

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

MAILING - 1016 NORTH 4TH OFFICE – 502 BOEING STREET PASCO, WA 99301
OFFICE: (509)-545-3847
EMAIL: fcwb@co.franklin.wa.us

Minutes

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Thursday April 13, 2023

7:00 PM

M. J. P.

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 7:00 p.m. Board Members present were Dan Voss, Martin Pierret and Jake DeRuwe. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager; Luis Esquivel, Lead Inspector and Sabrina Gilley, Inspector. Guests included Terry Utecht, Farmer and former FCNWCB Vice Chair and Chance Trainer, Farmer. Minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Martin Pierret and a second by Jake DeRuwe. Motion passed. Service awards were presented to Marv Grassl (37 years) and Terry Utecht (16 years). Board and staff expressed their gratitude for the years of service and guidance. Discussion on reorganizing the Board and the Chairman and Vice Chair positions followed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2022-2023 and Budget update

Meetings & Events – Coordinator's Conference Chelan 3/15-3/17 FCWB unable to attend; Farm Fair 3/30-3/31

NEW BUSINESS

The regular Board meeting was recessed at 7:17 by Chairman Marv Grassl.

The public hearing to take comment on applicants for Director position District 5 was opened at 7:17 pm. by Chairman Marv Grassl. Marv introduced Chance Trainer and presented Chance as a candidate for nomination to serve on the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board in the position of District 5 Director. There was a motion by Martin Pierret to nominate Chance Trainer to serve on the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board in the position of Section 5 Director with a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

The public hearing was closed by Marv Grassl at 7:22 pm.

The regular Board meeting resumed at 7:22 pm.

FC Roadside – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$131,625.16 for reimbursement of chemical had been received. The application charge for roadside spraying and that of gravel yards and block walls is still outstanding. There is also a small amount of chemical to bill. Betsy will get the final invoicing out at the first opportunity. Betsy explained this will bring in close to another \$40,000.00. Todd provided an update on Sabrina's CDL Class A licensing. Sabrina passed the driving test and has been running the big spray trucks. Well done, Sabrina!

BLM – We have received the contract for 2023 for spraying the Juniper Dunes area in the amount of \$6,500. The BLM section off of Juniper Dunes Rd and the quarter circle by CSS are included in the agreement. Todd provided clarification on the possibility of aerial application. Debbie Plummer, BLM Liaison, confirmed that aerial application is allowed, just not with drones. We plan to spray the acreage from the 2022 agreement and the current year's agreement at the first opportunity.

WSDA – We met with Kurt Beckley, Altitude Agri Services, LLC to discuss the possibility of using Altitude Agri Services, LLC on the Scotch thistle project. Kurt is supposed to get back with us on whether he can perform the work within the parameters of the funding received from WSDA. Todd mentioned there are several agencies and private landowners to coordinate with in order to complete the project. Discussion on the area to be sprayed followed.

BPA- Todd reported the Benton Scootene rebuild has been delayed. Cozette DeTray, BPA liaison informs us there has been an issue in securing the right of way from landowners. Cozette will extend the rebuild contract until the end of 2024 to allow Franklin County Weed Board to spray the line post construction. Todd explained the Benton Scootene line runs through farm ground from the end of Hwy 260 then parallel with Hwy 17 and ends at the river. Todd provided an overview of our annual surveying and treatment of the BPA lines, noting that the regular contract allows for \$12,000.00 annually. The current contract expires at the end of 2023. Cozette and the Weed Board will be in communication in the fall to renew the contract.

State Parks – We have begun spraying the Columbia Plateau Trail. We have sprayed from Ice Harbor Rd to within a mile from Levy Rd. The sterilant application on the developed portion of the trail will also be done this year. Discussion followed on noxious weeds found on the trail and the mix that will be used. Todd explained the sterilant application is made from Ice Harbor Rd to Snake River Junction. We will use the same mix that is used on the dryland roads and spray a 20-foot swath.

2023 Cost Share Program – Todd provided an update on the cost share program. Landowners are beginning to turn their paperwork in to receive their cost share payments. Two landowners have sprayed additional acres beyond what was proposed on their cost share application. Approximately 3000 acres have been sprayed this spring.

State Weed Board – The State Weed Board is offering funding for controlling Class A or B-designate noxious weeds. FCWB will submit a proposal to continue Dalmatian toadflax work. Discussion followed on known locations of Dalmatian toadflax. Todd explained that Dalmatian toadflax is scattered around the county with the largest population in the Smith Canyon ponds area. The South Columbia Basin irrigation District partnered with FCWB last year on the project. We expect they will be willing to partner again. Todd mentioned the State Weed Board continues to look for a Board member to represent the southeastern region if any Board Members are interested.

Rush skeletonweed test plots in rangeland – Todd reported Jerry Ellis, Envu had contacted the Weed Board to ask about the possibility of test plots on rush skeletonweed. Jerry explained Envu is looking to get Method approved for rangeland. Discussion on rush skeletonweed sites followed.

Voucher numbers 23-035 through 23-046 signed in the amount of \$39,529.02

March payroll in the amount of \$34,956.00

Upcoming meetings and events – WA Weed Association Committee Meeting 5-5-23, Ellensburg (Todd and Betsy)

Next Board Meeting Thursday 5/11/2023 @ 7:00 pm.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 8:10 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings for April 13, 2023

Martin Perret
Chairman of the Board

5/11/23
Date

Paul S. [Signature]
Clerk of the Board

5-11-2023
Date

