

Weed Free Forage and Straw Working Group
Agenda
Conference Call – Call In Number: 1.877.385.4099 participant #9349851
January 17, 2012 4:00 – 5:30 pm PST

Crystal Wheeler	Sonja Leverkus	Keith Carroll
Marc Shuffert	Julie Robinson	Fern Mertens
Elaine Armagost	Ken Siemens	Garth Healey
Denise McLean-Chair	Amy Farella	

Meeting Start 4:05

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Tasks from last meeting

TASK	PERSON	Status
Send copies of example palletted and wrapped bales to Amy to distribute to group.	Ken S.	Done – didn't work out. Will try a new packaging format.
Please send any and all comments, successes, challenges and lessons learned about the program to Amy.	Everyone	None received so far
Look at using a food grade dye to mark bales	Denise M.	Done – list of acceptable dyes http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/labeti/decisions/coloure.shtml Food grade dye is an option. Liquid or a solid/powder depends on manufacture. Most dyes are produced from a food item and company of origin is probably India or China, and dye will have to be imported depending on the amounts needed. Could also look into dyes used in meat processing plants. <i>Comment: injectors can be expensive.</i> <i>Comment: When part of NAWMA will use their twine.</i>
Summary of conversation with David Borth about the creation of regulation and legislation that would benefit the WFFS program.	Sonja L.	Have had discussions. Goal, have paperwork for joining NAWMA ready for IPCBC conference next week and present paperwork to him and Val Miller there to inform them on what needs to be done to completed the NAWMA certification process and pilot transfer.
Transit letter system development	Standards sub-committee	In process – need letter for NAWMA certification – Amy F. get a hold of Bob D.
Weed free oats produced are they green or grain?	Amy F.	Done. Grain. 2500 bushels available.
Send pictures of development projects using straw mulch or project requiring the use of straw mulch or weed free hay to Amy for use	Everyone.	Thank you Daryl N., Elaine A. and Denise M. Still looking for photos with horses and land disturbance/ equipment pictures.

in promotional material		
Produce technical handout for prospective buyers highlighting relevant legislation and best management techniques	Amy F.	Send comments to Amy before 5:00 Jan 18.
Produce power point presentation describing the weed free forage and straw pilot for Julie R. to use at the January IPCBC forum	Sonja L, Elaine A. and Denise M.	Done. Have lots of good information.
Develop potential signage to recognize weed free producers	Elaine A. and Denise M.	Deferred to later meeting - funding dependent.
Write weed free forage and straw pilot project final report to IASPP (Environment Canada).	Amy F.	Waiting on template from IASPP.
Send confirmation back to IASPP for payment.	Denise M.	Done – money released, waiting for it to appear in bank account.
Call producers to invite to next weed free meeting.	Sonja spoke with Ken Siemens who has spoken with Fern Mertens.	Done
Get producers on board early in year to allow for efficient scheduling inspections. Place producer recruitment ads.	Amy F.	Deferred until Feb. after receive direction from the province on transferring the pilot.
Check on hosting list of weed free producers and products on IPCBC website.	Pam J.	Agreed in principle to host some WFF info on IPCBC website. Need to discuss with IPCBC how much info and content. Discuss adding links from principle site to other sites ex. BC Bison website.

3. Future for the Northern WFFS program and funding

a. Pilot transfer to Provincial Ministry Update – Sonja L. and Elaine A.

i. Pilot was intended to run 1 year then take successes to the Province who would take over and run the program. Have had discussions with David Borth (Director) and Val Miller (Invasive Plant Officer) with MFLNRO Range, Invasive Plants and Ecosystem Restoration. Elaine A., Denise M., Julie R., and Crystal W. are planning to meet with David and Val at the IPCBC forum next week to discuss pilot transfer process and NAWMA certification.

ii. Ministry of Agriculture should still be involved in the WFFS program even if not the sponsoring Ministry.

b. NAWMA Certification – Sonja L.

i. Currently adapting NAWMA forms for use in BC. Will circulate for group to provide feedback. Need to be ready to present to David B. next week.

c. Discussion item: Is running and funding a regional WFFS program in 2012 a reasonable option?

