

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Thursday February 9, 2023 1:00 PM

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:00 p.m. Board Members present were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Dan Voss and Paul Herrman. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager and Luis Esquivel, Lead Inspector. Guest included Jacob DeRuwe, Farmer. Minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Terry Utecht and a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2021-2022 and Budget update

Meetings & Events – Columbia County Grower meeting 1/13, FC Grower Meeting 1/25

NEW BUSINESS

The regular meeting was recessed at 1:15pm by Chairman Marv Grassl.

The public hearing to take comment on applicants for Director position District 4 was opened at 1:15 pm by Chairman Marv Grassl. Marv presented Jacob DeRuwe as a candidate for nomination to serve on the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board in the position of Section 4 Director. There was a motion by Terry Utecht to nominate Jacob DeRuwe to serve on Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board in the position of Section 4 Director with a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

The public hearing was closed by Marv Grassl at 1:20 pm.

The regular Board meeting resumed at 1:20 pm.

Commissioners Meeting – Todd explained the next steps in appointing a nominated candidate to serve on the Board of Directors. The recommendation to appoint Jacob DeRuwe to serve as the Section 4 Director will be on the consent agenda at the February 28, 2023 Commissioner Meeting. Todd mentioned Dan Voss' and Marv Grassl's terms expire on March 1, 2023. Dan expressed his willingness to continue serving as the Director of District 1. Marv will continue to serve until a replacement is appointed. The recommendation to reappoint Dan Voss as the Director of Section 1 and Marv Grassl as the Director of Section 5 will also be on the February 28, 2023 consent agenda.

Board Member Interest – Marv mentioned there had been conversation at the FC Wheat Grower meeting about interest in serving on the Board as the Section 5 Director. Todd and Betsy will follow up with the potential candidates. Discussion on the boundary lines of the Director's sections followed.

FC Grower Meeting Pesticide Credits – Todd reported the Grower meeting had been well attended. Staff received several positive comments on the program. Marv also acknowledged receiving compliments on the program. Betsy shared an article published in the FC Graphic about the event.

BLM – Todd reported some spraying had been accomplished on the BLM section off Pederson Rd but it had not been completed. Staff will go back to finish the acreage left in that area then spray the quarter circle by CSS. Todd mentioned a conversation he has had with Kurt Beckley, Altitude Agri Services, LLC about spraying Juniper Dunes with a drone. Todd also mentioned Nick Bungler, Air Trac is also purchasing a drone. It is presumed one of the two will be able to spray the area of Juniper Dunes we have been working on. Todd mentioned the rate /per acre cost is undecided at this time.

M.D.G.

WSDA – Todd provided an update on the Ravenna grass and Scotch thistle proposals. The contract to control Ravenna grass in residential landscapes has been received. The agreement provides, as a pilot program, funds for nursery vouchers for non-invasive replacement plants for homeowners that remove Ravenna grass without the assistance of the FCWB. We expect to see the contract for Scotch thistle soon. Discussion on the benefit of providing an incentive for Ravenna grass removal and making the process for the homeowner less burdensome followed.

State Weed Board – Todd reported the State Weed Board is still seeking a Board Member to represent the southeastern counties.

FC Roadside – The Task Assignment for 2023 is in the process of being finalized and the remaining chemical for roadside spraying should arrive at the beginning of the week of February 13th. Todd also mentioned it would be prudent to spray the Connell corridor with a reduced rate of High Noon.

2023 Cost Share Program – Todd reported the sign up for the cost share program had closed on February 1, 2023. There were 1131 acres not sprayed from the 2022 program totaling \$9,319.44 in unused funds for 2022. Todd recommended carrying the acres and funds over to the 2023 cost share program. There was a motion by Terry Utecht to carry over \$9,319.44 for a total of \$49,319.44 for 2023 cost share program with a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed. Todd reported 5226 acres had been proposed on the 2023 program. Discussion on landowners that had contacted the office after the deadline followed.

Noxious Weed Activities – Todd and Luis continue to go through the vehicles and equipment to get everything ready for the 2023 season. Todd mentioned Sabrina has been switched to training for a Class CDL. T Enterprises inform us there is a grant that covers the difference in cost. Discussion on the benefit of Sabrina driving a manual transmission followed.

Voucher numbers 23-014 through 23-024 signed in the amount of \$33,827.21

February payroll in the amount of \$25,557.00

Upcoming meetings and events – John Westerdahl, Alligare Territory Regional Manager; Home & Garden Show 2/17-2/19

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:20 pm
These are the Board of Director proceedings for February 9, 2023

Maw D. Grassl
Chairman

3-9-2023
Date

Betsy Cysel
Clerk of the Board

3-9-2023
Date

