

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday August 17, 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 p.m. 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; Luis Esquivel, Inspector; Marc Miller, Lead Inspector and Lance Harris, Seasonal Inspector. Minutes from the June 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented with a motion from Paul Herrman and a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the July Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2019-2020 and Budget update
Upcoming Meetings & Events – None

NEW BUSINESS

BLM/ WSDA Assistance Agreement – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$5,000.00 for noxious weed control in Juniper Dunes had been received. An additional proposal has been submitted to Debbie Plummer, BLM Natural Resource Specialist for an ongoing grant. Additional funding would be used to continue rush skeletonweed work on the current section and other areas. In the event the funding is available later this year we would plan to treat rush skeletonweed this fall.

State Parks – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$16,298.62 for noxious weed work on CPT right of way and in the state parks had been received. There has been a lot of work done this year in Sacajawea Park. Staff has spent time spraying kochia and working on the pollinator garden. Todd explained fir trees had been donated by Harris Brothers Farm but getting them established has been difficult. The watering system in the pollinator garden has been improved with the addition of channeled speed bumps to protect the water hose from damage.

FC Roadside – Staff has been spraying kochia on the roadsides within the spray zone and beyond in an effort to demonstrate to landowners what can be done to control kochia. The hope is that other landowners will follow the weed board's example. The work will not be charged to anyone, nor will it be charged to FC Public Works. Todd mentioned FCWB's overall chemical expense reflects additional chemical purchased for kochia work. While driving, staff made note of "Owner Will Maintain" areas that are falling short on their agreements. An email has been sent to public works notifying them of the need for improvement in this area. We will follow up with public works to improve the situation.

FC Information Services – We are still waiting on payment for spraying of the Kahlotus cell tower in the amount of \$273.56. FC Information Services has been contacted so we expect to see payment soon.

Weeds of Focus- Todd reported several landowners have partnered recently with FCWB to assist in spraying yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle and rush skeletonweed. Todd attributed the cooperation to good communication and being able to communicate to the right individual. Todd credited Marcus and Luis with persuading two high priority landowners to cooperate. The landowners will be expected to participate in the 2021 cost share program to expand on the work that has begun. We have been reimbursed for all the spray work with the exception of one landowner.

M.D.G.

Avista Power – We have been contacted by Michelle Anderson of Anderson Environmental Consulting on behalf of Avista to discuss the possibility of conducting weed control as part of a restoration project on a section of transmission line that has been replaced. The replaced line runs through the Hanford Reach National Monument which is managed by USFWS. Todd explained he has had a few conversations with Michelle and suspects she is working with USFWS to determine priorities and expectations. We currently do not know how things will play out but will assist any way we can.

Lance Harris – Todd mentioned Lance's last day would be August 20th as he will be heading back to school. Staff and the Board expressed their appreciation for helping out these past few months.

Field Sampling – Todd explained the results of the lab analysis on damaged potatoes at CSS confirmed the presence of two components in the roadside mix. Todd mentioned he has never seen milestone move like that before but will take extra precaution in the future to leave a buffer. Discussion followed on the possibility of milestone adhering to the soil and wind after the application moving it. The Board expressed concern over possible ramifications from the application. Todd explained that in conversation with Chad Van Hollebeke, Manager; no ramifications had been mentioned, but the issue was being brought to our attention to make us aware and learn from it.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – None for the foreseeable future

Voucher numbers 20-096 through 20-111 signed in the amount of \$8,821.27

July payroll in the amount of \$25,142.00

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 7:38 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for August 17, 2020

Maw D. Grasse
Chairman

10/19/2020
Date

Ed P. G...
Clerk of the Board

10-19-2020
Date

