

# FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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## Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Thursday January 12, 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 and Martin Pierret. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager; Luis Esquivel, Lead Inspector and Sabrina Gilley, Inspector. Guests included Jacob DeRuwe, Farmer and Kaycie Dailey. Minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Martin Pierret and a second by Marv Grassl. Motion passed.  
**Monthly Financial** – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2021-2022 and Budget update  
**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – FC Wheat Grower Christmas Party

### NEW BUSINESS

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

**2023 Franklin County Noxious Weed List Public Hearing was opened by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:15 p.m.**  
Betsy provided an explanation of the weed list adoption process, reporting that the WA State Noxious Weed Control Board did not adopt any Class A weeds for 2023 and there were no designation changes for noxious weeds in Franklin County. Franklin County's noxious weed list has been modified to reflect featured weeds on the list. An image and information about Scotch thistle replaces saltcedar on the front cover. Betsy explained the decision to feature Scotch thistle was to bring more awareness about it and because of a Scotch thistle control project. Images and information about rush skeletonweed and tree-of-heaven will remain on the list. There was a motion by Martin Pierret to accept the 2023 weed list as presented with a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

**The 2023 Weed List Hearing was closed by Marv Grassl at 1:35 p.m.**

Regular Board meeting resumed at 1:35 p.m.

**WSDA** – Todd reported WSDA had notified us of the intent to fund both the Scotch thistle and Ravenna grass projects. Based on communication with WSDA we expect to receive full funding for the Scotch thistle project and will survey and treat from Moon Road to Connell. WSDA informs us there is still discussion on whether the Ravenna grass project will be fully funded but has stated we will receive something. WSDA has plans to begin working on the contracts in January.

**State Weed Board** – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$3000 has been received for the Dalmatian toadflax project. Todd shared a letter sent by the State Weed Board. The State is looking for a Board Member from one of the southeastern counties to represent the region. Discussion on counties included in the Southeastern region followed. Board members also acknowledged receiving letters.

**FC Roadside** – Esplanade to be used in the roadside mix has been ordered and received. We were able to receive the 2022 pricing on Esplanade by ordering early. Todd mentioned Frequency and Highnoon still need to be ordered and it would be an additional \$30,000-\$40,000 for the purchase. We need a break in the weather to begin spraying roadsides.

M.D.G.

**BLM** – Todd reported the BLM work has been pushed into spring of 2023 due to weather. There are small sections adjacent to landowners that are a priority to spray. Todd has been in contact with Debbie Plummer, BLM liaison, inquiring about the possibility of spraying the remaining acreage in the section of Juniper Dunes with a drone. Todd reported Debbie appears reasonable about the request as we have moved away from crop. Discussion on noxious weeds in Juniper Dunes and the possibility of signage followed.

**Cost Share Program** – Todd explained the cost share program and the sign-up process mentioning we were now contacting landowners to use up the remaining acres. Betsy added that some landowners had agreed to participate but had not visited the office yet to fill out the application. Discussion followed.

**Noxious Weed Activities** – Todd provided an update on the number registered for the Grower meeting noting that as of the current date there were 65 registered. Discussion on acknowledging sponsors followed. Todd mentioned staff had been working out at the farm getting equipment ready for the year.

**City of Connell** – There was discussion on spraying the 260 corridor into the city of Connell. Marv reported on his conversation with city officials. The city is receptive to having the Weed Board do the spraying. Todd went over the cost of spraying and offered to donate labor but would like to see the city reimburse the Weed Board for the chemical. Marv mentioned some of the officials may attend the Grower meeting and a discussion could be had at that time. Discussion about showing the city how to manage noxious weeds and possibly contacting the FC Graphic for an article followed.

**Board Member Terms** – Todd provided an explanation of Board member terms and requirements. Discussion on announcing the opening in Section 5 at the Grower meeting followed.

Voucher numbers 23-001 through 23-013 signed in the amount of \$54,259.77.

December payroll \$24,733.00

**Upcoming meetings and events** – Columbia County Grower meeting 1-13-23

**Next Board Meeting Thursday 2/9/2023 @ 1:00 pm**

These are the Board of Director proceedings for January 12, 2023

Mario D. Grassl

Chairman

February 9, 2023

Date

Terrell S. Ha

Clerk of the Board

February 9, 2023

Date

