalla Pioneer. Please see the outreach report which is a part of these minutes.
- Staff Leininger reported on the WeedWise department work. All staff have been extremely busy and are happy with the new ARC GIS program that allows real time updates. The crews have added 182 weed treatments and 140 net acres to their programs.
- Staff Cooley, Gattuso and Karr have been working with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in wildfire areas. Contracts for this work have been finalized. Leininger reported that \$84,000 of additional funding had been made available to do work in the Beachie Creek fire area. He was dismayed that most of the need is in Marion County, and they did not get funding. However, Clackamas SWCD does have a Memorandum of Agreement with Marion County and the District will work to make sure some of this funding reaches Marion SWCD.
- The Lake Oswego partnership and two local watershed councils are helping the District with continued garlic mustard treatment.



- Leininger reported that a new weed has popped up in the county. Yellow Rattle showed up in a hay field affecting 90 percent of the crop. The farm has self-quarantined the field and will destroy and treat the acreage to prevent the spread of weed. They will lose all production from this field this year. There is a possibility that this infestation was caused by contaminated seed the farmer used to over-seed his field.
- Leininger reported that Staff Gattuso was working on 10 miles of upper Lolo Pass out of Sandy on hawkweed treatment. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bonneville Power Administration, the Forestry Department, and the Water Bureau are all involved in this work. Please see Leininger's report that is attached as a part of these minutes.

## **8 – PROPERTY, PLANNING**

### **A. No Reports**

## **9 – OTHER REPORTS**

- Staff Guttridge thanked the Board for the cost-of-living adjustment.

## **ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING**

- The next regular meeting will be on July 20, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
- There being no further business, Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tami L. Guttridge  
Office Administrator



June 15, 2021

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **RE: Conservation Planning Program Update**

#### **Pasture Technical Assistance and Weedy Grasses**

One common topic planners receive calls for in spring is pasture assistance, specifically for weed problems in pastures. Planner Scott Eden has been on several sites this spring where weedy winter annual grasses (*Vulpia* species) have taken over parts of hayfields and pasture. Often time, these grasses give owners the illusion of a healthy pasture because they can appear quite green and robust early in the season. However, they set seed and go dormant much sooner than some of the more desirable pasture species like orchardgrass and timothy.

This year many grasses are going to seed early because of low rainfall and higher than normal average temperatures. Weedy grasses with shallow fibrous root systems create patches of low production in a field. Common ones we see are rattleail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*), and brome fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Another closely related species is called “six weeks grass” (*Vulpia octoflora*) because it is basically done in six weeks once it starts growing quickly in the early spring with warming temperatures. These Eurasian weedy grasses establish in areas where there is disturbance or other opportunities, and form patches that keep spreading year after year if not controlled. They are poor forage and cannot be made into hay because of their short stature. Hayfields and pastures with these grasses present tend to have steadily declining productivity. They also have prickly awns and spikelets on the seed head that can be a nuisance and injure livestock. Another similar low stature invasive winter annual grass that is also a problem in our area, has even more prickly seedheads, and behaves in a similar manner is Hare barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*). Species like Hare barley are often transported in hay, so planners advise close inspection of new hay or even to consider certified weed free hay.

There are many strategies to control these weedy grasses and promote healthy perennial forage grasses by improving soil health and fertility and using management techniques to remove them and reseed with a desired grass or grass/legume mix. Scott tailors his recommendations to folks with their unique situation in mind.



Pasture with weedy grass species.



Pasture with desirable grass species.



## Rainwater Harvesting Assistance

This spring our local rainwater harvesting guru, Clair Klock, has been assisting a local farmer with the design of a rainwater harvesting system. The new system will be used on a beginning small farm in Damascus. Clackamas County has four groundwater areas of concern, including this area in Damascus. One unique thing about this system is the use of a sump tank and pump instead of normal gravity feed to the tanks. A house and shed provide the rainwater harvest surface and a sump pump is needed because of the gutter outflow location. This system will have the capacity to expand as the funds become available. It is a leased/option arrangement, so the system can be dismantled and moved, if necessary, with minimum effort. Clair and the landowner also discussed the use of an efficient drip system design and weatherization of the system for greenhouse use.

