

# FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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## Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday May 18, 2020 7:00 PM

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

### OLD BUSINESS

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Marv Grassl. Board Members present by teleconference were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Paul Herrman, Dan Voss and Martin Pierret. A quorum was established. Staff attending by teleconference included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager; Marc Miller, Lead Inspector; Luis Esquivel, Inspector and Wes Smalling, Inspector. Minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Dan Voss and a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed.

**Monthly Financial** – Review of the April Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2019-2020 and Budget update  
**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – WSDOT 4/28 Online Training 3 pesticide credits

### NEW BUSINESS

**Covid-19** – Todd reported operations continue under the guidelines of social distancing with staff working independently in the field spraying or surveying. There has been some group work on the trail but each staff member takes a separate vehicle and maintains a safe distance from everyone.

**Roadside Spray Program** – Todd explained we were notified by Public Works to cease with the roadside spraying until further notice in an effort to save money. Prior to receiving word to put roadside spraying on hold extra chemical had been ordered to complete an additional 310 miles. The additional chemical and application fee for approximately 1313 acres of spring residual work has yet to be billed. We received payment in the amount of \$101,795.01 for reimbursement of chemical used in the residual task. Approximately \$36,000.00 remains in the roadside budget for 2020. We hope to resume spraying in the fall.

**BPA** – Todd reported we had finished out our 5 year contract with BPA and received payment in the amount of \$10,479.86 for work and reimbursement of chemical. We expect to see a new contract in the fall. It is our understanding that new contracts are written for 3 years.

**BLM/ WSDA Assistance Agreement** – Work under the BLM/ WSDA Assistance agreement was performed in the Juniper Dunes Recreation Area. We picked up where we left off last year and completed a total of 142 acres. The work will be billed as soon as the contract is received. We were given the okay to perform the work prior to receiving the signed contract.

**State Parks** – Todd provided an update on State Parks work. Several days have been spent on the Columbia Plateau Trail right of way. The guys have sprayed from Ice Harbor Road to approximately two miles past Couch Landing. We have also been at Sacajawea Park working on getting the drip line set up on the Pollinator Garden.

**Kahlotus Cell Tower** – Luis and Wes spent a half day spraying the road up to the Kahlotus tower and around the tower itself. Franklin County Information Services asks us to spray to mitigate future fire risk. Information Services has been billed in the amount of \$273.56

M.D.G.

**2020 Cost Share Program** – Todd reported on acres completed for spring participation in the cost share program. Randy Rupp has completed his application for a total of 500 acres. Wade Van Hollebeke completed his application for a total of 683 acres. Discussion followed on the location of the spraying and remaining spring work. There are still two participants who signed up for spring applications which will add another 300 acres, if completed. This work may be a combination of aerial and ground rig applied.

**2019 Annual Report** – Betsy reported the 2019 annual report had been submitted May 4, ahead of the due date. Betsy informed the group she did not see anything alarming.

**Weeds of Focus**- Staff have been focusing on spraying Scotch thistle and yellow starthistle this past month when weather permits. On days spraying can't be done, staff will survey so that we can put together maps of infestations.

**Wes moving on** – Todd reported Wes was moving to Oregon for an opportunity with Fish and Wildlife. Wes' last day is May 21<sup>st</sup>. Staff and the Board of Directors expressed their appreciation for the talents and contributions Wes brought to the program.

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – None

Voucher #'s 20-059 through 20-076 signed in the amount of \$103,346.90

April payroll in the amount of \$25,711.00

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 7:37 pm

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for May 18, 2020

Maw D. Grassl

Chairman

6-16-2020

Date

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Clerk of the Board

6-16-2020

Date

