



Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area

Putting the 'we' in weed management!

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday July 14, 2009
9:30 am to 12:00 pm

City of Petaluma Office
County Grand Jury Meeting Room
11 English St
Petaluma, CA 94953

Laurel Thomassin	Marin Co. Ag.	Sue Ostrom	Sonoma Co. Ag.
Jen Jordan	NPS	Tony Nelson	Sonoma Land Trust
Noelle Johnson	Gold Ridge RCD	M. L. Carle	Milo Baker CNPS
Ellen Hamingson	Point Reyes NS	Christina Sloop	Laguna Foundation
Andrea Williams	Marin MWD	Sherry Adams	Audubon Canyon Ranch
Martha Proctor	Marin Master Gardeners	Kate Symonds	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Allison Kiehl	Marin Agr. Land Trust	Patricia Hickey	Marin Agr. Land Trust
Sheri Spiegel	NRCS	Robin Breckenridge	C DFA

Chair: Sue Ostrom
Secretary: Noelle Johnson

Opening:

- 9:30 a.m.
- 1) Introductions
 - 2) Additional Agenda Items
 - Restructuring the agenda (Sue Orstom)
Sue will work with Noelle to develop a new agenda format that will include times, discussion vs. action items, and relate items to strategic plan objectives.
 - Boundary issue, as per State Parks request
Brendan O'Neill of State Parks has requested a resolution of the boundary question with the Mendocino Coast WMA, so that State Parks can fall into one WMA. The MSMWA boundary is either to the western end of the Russian River Watershed or to the river itself. The MCWMA boundary currently includes the Gualala, and they have requested taking responsibility for the remaining coastal areas in Sonoma County down to the Russian River. Robin suggested the MSWMA request we assume responsibility for all of Sonoma County, as the funding is for the entire county, and the MCWMA currently has no projects in Sonoma. Sue will attend the next MCWMA meeting, and speak to the Agriculture Commissioner about the issue.
 - Marin CNPS representative.
No representative from the Marin CNPS chapter has been attending WMA meetings since the passing of Bob Soost. ML Carle will contact them to discuss filling this post. Noelle Johnson also plans to attend future Marin CNPS meetings to continue to collect infestation information and increase their involvement.

Discussion Items:

- 1) **Updating MSWMA's MOU, signatory list, and strategic plan (Sue Orstom)**
The WMA will be evaluated this year by CDFG on October 15th. For this evaluation, the signatory list must be current, and the MOU must show that it has been updated within the past 3-5 years. Sue will lead the process of updating these to include recent developments. Noelle, Andrea, Tony, and Laurel will assist in this process.
- 2) **Chileno Valley distaff thistle infestation and experimental control (Patricia Hickey)**
Chileno Valley in west Marin, including multiple MALT conservation easement properties, has a growing problem with distaff thistle. MALT is working to organize an experimental study, to look at the effects of burning, mowing, and herbicide application. One landowner has taken pasture land out of organic certification by applying herbicide, and has used a controlled burn on about 20 acres of pasture. Cheri Spiegel from NRCS will assist with the design of the study. WMA members recommend Milestone®, with Hasten® oil as an additive. The Solano RCD has also done some grazing trials, and Point Reyes National Seashore is testing brushcutting.
- 3) **Don Gilardi (Red Hill Farms) – sheep for weed control (Noelle Johnson)**
Don Gilardi in west Marin has 400 sheep for hire as weed control, particularly for star thistle. His contact information is:
Phone: 707.477.8751 Email: dlgilardi@yahoo.com
- 4) **Milo Baker CNPS contribution of \$500 – suggested uses? (Noelle Johnson)**
The Milo Baker CNPS has generously donated \$500 to the Rapid Response program. The WMA members have suggested using this money to buy Garmin GPS units, or to address a small infestation (such as the Lepidium infestations reported by the Pt. Reyes National Seashore). Noelle and ML will contact CNPS members to get their preference.
- 5) **September Gorse (and other grassland weeds) workshop to target ranchers (in conjunction with, or in addition to, fall WMA meeting?) (Noelle Johnson)**
The Gold Ridge RCD is planning a September workshop on gorse targeting ranchers in western Sonoma/Marin counties. The WMA recommended including Mark Heath from Shelterbelt, and Joe Colliss, a Tomales landowner who has done substantial gorse control on his property. The WMA could participate with a table, and by providing grassland weed samples. Robin mentioned that State Parks has used a curtain burner, which mitigates for water quality concerns due to debris. Kate questioned if NRCS could allocate funding for gorse removal, as it is a rangeland productivity issue. More information on the workshop to follow.
- 6) **Update on BAEDN and WMA Coordinator activities (Noelle Johnson and Andrea Williams)**
Andrea: Jen Stern, the Santa Cruz WMA Coordinator, has been hired as BAEDN Coordinator, and is transitioning into the position. She will work with Dan et al. to officially introduce BAEDN as an entity during the upcoming Weed Awareness week. The weed reporting portal linking to CalFlora is functional, however the registration/fee process is still cumbersome. Robin also emphasized that weed reports need to be verified by having a sample sent to a state/federal/university taxonomic lab. This can be expedited through the County Ag.
Noelle: Noelle has been performing outreach at CNPS meetings in both counties, and attended the Weed Watcher workshop at GGNRA to develop a method for best incorporating partner efforts into RR reporting. She has also worked with a website consultant to develop the WMA website to facilitate infestation reports; however, there are concerns that this had too much redundancy with the BAEDN portal. She has continued to collect infestation information and research treatment methods and timing, and plans to meet with Jen and Dan in late July to begin the prioritization process. Sue requested more detail on activities for both Noelle and Jen be submitted to the steering committee, which will be included on invoices.
- 7) **Weed reports (Noelle Johnson)**
Noelle, Andrea, and Sue introduced WMA members to the BAEDN reporting portal, and weed infestations were entered.

NOTE NEW MEETING DATE:

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, PETALUMA CITY OFFICES, 9:30-12:00
Meeting adjourned.