## Strategic Implementation Area OWEB Grant Application

The planning team worked with Lisa Kilders this month to finalize and submit an OWEB application that will help fund our work in the new ODA Strategic Implementation Area in Lower and Middle Clear Creeks. Our expectation is that we will be very busy working with landowners to address manure management issues in these watersheds. The grant funding will span the next four years and help cover a portion of planner salaries for technical and planning assistance. The grant will also help fund outreach efforts like conservation classes to help educate residents on practices to improve water quality as well as video production on relevant conservation topics.

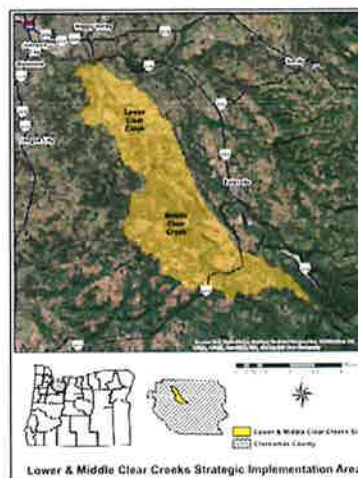
### Overview of the 2020 Lower & Middle Clear Creeks **DRAFT** Strategic Implementation Area – Clackamas County Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Water Quality Program

**Purpose:** The Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative includes four key components:

1. Demonstrate compliance with Oregon's agricultural water quality regulations.
2. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation.
3. Monitoring to track water quality and land conditions.
4. Locally-led collaborative partnerships.

**Evaluation Process:** ODA remotely identifies opportunities for water quality improvement within agricultural lands by reviewing aerial imagery, maps, stream and drainage locations, property boundaries, soils, and well logs. The presence of an agricultural activity (such as livestock or cropping), slope, proximity to the waterbody, size of the waterbody, and stream type (seasonal or year-round) are considered when identifying potential water quality impacts. ODA also completes a field evaluation from public viewpoints to verify results from the remote evaluation and document any additional observations.

**Why this watershed?** ODA's SIA selection process includes the location of agricultural lands and streams, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) list of impaired waterbodies and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) local fish habitat priorities. These data sources help prioritize areas for SIA work.



## New Conservation Planner Interviews

Jenne and Scott, along with other District staff and Anna Rankin, spent time last month reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates for a new conservation planner to replace Matt VanWey. We were thrilled to receive many exceptional applicants. After interviewing four well qualified applicants, the panel decided on a candidate that we are all very excited to bring on board, hopefully by the end of this month or early July.





## The Latest from the Education and Outreach Program June 2021

### Web Posts

Since last we met, we have posted seven articles on our website:

- [Public Input Sought on Molalla River Assessment and Action Plan](#)
- [Clean Your Boots to Protect Our Natural Areas](#)
- [June Invasive Weed of the Month: Policeman's Helmet](#)
- [Weekend Wildfire Warriors - Immediate Zone](#)
- [Subterranean Clover: A Successful Cover Crop for Local Hazelnut Orchardist](#)
- [Video Series for Erosion Control Practices](#)
- [National Invasive Species Awareness Week, May 15-22](#)

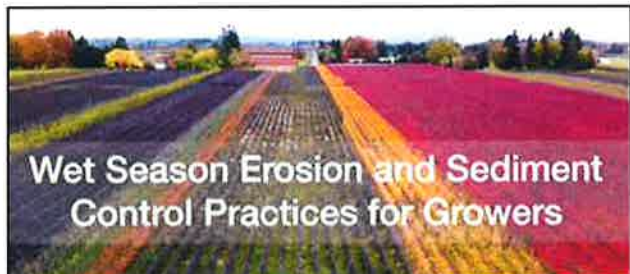


June Invasive Weed of the Month:  
Policeman's Helmet

### Outreach Activities

#### Video Promotion

This month we spent time promoting our *Wet Season Erosion and Sediment Control Practices for Growers* video series. It was well received by Oregon Department of Agriculture who has been actively sharing it with sister Districts.



