

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday October 15, 2018 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Weed Board Office, 502 Boeing Street, Port of Pasco

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:00 pm. Board Members present were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Martin Pierret and Bill Middleton. Staff included Todd Harris; Program Coordinator, Betsy Crysel; Office Manager, Marc Miller; Lead Inspector, Luis Esquivel; Inspector, and Wes Smalling; Inspector. Minutes from the September 17, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Terry Utecht and a second by Martin Pierret. Motion approved.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Oct Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2017-2018 and Budget update

Upcoming Meetings & Events – City of Pasco & USACOE, 10/10 Todd, Betsy, and Wes reported on noxious weed survey results presented to USACOE and the possibility of future spraying.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Budget Hearing - Marv Grassl opened the public hearing for the 2019 budget at 1:00 pm. Todd presented the budget explaining salary increases were intended to retain employees. The only adjustment to benefits is a slight increase in the retirement contribution. Professional Services was adjusted to allow CDL training for Wes and cover costs of the Accountability Audit. Other budget increases were to chemical, fuel, and liability insurance as costs for these items have routinely gone up. Todd reviewed the projections for 2019 assessments and contracted income. Discussion on parcel and acreage rates followed. There was a motion by Martin Pierret to accept the 2019 budget as presented with a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed. Budget hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:25 pm. There was no public in attendance at the budget hearing.

Regular Board Meeting resumed at 1:25 pm.

Cost Share Program – Todd reported staff had been contacting landowners to encourage them to begin applications. There was discussion on rolling over any remaining 2018 cost share dollars into the 2019 cost share program.

County Road – Payment in the amount of \$2,074.21 was received for fall bermudagrass work. Public Works Administrative Assistant, Laura Stark notified us there is \$132,674.00 left in the roadside budget. The remaining 2018 roadside budget will be expensed on 2019 product. Todd is arranging a meeting between FCWB and Public Works to discuss herbicide mixes and plan 2019 work. Todd reviewed the recommendations of Jerry Ellis, Wilbur Ellis and Kent Pittard, Bayer to increase the rate of Esplanade to control marestail. The other option is adding Milestone back into the mix. Todd expressed concern over reducing Russian thistle control with the second option.

Benton County Roadside Spray Program – Todd provided an update on the possibility of loaning BCWB a spray truck and operator. FC Prosecuting Attorney's office developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the event FCWB and BCWB decide to go forward. The MOU releases FC from liability.

M.D.G.

State Parks – Staff shared information on the pollinator area installed at Sacajawea State Park. The area has been watered regularly to help plants establish. Todd reported there are plans to get back on the trail. Discussion on aerial application to State Park ground along the Snake River followed.

WSU Biocontrol Program – Todd reported Jennifer Andreas, WSU Extension was seeking funding for her biological control program. Betsy provided information on number of releases completed in Franklin County in 2018. Discussion on the benefit of biological controls followed.

FCWB-

Todd and Betsy shared the results of the recently completed Accountability Audit performed by WA State Auditor's Office. The audit was for the period 2015-2017. The focus of an accountability audit is evaluating internal controls to safeguard resources, compliance of regulations, and financial sustainability. There were no findings and no recommendations. The State Auditor's office informs us the next audit will be 2021 for period 2018-2020. Staff has focused on Dalmatian toadflax work this month. There are also plans for a kochia test plot at Sacajawea Park and plans to complete the BLM grant work. Marcus and Luis continue to work on the JD Gator calibration video for the November Weed Conference. Luis reported he was editing the video. Betsy informed the Board the fall newsletter had been distributed electronically to over 100 individuals. The newsletter is also posted on the website. Luis reported FCWB now has a U-Tube Channel. Videos that had been created for the BF Fair have been uploaded to the channel. Wes provided an explanation on accessing the videos from the website.

Todd presented quotes for a ¾ ton pickup from Corwin Ford, Lithia Dodge, and McCurley. Discussion on the pickup package and purchase of a flatbed followed. Motion from Terry Utecht directing Todd to purchase an F-250 from Corwin Ford and a flatbed at the best possible price with a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Todd vacation 10/31-11/6; WA State Weed Association Conference, Wenatchee Nov 7-9
Vouchers #'s 18-130 through 18-143 signed in the amount of \$6,415.89
September payroll \$26,522.85
Next Board Meeting 1:00 pm 11/19/18

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:25 pm.

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for October 15, 2018.

Maw D. Gravel
Chairman

12/17/2018
Date

Todd S. Ha
Clerk of the Board

12-17-2018
Date