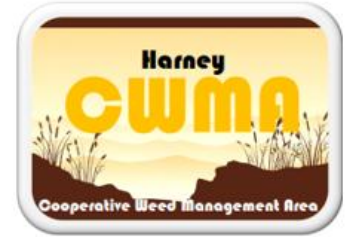




Harney Soil & Water Conservation District  
PO Box 848  
530 Hwy 20 South, Hines, OR 97738  
Phone: 541.573.6446  
Email: [goss@harneyswcd.net](mailto:goss@harneyswcd.net)  
[admin@harneyswcd.net](mailto:admin@harneyswcd.net)



**CWMA Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2026**  
**USDA Service Center**

Present: Jim Cambell (Harney County); Sam Cisney (BLM); Andrew Donaldson (NRCS); Tyler Goss (CWMA); Jason Kesling and Barbara Pearson (HSWCD)

Present/remote: Travis Miller (MNWR); Bonnie Rasmussen (ODA)

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm by Jason Kesling. Introductions were dispensed with as all present knew one another. Tyler added an addition to the agenda—locating a date for the aquatic workshop the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Action item

- 1) Approval of January 2026 meeting minutes. Copies were posted on the HSWCD's district website, and meeting participants were given copies electronically before the meeting. Jim moved, and Sam seconded, approving the meeting minutes. There was no one opposed, and the motion passed.
- 2) The Financial Report was not ready as of the time of the meeting. Jason said it will be ready next month and will reflect spending toward the end of the fiscal year. Jason said there were some problems with RCPP.

Project progress and updates

- 1) 2026 Summer workload—Tyler shared his plans in the months ahead, which include:
  - a) This month, Tyler will participate in a career fair through the High Desert Partnership at both Crane and Burns.
  - b) the City-Wide Weed Wipe Out
  - c) Free Spray Day in early summer
  - d) Working with the BLM and USFW in spraying projects
  - e) Purple loosestrife treatment in the summer
  - f) Salt Cedar sometime in July (Jim said he would like these projects promoted over the local radio, including a Calibration workshop; he felt it was important to let the public know the CWMA also works on private land)
  - g) Title II work (Tyler said he recently spoke to a Drewsey landowner who wants the agency to work there); Poison Creek, Spotted knapweed, and Scotch thistle—Tyler said he would like to treat those areas twice

- h) Jim added a hounds tongue project in coordination with USFWS.
- i) Tyler and Andrew will shortly do some site visits; about 3200 acres are being worked with NRCS on North Steens and Stinkingwater using Rejuvra.
- j) A Rejuvra/Imazepic combination (5/5 and 7/7, to see what rate would work best moving forward. There has been some testing with the landowner to see what will work
- k) There was a brief discussion between Tyler and Sam regarding the BLM agreement, \$22K for rangeland for weed treatment. Sam said normally at the end of the year, projects are submitted for annual performance. She thought it was reviewed. Depending of the questions and how they are resolved will determine how the BLM proceeds.
- l) Tyler said Drewsey Med sage would be a priority.

Travis Miller joined the meeting remotely at:43 pm. Jason brought Travis up to speed on what had already been discussed at the meeting and asked him what he would like discussed. Travis said the drone. He said the refuge planned to treat hybrid cattails this summer and asked for assistance. The Marsh Master will be used. The agency is not cleared as of this time for spraying herbicide on water—state approval is needed. He will speak with Tyler regarding other projects for the refuge.

- 2) Drone: Tyler said he has been studying for a drone aerial herbicide treatment license through the state. He hopes to have his licensing completed this spring. The next step will be to obtain the drone and get his training hours in. Fifty hours are required to be under a licensed applicator. Jim said an internet search revealed two commercial drone herbicide applicators already in Harney County. A woman named Singhose in Riley and someone in Princeton. Bonne also suggested Chris Wilson, who may be out of Plush. Tyler said he knows Cameron Molt is currently studying as well. Tyler said he will add those names to a list he is forming for those who inquire about herbicide drone treatment. Jason said none of them currently have a USDA-approved drone as of this time. Tyler said he will contact Dave Bunker to see who is on the list. There are two-three companies that were previously disqualified from being considered for federal government use because drone components were manufactured in China. These manufacturers are moving full production to the states. There was discussion about the drone purchase, which included budgeting, when to purchase, getting on the manufacturer's list, as well as refuge obligations (seasonal hiring, weed treatments). Jason said once it is determined, the CWMA can contact the HSWCD board. For now, the HSWCD is asking for \$50K and will work out the rest in the future. Tyler beside the drone purchase it will require an

additional \$10K for a trailer, generator, charger, WIFI, a large enough computer to operate.

3) Homework:

- a) The City-Wide Weed Wipe Out—Tyler will publish a flyer next week. He will speak to the city administration next week. He hopes to have a contractor come over in June for two or three days to spray commercial lots in Burns. He asked the group to provide any commercial lot owners to him or Jim. The cost is now approximated but not finalized. Jim and Tyler are to promote this on the radio. Jim said he is aware of two or three properties that need treatment.

New business:

- 1) Tyler said the HCWMA held an herbicide recertification class on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-five people attended, and Tyler felt it was good. He plans to get a new person to speak regarding logistics or legal information. He asked for feedback from the meeting participants who attended the herbicide class. Jim thought the presentation of labeling was good. Tyler said he always wants suggestions to improve the class—maybe more core credits? He spoke to a representative from SDAO who recently visited the district about safety training for hazardous materials. It would be free. Tyler said he would like to include this in the next herbicide class.
- 2) Planning a field trip for 2026. Tyler said it is being planned with Grant County. Discussion and planning this trip were tabled as Jessi Brunson was not in attendance. Tyler said Jessi's goal was to show weeds not currently in Harney County but could invade the area. For now, it may be mid-July, depending on the aquatic weed workshop. There was a discussion regarding the type of weed(s) featured in the field trip. Bear Valley and the Silvies Valley are possible locations.
- 3) The aquatic workshop was discussed. Tyler asked Bonnie as to what day would work. Bonnie said it would be best to firm this up later. She will talk to Jacob about Tuesday or Wednesday. Tyler said there may be a discussion or workshop here and one in Malheur County. Jason said it would make sense to hold the workshop on Tuesday and to let EOARC know to coordinate.
- 4) Plans for next month—Tyler plans to have the City-Wide Weed Wipe Out flyer distributed and contact people, continue drone research, and set a date for the Calibration workshop.

5) Public comment

- a) Bonnie said the next weed symposium will be December 8-11. Ashley Toland has been appointed the new weed coordinator. Shanda Highstead is appointed for N.E. Oregon. Bonnie also made the group aware of the weed positions open throughout the state.
- b) Jason asked Sam if the BLM has a Weed Identification class scheduled, and she answered it is being planned for the end of May/first part of June. Jason said participation is good for SWCD staff, and they would like to attend. Sam then provided a quick update on the agency. The goal is to stick to the schedule with Rejuva and Milestone, include more language for rotational grazing, and work on a treatment key (groups of prescriptive weed treatments). Jim and Tyler will look at it. It involves new chemicals and new weed species. She asked the group where she could obtain plastic representations of invasive weeds. This led to a discussion of a local weed identification book. There is one available online via PDF; Tyler may see about hard copies printed by Shepherd Graphics. Jim suggested contacting the Tri-County to see if Harney County could borrow its layout for the document.
- c) Travis discussed a DEQ permit. His agency does have one signed, and it is to cover 2027, but there are no defined details or site-specific location. He is trying to get on top of this issue because it is a requirement for all waterways. Discussion followed.

The meeting ended at 2:34 pm