We have also shared the video with industry associations such as the Oregon Department of Nurseries, the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association, and the Oregon Nut Growers Society, plus some partner organizations are sharing it with their members. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts is also sharing it with our neighbors to the north. We hope that producers will find new ways to control erosion that they can implement on their operations.

#### Producer Highlight - Fred Kaser

An article on local hazelnut producer and District cooperater, Fred Kaser, was published in the Molalla Pioneer recently. Mr. Kaser has completed several practices with the District including efficient drip irrigation on his farm. He has also been working on different cover crops to reduce erosion from his hazelnut orchards. He has had success with subterranean clover and is very excited to share his knowledge with others. Thanks to Scott Eden who wrote the article with information provided by Mr. Kaser.



Subterranean clover between  
rows of hazelnuts

The article will be shared with members of the Oregon Nut Growers Society.

We have also posted the article about [Mr Kaser](#) on our website.



## Weekend Wildfire Warriors

A series of articles to help Clackamas County residents prepare their properties to be more fire resistant should be showing up in the local newspapers over the next few weeks. These articles break down the list of activities into zones, so they can be tackled each weekend to make the challenge seem a little less overwhelming. The information is based on the National Fire Protection Association and Firewise USA recommendations. The [first article](#) of the series is also posted on our website.



## Small Farm School



It is hard to believe that we are already planning Small Farm School! This year it will be held on Wednesday, September 15th (new date) and will be a modified in-person and virtual event. Education and Outreach staff will develop and produce Ask the Expert videos which will be shared via social media and will be added to the OSU Small Farm School website as a permanent resource.

## PlayCleanGo Week

Education and Outreach staff serve on the Education and Outreach committee for the Columbia Gorge County Weed Management Agencies (CWMA.) We assisted in putting together a press release kit for the CWMA in celebration of PlayCleanGo Week. This group is focusing their efforts on educating the public about the uses of boot brushes. Education and Outreach staff also helped to promote the week-long event via print and social media.



## SoilHealth for School Gardens Workshop



Education and Outreach staff assisted colleagues at Deschutes SWCD and the Environmental Center in Bend, OR to develop their soil health education program. This program will closely mimic the one established at Clackamas SWCD. Workshops dates have not yet been set.

## OCEAN

As a board member, Cathy has assisted the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network in the process of bringing on two contract employees. These grant-funded staff will broaden the scope of services the organization provides to conservation district and watershed council staff across the state. We all benefit from the educational opportunities offered by this organization!



## West Linn Library Webinar Series

The District was invited to give a presentation on Beneficial Insects to Control Garden Pests for the West Linn Library Summer Webinar series. This year their focus is on gardening.

**Have a Great Month!**



Soldier Beetle  
Joseph Berger Bugwood.org



June 11, 2021

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE CLACKAMAS SWCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RE: WeedWise Program Update



### **Policeman's Helmet: Weed of the Month**

This month we are highlighting policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*) as [our June Weed-of-the-Month](#). June is the month when we see policeman's helmet starting to grow and develop. By late June, these showy plants are starting to bloom. So, this is a good time to raise awareness about this important weed.

Policeman's helmet is a Class B noxious weed in Oregon. It is known as an extremely fast-growing annual plant. Plants can grow from seed up to a height of 10 feet in a single season. Seeds are dispersed by [exploding seed pods](#) that can scatter seeds up to 20 feet away. The concern about policeman's helmet is that it invades riparian areas, where it displaces native vegetation, then dies back at the end of the year leaving stream banks exposed. This leads to increased erosion and reduced water quality as sediment moves into streams.



