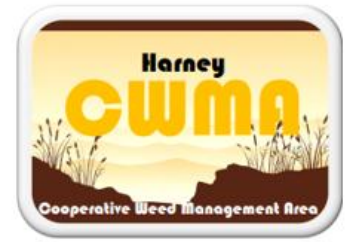




Harney Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 848
530 Hwy 20 South, Hines, OR 97738
Phone: 541.573.6446
Email: goss@harneyswcd.net
admin@harneyswcd.net



CWMA Meeting Minutes April 1, 2026 USDA Service Center

Present: CWMA Tyler Goss, Oregon State University (OSU) Dustin Jonhson, Harney Basin Watershed Council (HBWC) Karen Moon, Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) Randy Wiest, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) Travis Miller

Remote: Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Bonnie Rasmussen, US Forest Service (USFS) Jessi Brunson

As the HSWCD Chair and Vice Chair were otherwise scheduled, Tyler led the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and let those participating remotely know who was in the conference room.

Tyler mentioned two additions to the agenda: Drone work and the CWMA Rejuvra test plot update.

Item #1: March 2026 Meeting Minutes (action item)

Jessi moved to accept the March 2026 meeting minutes as presented, with no additions or corrections. Travis seconded. No one was opposed.

Item #2: March 2026 Financial Report

A financial report was not submitted as of the meeting. This item was tabled for next month.

Project progress and updates

- 1) Regarding BLM, Tyler said that since Sam Cisney was planning to attend, this would be moved toward the end of the meeting. He did say that the CWMA does not have an agreement with the BLM as of this time. He did not think there would be an agreement between the BLM and CWMA until next year.
- 2) Field trip. Tyler asked Jessi what weeds may be showing up in Harney County that she would like the group to visit. Jessi said *potentilla erecta*, St. John's Wort, and cinquefoil, to name a few. She has some areas in mind. She will check the areas before the field trip is scheduled (is waiting for the weather to change). The field trip is tentatively scheduled for mid-July. There is a creek location she has in mind, but now, she cannot remember if it is in Harney or Grant County or on the county line. Another location is the 28 Road. She asked if the group

wanted to look at ventenata locations. She will have location options for the May meeting.

Later in the meeting, Jessi realized she had a schedule conflict with the next CWMA meeting. She can send locations to Tyler before the meeting for the group to decide. She would not be available for any questions.

Dustin asked Jessi if the field trip is just for CWMA members or if it will be advertised. He wondered about including landowners who live in the area of the field trip locations. It was mentioned in years past that the CWMA used to do an identification class over a weekend. The calibration class Jim (Campbell) is planning was mentioned. Dustin offered to assist. No date has been set yet and miscellaneous dates were discussed.

Tyler mentioned the proposed aquatic plant class that Jacob Rose will have in Harney County. Rose is a student of Portland State University and has a grant through the Oregon State Weed Board. He may want to give a presentation in the EOARC conference room. Travis said Rose may also check the Blitzen River and Krumbo Reservoir. Bonnie and Tyler will contact Rose for additional information, and Tyler said they will include Travis in future communication.

- 3) The City-Wise Weed Wipeout—Tyler posted a notification on Facebook. He and Jim will contact local merchants to get them on board. Contractor Dave Bunker from Nyssa will treat commercial lots in Burns and Hines. He will charge \$50 per lot (up to an acre in size); Tyler hopes to keep him at that rate if enough merchants sign up. He asked those attending the meeting to spread the word. The treatment will take place in early June. Bunker will provide labor; the county will donate chemicals. Tyler said Jim knows what chemicals will be used.

Tyler said the City of Burns has hired an herbicide applicator, and the County may provide equipment to the city to help it control its weeds. He hopes Burns and Hines will cooperate in future weed control projects.

New Business:

- 1) Rejuvra test plot: This was on land owned by Jerry Miller, and the plot has been in place for three years. Tyler, Dustin, and HSWCD staff will take down the hog pen panels next Thursday. The area does look improved, but there were some herbicide application skips, preventing a lot of studying. A drone was sent out last year to apply herbicide to the west side of the area. Rejuvra dealers were stumped by some results but thought it had to do with the time of year and ground moisture.

This brought about discussion on herbicide treatments: what types of chemicals (brands) are used in the springtime, treatments for private land rather than public, moisture levels, previous herbicide drone applications, and costs.

The panels will be removed—there are 96 total. Tyler invited those attending the meeting to come out and help or inspect the test results. What to do with the panels was discussed: It was recommended and agreed that 60 be donated to the Burns and Crane FFA programs and 4-H. The other 30 will go to landowner Miller as a thank you for allowing his property to be used for the experiment. Travis suggested Autumn Toelle be contacted for 4-H; Dustin also suggested the Livestock Committee, and just drop off the panels at the fairgrounds for 4-H and FFA to pick up. Tyler alternatively suggested a silent auction.

Tyler said he will use the drone to record the three-year post-treatment of the area.

- 2) Drone: The previous meeting minutes have discussed the CWMA purchasing a drone capable of herbicide application and reseeding. The cost is expected to be \$70 K (\$60K for the drone, \$10K for trailer, water tank, generator, extra batteries, and Starlink (drones work better when connected to the internet). Tyler said he spoke to Dave Bunker, who recommended waiting until early or spring of 2027 for the drone purchase. He knows someone who will manufacture Department of Defense-approved drones. Travis said the refuge has set aside funds in this year's budget for the drone purchase, and wanted to know if that could be given to CWMA now. Tyler said he thought Jason would be fine this year or next. He will talk to Tyler to make sure. Tyler said he hopes to have his herbicide applicator drone license for spraying this summer. He does need to get "apprenticeship hours" in spraying and will do so with Bunker.

Dustin asked if pellet-style herbicide can be used. Tyler thought so since it can do seeds, but it may affect the calibration method.

The MNWR has the first option to use the drone. Randy said the DSL would be interested. Various uses for the drone were discussed. Karen said if fire restoration grants become available, she thought a drone would be practical for small-acreage treatments. Tyler said Cameron Molt is working toward his drone license as well. He lives locally.

Grant cycles, treatment schedules, and seeding schedules were also discussed.

- 3) Jessi mentioned NWA reports. She needs a couple of SWCD agreements.
- 4) Travis said funds are confirmed for Jim and the SWOT crew.

5) Plans for next month:

- a. Jim and Tyler are contacting commercial landowners for the Weed Wipe Out.
- b. Taking down test plot panels
- c. Tyler to assist Karen in cooking for Range Camp
- d. Drone Application Class

Meeting ended 2:38