

R.M. OF LUMSDEN NO. 189**MINUTES OF THE WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AREA MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 3RD 2012 AT 7:00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE R.M. OFFICE WITH CHAIRMAN TOM HARRISON PRESIDING**

Present Chairman Tom Harrison, Councillor & Weed Inspector, RM of Lumsden No. 189
 Duane Haave, Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association Taking Responsibility (WUQWATR)
 Colleen Fennig, WUQWATR/ Sask. Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP)
 Brad Hannan, Ministry of Highways
 Don Hart, Ministry of Highways
 Jim Hitchens, Ministry of Highways
 Bob Wilson, RM of McKillop No. 220
 Harvey Anderson, Sask. Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)-Invasive Alien Plants Advisor
 Norm Smith, RM of McKillop No. 220
 Renny Grilz, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
 Michelle Nordick, Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
 Nadia Mori, Sask Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist
 Krystal Strong, Asst. Administrator, RM of Lumsden No. 189

Chairman Tom Harrison called a meeting of the Weed Management Strategy Area (WMSA) to discuss plans for 2012, administration and financial planning for the WMSA.

Chairman Harrison began the meeting with introductions of those in attendance and invited attendees to discuss their interest in the WMSA.

History

- The WMSA was formed in 2010. In 2011 the RM of Lumsden No. 189 hired a university student to map problem areas within the RM of Lumsden and purchased a GPS unit as well as GIS Mapping software.

Administration

- Duane Haave was asked if WUQWATR would be willing to administer the WMSA. Duane will have to recommend to the WUQWATR Board that they should be administering the WMSA. Administration will include managing the budget, expenses and the salary of the contract mapper. Duane felt there would be no issue in administering the WMSA, however, liability issues surrounding the contractor who will locate and map areas of concern will need to be discussed further. The WUQWATR Board does not meet again until June, so no decisions can be made until that time.
- NCC will look into administration of the program. An agreement should be signed between the WMSA and NCC for the transfer of funds.

Budget

- The budget for 2012 is approximately \$14,000 and it is estimated that that amount will be needed to carry the WMSA each year.
- Some funding may be available through Shell Canada to assist with the hiring of a person to map problem areas. A cooperative weed management area was formed near Moose Jaw using this funding. Members of the AEGP may be able to assist with finding relevant information.
- The RM of McKillop will try and contribute
- The NCC may be able to make an in-kind donation
- Department of Highways cannot offer financial assistance but is willing to share information and support the WMSA in other ways
- The NCC may be able to offer a rebate for the GPS unit that was purchased for the WMSA

Equipment

- The RM of Lumsden has access to a truck with a tank, wand and small boom, 2 or 3 handheld sprayers and a quad. The RM provides free spray to farmers for their use, but very few pick any up. Area's surrounding Hwy #54 are of a concern to the RM.

- The RM of McKillop has access to a 1 ton truck with and hose, wand and a boom.
- The Department of Highways uses "Precision Vegetation Company to spray their pits and roads. The company uses GPS and will spot spray and create a report for each area sprayed. Their spray units are computerized. The company charges 6 cents per square meter. The Dept. of Hwy's has 1500 gravel pits and 700 stockpiles in Saskatchewan. They have noticed a reduction in weeds growing in areas that have been sprayed each year.

Weed Control Measures

- Dupont has created a new weed spray called True North that is more environmentally friendly and doesn't move as much in the soil.
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada can provide beetles to eat certain weeds. The beetles can be moved to new sited in early July so females lay eggs and the larvae will make their way to the roots of the weeds and eventually kill the plant.
- Mowing some weeds early in the year or twice a year before the plants go to seed works well
- There are types of beetles which you can spray carefully in the fall and it is very effective
- Goat/Sheep Grazing can assist with weeds spreading

Education


- Nadia and Colleen are hosting a workshop that focus' on noxious perennial weeds in the near future
- Colleen would like the names of landowners and their contact information who have weed problems on their property, so she may contact them with educational materials
- In mid-June, a field day may be planned to look at problem areas and measurements of weed growth areas can be taken

Plan

- The first step is to map areas, then set up a budget. Spraying and setting strategic beetle releases will follow.
- Mapping would include areas of Leafy Spurge, Burdock, Baby's Breath. The person hired to map infestation areas could spend 3 week periods in each participating municipality.
- Municipality's should continue to record areas of infestation and apply any weed control measures they have been doing in the past, until all areas are mapped by the WMSA
- Municipalities are encouraged to sign a commitment letter or memorandum of understanding committing financial assistance to the WMSA for a 3-5 year period. Harvey will provide a template for the WMSA to use.
- It is recommended that the WMSA plan be reviewed yearly.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



Chairman



Chief Administrator Officer