### Spring Treatments and Surveys

The WeedWise program has been continuing the spring push of noxious weeds. This time of year is when we experience our peak implementation period. Staff and contractors are scrambling to treat our spring weeds before they have a chance to set seed. This past month we have continued to focus our attention largely on garlic mustard.

Justin has been focusing on work in Lake Oswego as part of a new partnership there. In addition, he has been treating a large infestation in the Ladd Hill area in Wilsonville. This population is the upstream-most infestation of garlic mustard in the Willamette River drainage. As such, is a high priority for Clackamas and for the state. Justin has done a great job of managing the crews in that area.

Lindsey has continued to carry out follow-up treatments on garlic mustard and priority invasive weeds throughout the Clackamas. She has been managing multiple crews simultaneously up and down the Clackamas. The immense amount of work she has organized over the last month has been impressive! With the recent finalization of Mt Hood National Forest contract modifications, Lindsey has been able to begin work in the upper portions of the Clackamas impacted by the Riverside Fire. She is currently working with Forest Service staff and select contractors to survey and treat these areas.

Courtney has been carrying out follow-up treatment on garlic mustard in the Sandy River watershed. She has also begun treating orange hawkweed in the lower portions of the Sandy and continues to evaluate phenology checks for planned hawkweed treatment higher up in the watershed.

Last month, the WeedWise program reported 152 noxious weed control treatments totaling 88 net acres to date. ***This month these totals have grown to 334 noxious weed treatments totaling 214 net acres. That is one impressive month! Nice work WeedWise team!***





### Wildfire Work Update

The activities planned within the areas impacted by the Riverside and Beachies Creek wildfires have been greatly hindered by delays in federal contracting, as well as logistic and safety concerns.

This past month things have begun to fall into place. Sam was able to complete contract modifications with the Mt Hood National Forest that have resulted in additional \$120,000 for implementation over the next two years, with \$60,000 dedicated to work within the burn area and the remaining total dedicated to CWMA support (\$10,000), and implementation in the Sandy and Clackamas Watersheds (\$50,000).

The Forest Service resources dedicated to the Riverside Fire will be used chiefly by Lindsey to implement key portions of the Riverside Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) plan. Lindsey is currently coordinating with the Mt Hood NF staff to begin implementation of this work.

Sam also completed two contracts with Northwest Oregon BLM. The first contract for \$40,000 is from Title II funds awarded through the Western Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for work primarily within the Sandy and Molalla Basins. In addition to these funds WeedWise was awarded an additional \$84,790 in Emergency Stabilization (ES) funds for implementation of work within the Riverside and Beachie Creek burn areas. As part of this effort, a portion of the ES funds will be applied to surveys and treatments within Marion County using our Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Marion SWCD. Sam is currently working with BLM and Marion SWCD staff to coordinate this work.

This season all work on BLM lands has also been “on pause” due to a problem with the weed control portion of the recently adopted Environmental Assessment. This temporary moratorium has now been lifted and Justin is now working to get contract crews into the Molalla Basin to begin survey work.

The work within the burn areas has also been complicated by inherent safety concerns. WeedWise program staff have been working with Forest Service and BLM staff to review and implement safety protocols, and we will be using radios from both BLM and USFS while working in the burn area. Access Permits and increased communication between staff is also needed while working in these areas.

Our Wildfire work has been slow in coming, but it is especially important in this first year post-fire. Although this is a lot of additional work, we are happy to participate in the effort to help protect Clackamas County from the rapid resurgence of invasive weeds post-fire.





### Lake Oswego Garlic Mustard Partnership

The WeedWise program has been busy carrying out end of season noxious weed treatments targeting garlic mustard in Lake Oswego. This new partnership includes partners from the WeedWise program, City of Lake Oswego, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and West Multnomah SWCD.

The WeedWise program has been treating many of these project sites for several years, but due to recent budget constraints we had planned to wind-down operations. Fortunately, this season the WeedWise program was awarded a \$20,000 Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) grant from the City of Lake Oswego allowing us to continue work. Thanks to the HEP award, we able to continue this important work. This project is also helping to strengthen our relationship with the City of Lake Oswego and our watershed council partners.