- i. Pilot transfer process underway. The Ministry that sponsors the WFFS program will require some guidance. WFFS Working Group may wish to stay together throughout 2012 in an advisory capacity. Would require some funding.
- 4. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is looking to require the use of weed free straw (used for erosion control) in all its projects.
 - a. Need an estimate of current and 2012 availability of WFS.
 - b. Need help with contract language. Something along the lines of "...all straw should be certified weed free by(the appropriate organization)".
 - c. MOTI contractors need to be able to find producers – need permanent web home for program.
 - d. Considering taking out a Notice of Intent on BC Bid to inform contractors and producers of the change to weed free straw. Would this be beneficial to the program?
- 5. Finances
 - a. Budget – Amy F.
 - i. Still have lots of money in the budget, roughly \$ 10,000.
 - ii. Jan 18 news - Our Federal funding (IASPP) spending deadline has been extended to March 31, 2012.
 - iii. Budget will be reorganized to focus on education and awareness and reporting.
 - b. IASPP funder update – Amy F.
 - i. Money has been released – waiting for it to show up in bank account (10% hold back on completion of final report).
- 6. Education and extension materials
 - a. Technical handout for consumers
 - i. For general consumers and reclamation specialists. Will also be available at information booth.
 - ii. Not going to have professionally formatted. Will have final version printed on high quality paper.
 - iii. Send comments to Amy by 5:00 Jan 18.
 - b. Poster
 - i. Comments – too wordy. Clear directions to growers and none to buyers. Would like poster displayed at feed stores.
 - ii. Send comments to Amy by 5:00 Jan 18.

- c. Producer recognition signs Denise M. and Elaine A.
 - i. Look at new budget and re-evaluate need.
 - d. Transit letters – Standards sub-committee.
 - i. Contact head of Standards sub-committee (Bob D) to check on process.
7. IPCBC January 24-26 Forum
- a. Presentation – Sonja L, Elaine A, Denise M, Julie R – Done.
 - b. Display – Amy F.
 - i. WFFS display will be at the forum. No cost for the poster presentation. May be cost to transporting the poster to the forum.
8. Other educational presentation opportunities – Amy F.
- a. We are not signed up to present at these yet, here are the options
 - i. Producer Meetings – Vanderhoof (day) – Not Attending. Jan 19.; Prince George (evening) Jan 19 – includes small trade show - Attending; Quesnel Jan 20 – Not Attending.
 - ii. Equine Education Conference, Richmond, Jan 21-22 info requested to be displayed at the Back Country Horsemen booth. – Will generate short horsemen specific handout plus regular handouts.
 - iii. NE BC Petroleum Producers Forum Jan 26 – Sonja will print own copy of the display poster.
 - iv. Skeena Regional Cattlemen Association AGM, Feb 25, Houston – display has been requested to attend.
 - v. Other? – Generate list of events WFFS will be attending to present to David B. at IPCBC meeting – show support for program. Need more events in the Peace Region.
9. Next conference call Wednesday February 8, 4:00 PST.

Meeting End 5:05

Tasks from this meeting:

TASK	PERSON	DATE DUE
Please send any and all comments, successes, challenges and lessons learned about the program to Amy.	Everyone	March 1.
Develop general contract language for MOTI use of weed free straw	Sonja, Elaine, Denise.	MOTI conference call.
Schedule conference call with Crystal Wheeler in Feb to discuss MOTI questions.	Denise M.	Before Feb 8.

TASK	PERSON	DATE DUE
MFLNRO Range Strategic plan is out for review. Send comments on the importance of a provincial WFFS program.	All provincial employees who've been asked to comment.	Before Feb. 8.
Contact Bob D. Re:Transit letter system development	Amy F.	Jan. 20.
Send pictures of horses and land disturbance/equipment pictures	Everyone. Sonja L – send horse pics.	Jan. 19.
Produce technical handout.	Amy F.	Send comments to Amy before 5:00 Jan 18.
Produce list of events WFFS display is attending to show support for the program. Send to Elaine and Denise.	Amy F.	Jan 20.