

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Tuesday January 21, 2020 1:00 PM

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

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairman Marv Grassl. Board members present were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Paul Herrman and Martin Pierret. Guest Vic Reeve, BCNWCB Coordinator was also in attendance. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager; Marc Miller, Lead Inspector; Luis Esquivel, Inspector and Wes Smalling. Minutes from the December 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended with a motion from Martin Pierret and a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the December Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2018-2019 and Budget update

Upcoming Meetings & Events – SO. Columbia Basin Irrigation District Weed School 12/17 Moses Lake (Marcus Presenting); Helena Meeting 12/18 Kennewick; Ag Expo 1/9-1/10 Pasco

NEW BUSINESS

Regular Board meeting recessed at 1:15 pm.

2020 Franklin County Noxious Weed List Public Hearing was opened by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:15 pm

Vic Reeve was in attendance of the public hearing. Wes reported on additions to the weed list and changes in the format. South American spongeplant (*Limnobium laevigatum*) was added as a Class A noxious weed. Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) was added as a Class B designate noxious weed. The intent of reformatting the weed list was to create a more user friendly version. Information on the 2020 weed list is more succinct without compromising content. The new list contains a mission statement followed by bulleted points summarizing the purpose of Franklin County's Weed Board. Three weeds were removed from "Our Weeds of Focus", musk thistle, Bohemian knotweed and myrtle spurge. Todd explained we have not done much control work on myrtle spurge and we are not aware of Bohemian knotweed and musk thistle in FC so it makes more sense to add spikeweed which we have been working on, noting there is only one known infestation in our county. The definitions of Class A, B, and C noxious weeds are more visible on the list and new pictures have been added. Betsy mentioned the list also directs individuals to the website where the complete philosophy and policy statement are available. There was a motion by Terry Utecht to adopt the 2020 noxious weed list as presented, with a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed.

2020 Franklin County Noxious Weed List Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:27 pm

Regular Board meeting reconvened at 1:27 pm.

Roadside Spray Program – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$82,552.39 has been received for completion of the fall roadside work. A total of 515.8 shoulder miles were sprayed. The payment was for chemical reimbursement and approximately \$10,000.00 of application fee. The 2020 roadside plan was discussed. Todd explained the intent was to follow the same program as in 2019, although because of the cost of high end chemical it doesn't leave money at the end of the year to buy chemical forward. Discussion on Esplanade herbicide and increasing cost of chemicals followed. Todd stated he has

M.D.G.

emailed Jerry Ellis, Wilbur Ellis to inquire of alternative mixes. The Board recommended following up with public works to inquire if a compromise could be reached.

WSDA – Payment in the amount of \$4,995.00 has been received for completion of the white bryony project at Big Flat Habitat. Todd commented the work had been done with cooperation from US Army Corps of Engineers. We received notification more funding is available for noxious weed work. We are currently working on proposals for funding to expand on the white bryony work and for Tree of heaven work.

Cost Share Program – Todd provided an update on cost share acres sprayed in 2019. A total of 3981 acres were signed up with 3737.5 sprayed. An unused balance of \$2,262.11 will be added to the 2020 program bringing total available to \$32,262.11. Discussion on individuals that need pressuring from neighboring landowners to sign up for the 2020 cost share program followed. Todd shared information provided by the State Auditor about Board Members participating in the program. Todd's understanding is that as long as Board Members are not receiving something any other Franklin County landowner cannot then participation in the cost share program is permissible.

FCWB –

Board member Expiration- Paul Herrman was notified of his term expiration on March 1, 2020. Paul expressed a willingness to continue serving on the Board of Directors for another 4 year term.

Todd provided information on required training for users of Paraquat. The training has been mandated by EPA. A handout was offered to Board Members and guests explaining the training process and provides a link for accessing the training module.

Todd reported FC's staff have taken and passed the training. Discussion followed with comments that in order to purchase or use paraquat in the future individuals will be required to have the required certification.

Staff has been working at the shop this winter upgrading equipment. The silver truck has a new pump; the half-ton is ready for the upcoming spray season and the sign truck will have a flatbed installed.

Todd reported the Southeastern Washington Cooperative Weed Management Area (SE WA CWMA) Chairman, Vic Reeve was retiring. Todd expressed his interest in serving as the Chairman following Vic's retirement. Vic added that the CWMA had been established over 10 years ago and included 8 counties. The SE WA CWMA has been active during those years and provides networking between Coordinators. Vic will be sending over informational materials in the near future. Board Members expressed their gratitude for Vic's service in the CWMA and his contributions to Benton and Franklin County Weed Boards. We wish Vic well.

Bob Scott, a well-respected and valued Weed Board staff member passed away recently. Bob served on the Weed Board for several years. Todd attended his memorial service stating it made him reminisce about his time at the Weed Board. Bob will be remembered fondly by staff and Board Members that knew him.

Upcoming Meetings & Events –Grant Co. Weed Conference 2/12

Voucher #'s 20-001 through 20-014 signed in the amount of \$9,341.78

December payroll... \$26,130.97

Next Board Meeting Tuesday 2/18/20 @ 1:00 pm (due to Monday Holiday)

There being no other business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:10 pm.
These are the Board of Director proceedings' for January 21, 2020

Marv D. Grassl
Chairman

2-18-2020
Date

Todd S. [Signature]
Clerk of the Board

2-18-2020
Date