Unfortunate delays in the HEP granting process has compressed the time available to complete the work. Thankfully, Sam was able to complete the grant and get financial paperwork processed with the help of Nathan to allow the work to continue. In the meantime, Justin has done a stellar job of coordinating contract crews to get this meaningful work accomplished.



### A Noteworthy Discovery

It is not uncommon for us to have new noxious weed discoveries each spring. In recent weeks have discovered new populations of sulphur cinquefoil near Boring, garlic mustard in Beavercreek, and an apparent expansion of Italian thistle in Oregon City.

These discoveries come from [Oregon Invasive Species hotline](#) reports, crowd-sourced observations via [iNaturalist](#), or from the observations of WeedWise staff and contractors that happen upon a new patch while working in the field.

This past month, a new threat was brought to our attention by a hay producer near Sandy. They called regarding on a new plant that had suddenly appeared in their most productive hay field. They had taken a sample to OSU Extension and it was identified as a toxic parasitic plant known as yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). The confusing part is that this plant is a rare and uncommon native in our area and is known from only a handful of observations. Sam went out to the property and discovered the hayfield was dominated by yellow rattle with populations exceeding 80% cover over much of the field. The owners have never seen the plant before and are convinced that the plant came from a forage seed mix they had overseeded this past season.

Upon discovery, Sam reached out to other weed managers across the northwest to see if anyone else had seen this kind of response. Apart from the occasional occurrence, no one had seen this kind of population explosion in our region. In doing some additional research similar observations have been noted in New Hampshire, where a non-native subspecies had been identified. In identifying the plant, Sam was able to determine that the plant observed appears to be an apparent European subspecies.

Sam is currently working with the affected landowners and is coordinating with OSU herbarium to document the infestation, with ODA Commodities Division to investigate the seed source, and is reaching out to ODA Noxious Weed program for a risk assessment for the non-native subspecies to slow or prevent additional distribution of this plant.

The landowners have been very cooperative and have willingly quarantined the field to prevent potential spread. Unfortunately, they are facing a significant loss of forage and have incurred additional expense in trying to control the weed and rehab the field.





### National Pollinator Week

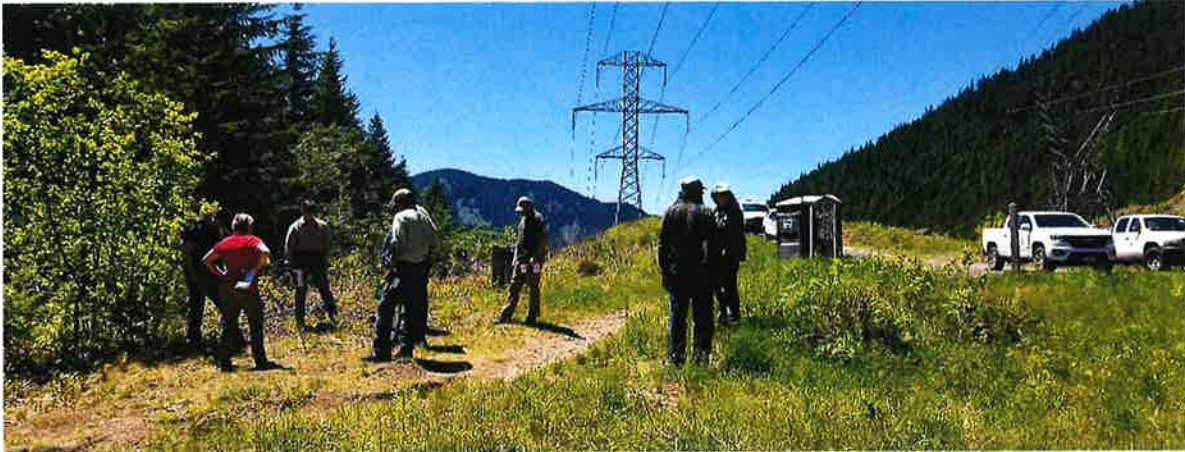
June 21-27 has been declared National Pollinator Week! WeedWise is joining others across the country to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators. We will be highlighting the threat of invasive weeds on pollinator habitat and the importance of thoughtful weed management practices to avoid adverse impacts to pollinators. Be sure to check the WeedWise page and our social media on June 21st (<https://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/2021/national-pollinator-week-2021.html>) for some great information.



