

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday September 18, 2017 7:00 PM

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

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Marv Grassl. Board Members present were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Bill Middleton and Paul Herrman. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager; Marc Miller, Lead Inspector; Holly Kress, Field Inspector; and Luis Esquivel, Field Inspector. Minutes from the July 17, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Paul Herrman and a second from Terry Utecht.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Aug Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2016-2017 and Budget update

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Benton/Franklin Fair & Rodeo 8/22-8/28 Staff shared thoughts on Fair attendance, visitors to the booth.

NEW BUSINESS

County Road – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$10,588.60 for contact application and chemical reimbursement had been received. Discussion on effectiveness of applications and chemical mixes followed. Todd addressed concerns of marestail on roads in dryland, explaining Telar will be added to the chemistry next spring. Todd recounted discussion with John White, Public Works Road Boss, to eliminate the fall residual application this year. The plan is to make residual application to all roads in the spring of 2018 to begin in February. Remaining EcoPak mix is to be stored this winter. A meeting will be scheduled to firm up details for next year's application. Application fee will be evaluated.

State Parks – Todd reported payments had been received for work performed in Sacajawea State Park, sterilant application on the trail, and aerial application on yellow starthistle. State Parks payments totaled 8,800.82 for the work. Betsy mentioned an invoice had been paid twice and would be refunded. There are plans for fall trail work targeting yellow starthistle and skeletonweed.

City of Pasco- Holly gave an update on kochia sprayed on circle corners located off Foster Wells Road. Roger Baisch, Baisch Vegetation Management received the contract to spray. Holly reported the majority of the kochia had been sprayed. Roger plans to return in October to treat areas that remain for yellow star thistle and kochia. Holly will follow up with Roger. Discussion on tendency of city to overwater and the need to level ground followed.

WSDOT- Todd reported the meeting sounded promising initially with WSDOT expressing an interest in partnering on weed control along HWY 395. Recent communication with Jeff Bruce, Area Supervisor has proven otherwise. Jeff cited Union issues prevent them from following through with the agreement that had been discussed. It was reported that mowing has taken place along Hwy 395. We will continue to reach out to upper management in an effort to persuade them to step up.

M.D.G.

BLM- Todd reported BLM has entered into an Assistance Agreement with WSDA for funding for noxious weed control. BLM informs us there may be funding up to \$5,000.00 for use through 2018. FCWB submitted a project proposal as requested for review. Priority was given to the site of the new road into Juniper Dunes prior to road construction. Additional sites of known infestations were also in the proposal.

FCWB-

Payment in the amount of \$2,871.45 was received from Arnold Van Hollebeke for aerial application of yellow starthistle. The project was part of a side by side application with State Parks for a total of 200 acres. Other adjoining landowners have expressed their willingness to participate in a fall application for yellow starthistle. Arnold is willing to spray more acres as well. The 2017 F-250 pickup has been set up for spraying and is now in service.

Staff have been surveying and mapping Scotch thistle sites; land owners will be encouraged to make fall application. Todd and Marcus met with Bruce Clatterbuck, FSA on noxious weeds in CRP. Todd reported contact had been made with the landowner following the meeting. Discussion on spraying site prior to coming out of CRP followed.

Betsy reported staff has been assisting land owners in Ravenna grass removal within Pasco city limits. Todd mentioned he would like to surplus the short box dodge at the November or May Auction. Motion by Paul Herrman to surplus the short box dodge (4440) at the best timing and opportunity with a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

Todd presented a Cost Share program for consideration by the Board of Director's. Initially, the program would focus on large acres to regain ground where Yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle, and skeletonweed have exploded. Future years would focus on irrigated areas where kochia is a problem. Goals, benefits, and potential risks of the program were discussed. Discussion of the amount of cost share and impact to the budget followed. Todd will continue to get more information from other counties where cost share programs are in place.

Todd presented a first look at the 2018 budget. The major changes in the budget would be to payroll and chemical. A 2% cost of living increase was proposed. Todd mentioned Holly and Luis have now been with FCWB for a year. He would like to bump their hourly wage up by \$1.00. Chemical increase is to cover cost for FCWB chemical, Co Road, and cost share, if implemented. Todd will present two budgets at the October Board meeting, one with and one without the cost share.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Army Corps of Engineers, City of Pasco, and Benton and Franklin Weed Boards 9/28

Vouchers #'s 17-112 through 17-125 signed in the amount of \$6,228.65

July payroll \$25,634.00

August payroll \$25,920.00

****Next meeting Monday October 16, 2017 1pm (Note Time Change), this will be the 2018 Budget Hearing**

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 8:45 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for September 18, 2017

Maw O. Grassl

Chairman

Oct. 16, 2017

Date

Todd S. Ho

Clerk of the Board

October 16, 2017

Date