

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 Tuesday January 19, 2021 1:00 PM

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

The virtual meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:00 p.m. Board Members present telephonically were Paul Herrman, Terry Utecht, Dan Voss and Martin Pierret. A quorum was established. Guests present telephonically were Commissioner Rocky Mullen and Chris Herron, Herron Brothers Partnership. Staff present by telephone included Todd Harris; Program Coordinator, Marc Miller; Lead Inspector, Luis Esquivel; Inspector and Betsy Crysel; Office Manager. Minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Martin Pierret and a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Regular Board meeting was recessed at 1:15 pm by Chairman Marv Grassl.

The Virtual 2021 Franklin County Weed List Public Hearing was opened by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:13 pm

Betsy provided a brief summary of the listing process and then reported on changes to the noxious weed list. Turkish thistle, *Carduus cinereus* was added as a Class A noxious weed, statewide. Turkish thistle is an annual related to musk thistle but with a smaller and more slender composition. At this time there are no known infestations of Turkish thistle in Washington; however, it is present in the Hells Canyon recreational area of Idaho and on nearby grazed land. It is also found on the Snake River side of Oregon. Betsy explained the concern is that it could be spread into eastern Washington by means of recreational vehicles, livestock or wildlife. Wind and water are also potential pathways of introduction. The climates and habitats where it has been found in Idaho and Oregon are similar to its native range; habitat is similar to those of southeastern WA. It was also mentioned that it can grow and flower at heights of 3 inches to up to 4 feet and can be difficult to detect when growing among native bunch grasses. Two Class B noxious weeds were reclassified as Class B-designate noxious weeds; saltcedar, *Tamarix ramossima* and velvetleaf, *Abutilon theophrasti*. Staff felt this designation change was reasonable and manageable based on their distribution in the county. The scientific names of six noxious weeds were changed. Chris Herron expressed concerns that Medusahead is problematic in certain areas recommending it be considered as an addition to the 2021 weed list. Discussion followed. There was a motion by Dan Voss to include Medusahead on the 2021 weed list with a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed. Discussion followed with Todd suggesting it be added as a Class C noxious weed to align with the state's designation. There was a motion from Martin Pierret to approve the 2021 weed list as amended to add Medusahead as a Class C noxious weed with a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

The virtual 2021 Franklin County Weed List Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:32 p.m.

M.D.G.

Regular Board meeting resumed at 1:32 p.m.

Cost Share – Todd reported 4000 acres had been signed up on the cost share which would provide an \$8.28/ acre return to those participating, noting there was still interest from landowners that wanted to get involved in the program. Todd recommended increasing the acres by 1000 and allocating an additional \$8,280.00 to the cost share program. Todd explained his goal was to get as many acres sprayed as possible, keep the cost share program worthwhile as an incentive for controlling noxious weeds and to maintain the cost/acre return at the current \$8.28/acre value for 2021. Discussion followed. Todd addressed concerns that there was room in the budget for the increase explaining that money was available because of the decrease in payroll. There was a motion from Terry Utecht to add 1000 acres and \$8,280.00 to the 2021 cost share program with a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed.

FC Roadside – Todd provided an update on the 2021 roadside plan. A meeting had been held with Craig Erdman; County Engineer, John White; Connell Supervisor and Scott Garber; Pasco Supervisor. Craig informed us the budget for 2021 had been reduced to \$175,000.00. Todd reviewed the herbicide mixes to be used in the irrigated and dryland areas. The mix used in the irrigated area will be the same mix that was used last year. Todd explained Esplanade will be dropped from the dryland mix and replaced with Terra Vue for a less expensive but equally effective mix in the dryland. Discussion followed on the benefits of Terra Vue and rate/acre to be used. Roadside work is scheduled to begin the first week of February, weather permitting.

Winter projects – Todd summed up the winter projects that had been completed so far. The guys built a loft in storage unit 19 to clear up floor space and provide more organization. Todd mentioned a loft might also be added to unit 16.

Capital Assets – Todd reported he had decided to purchase a John Deere gator citing consistency in equipment and familiarity of its maintenance and operation. Todd also mentioned he preferred some of its features over the other models. Todd decided to order the trailer from Trailer Boss after receiving quotes; Trailer Boss offered the best price for the features provided.

State Parks – We have received payment in the amount of \$6,111.45 for fall work.

Wheat Grower Meeting – Todd brought up for discussion the possibility of sponsoring half day training for the Wheat Grower group to get pesticide credits. Discussion on the potential platform for the meeting and possible locations followed. We will follow up on recommendations and pursue lining up speakers.

Year End Reports – Board Members and staff expressed appreciation for each other's dedication and support.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – WSDA Quarantine List Hearing 1/26, Wilbur Ellis Technical Seminar Series 1/26-1/29 (virtual)

Voucher #'s 21-001 through 20-014 signed in the amount of \$29,016.15

December 2020 payroll \$22,348.00

Next Board Meeting Tuesday 2/16/2021 @ 1:00 pm *note Monday 15th, holiday

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:04 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for January 19, 2021

Marv D. Grassl
Chairman

2-17-21
Date

Todd S. Ha
Clerk of the Board

2-17-2021
Date