### Technical Assistance

The WeedWise program continues to respond to a flood of spring technical assistance requests. For the past month we have received a steady stream of phone calls, emails, and hot line reports related to garlic mustard, poison hemlock, knotweed, among others.

Sam continues to spearhead most of the WeedWise technical assistance requests. This peak in requests is normal and we typically see an uptick in interest at this time of year. Fortunately, the request appear to be returning to normal after the massive increase observed last year during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Kicking off Lolo Pass Hawkweed Treatments**

The WeedWise program is preparing to kick off the hawkweed control efforts in the Lolo Pass corridor. Last week, Courtney and Sam met with staff from the Mt Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Bonneville Power Administration to orient project participants in logistic considerations, plant identification, plant phenology, and project coordination. The Lolo pass project spans 9.5 miles of rugged terrain within the BPA powerline corridor running through national forest, and industrial forest lands in two counties.

The WeedWise program will once again be coordinating contracted weed control crews through the Clackamas County portion of the project. Staff from Oregon Dept of Agriculture, Mt Hood National Forest, Portland Water Bureau, and Bonneville Power Administration will be assisting with the work. This season BPA will be leading their contract crews through the Hood River County portion of the project.

The coordination this year has been dramatically improved by the roll out of our new ArcGIS Online mapping system that allows us to share information seamlessly across partner organizations. We are able to collect survey and treatment data in real time and share it with our partners in the field. Work planned for this season has been made possible by the recent Mt Hood National Forest contract modifications and a \$30,000 agreement from Bonneville Power Administration.





## 4 COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area



## Cooperative Weed Management Areas

### *Columbia Gorge CWMA*

The Columbia Gorge CWMA has been celebrating its first ever virtual Boot Brush Kickoff event. Courtney has been working with regional land managers to implement much needed maintenance and repair to boot brushes throughout the Columbia Gorge. Support for these repairs has been funded by the Columbia Gorge CWMA.

Courtney has also coordinated with Cathy to spearhead an outreach campaign to help *spread the word and not the weeds*. This social media outreach campaign has been organized to make people more aware of the importance of cleaning boots and equipment. Posts have been written and shared from partners across Western Oregon and Western Washington. Kudos to Courtney, Cathy, and all of our partners in making this campaign a huge success.

### *4-County CWMA*

The 4-County CWMA continues to work toward a redesign and upgrade to the CWMA website. This has long been a focus of the CWMA, to better serve its member organizations. The 4-County CWMA Steering Committee has been discussing a scope of work and will be looking to secure design firms to help with this process. We are excited to update this resource to help assist our member organizations.

The 4-County CWMA has also announced a Data Sharing Contest to map weeds using iNaturalist. If you are interested in competing for the fame and glory and sought after prizes, be sure to check out the Data Sharing Contest for 2021 (<https://4countycwma.org/mapping-data/data-sharing-contest-entry-2020/>)

The 4-County Technical Committee also hosted a recent field trip to look at invasive members of the parsley family (*Apiaceae*). Participants toured several field sites to learn to distinguish *Anthriscus* and *Torilis* species. This field trip was a milestone in that it was the first in-person event to be held by one of our CWMA's since the start of the pandemic! Great news indeed!

Voucher Approval List

6/3/2021

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Payment
6/3/2021	100638	AFLAC	Acct: LGF14 06/2021	\$ 766.21
6/3/2021	100639	Nicole Ahr	Reimbursement: Mileage 05/2021	\$ 137.76
6/3/2021	100640	CWT, LLC	CSWCD: Prof Svcs [Media] 05/2021	\$ 1,777.28
6/3/2021	100641	Department of the Treasury	CP220 [Tax 941 Adj 06/30/20_09/30/21] 06/	\$ 18,946.34
6/3/2021	100642	Drew Donahue	Reimbursement: Mileage 05/2021	\$ 82.72
6/3/2021	100643	Scott Eden	Reimbursement: Mileage 05/2021	\$ 88.48
6/3/2021	100644	Garmin Services, Inc	Acct: DL627537 05/2021	\$ 73.96
6/3/2021	100645	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	CSWCD: Mbr 07/2021-06/2022	\$ 7,500.00
6/3/2021	100646	Oregon City Garbage, Inc	Acct: 57768000 06/2021	\$ 96.90
6/3/2021	100647	Pacific Office Automation	Acct: 900-0266949-000 [100-0417] 04/2021	\$ 242.19
6/3/2021	100648	PGE	Acct: 9606754531 05/2021	\$ 398.83
6/3/2021	100649	Premiere Global Services (PGi)	Acct: 3616841 05/2021	\$ 43.23
6/3/2021	100650	The Gold Wrench	CSWCD: Rpr Svcs [Rav] 05/2021	\$ 67.50
6/3/2021	100651	T-MOBILE	Acct: 9616021090 05/20/21	\$ 445.19
6/3/2021	100652	US Bank Voyager Fleet Systems	Acct: 869284679 05/24/21	\$ 262.52
6/3/2021	100653	VOYA Financial OSGP	CSWCD: EE/ER 457b PPE 05/31/21	\$ 12,899.54
6/3/2021	100654	Zions Bank	Loan:1010000319747 CRC [P/I] 06/2021	\$ 267,209.91
6/3/2021	100655	Zions Bank	Loan: 1010000319762 CRC [Int] 06/2021	\$ 21,510.90
<b>Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$ 332,549.46</b>

6/15/2021

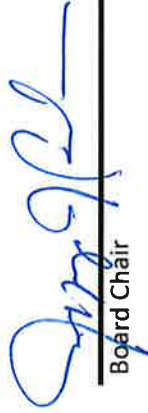
6/14/2021	100656	Ash Creek Forest Management, LLC	DOG-1823-4021 [WW-2019-02] / SodaSprin	\$ 5,588.46
6/14/2021	100657	Cedar Mill Construction Company LLC	CSWCD: TI [003] 05/2021	\$ 18,240.00
6/14/2021	100658	Coverall North America, Inc	Acct: 157-6800 Janitorial 06/2021	\$ 567.00
6/14/2021	100659	Clackamas Dept of Finance	CSWCD: EE/ER Benefits 06/2021	\$ 22,352.18
6/14/2021	100660	Verena Fabian	SDOG-1822-4032 Materials 05/2021	\$ 1,102.00
6/14/2021	100661	Northwest Local Government Legal Advisors, LLC	CSWCD: Prof Svcs [Legal] 06/2021	\$ 150.00
6/14/2021	100662	Northwest Plumbing and Backflow, Inc	CSWCD: Maint Svcs [Backflow] 05/2021	\$ 335.00
6/14/2021	100663	Pamplin Media Group	Acct: 16009187 [Wilsonville Spks] 05/2021	\$ 43.00

6/14/2021	100664	Eann Rains	Reimbursement: Supplies 05/2021	\$	56.27
6/14/2021	100665	Spire Technologies, Inc	Acct: 02208 07/2021-06/2022	\$	2,129.88
6/14/2021	100666	The Gold Wrench	CSWCD: Maint Svcs [F150/TAC] 05/2021	\$	1,585.85

**Subtotal: \$ 52,149.64**

**Total: \$ 384,699.10**

**Total Conservation Fund \$ 6,690.46 CF**

  
Board Chair

  
Board Secretary

6-15-21