

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes *M. J. P.*

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Monday November 13, 2023

1:00 PM

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairman Martin Pierret. Board Members present were Vice Chair Dan Voss, Jake DeRuwe, Paul Herrman and Chance Trainer. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager and Sabrina Gilley, Inspector. Minutes from the October 9, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Chance Trainer and a second by Jake DeRuwe. Motion passed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2022-2023 and Budget update

Meetings & Events – WA State Weed Association Conference, Wenatchee 11/1-11/3. Todd reported the conference had been well attended. It was noted by several Vendors that far fewer people appeared to be hanging out in the lobby during the speaker's presentations which was attributed to having dynamic speakers and interesting topics. Staff shared information on some of their favorite presentations. Discussion on drone efficiency followed.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget – Todd presented the 2024 budget to the Board of Commissioners on October 25th. The Commissioners approved of the budget.

FC Roadside – Todd reported it had been a struggle to arrange a meeting with Craig Erdman, County Engineer. A meeting was arranged and roadside work is underway in the dryland area. The paved roads have been completed and we are beginning to spray gravel roads this week. There is still more chemical that will need to be ordered for future work. Todd mentioned we are struggling with issues with Spray 4.

State Parks – As time permitted we worked on the upper end of the Columbia Plateau Trail and in Sacajawea Park.

BPA – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$770.00 had been received for mowing the Basin City Equipment Yard. The spraying was done to keep the kochia knocked down. Discussion on the viability of kochia seed followed. BPA has also been invoiced in the amount of \$5,437.15 for the fall application on the Benton Scootene line.

WSDA/State Weed Board – The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board listed palmer amaranth as a Class A noxious weed for 2024. The Dalmatian toadflax project has been completed. WSDA has been billed in the amount of \$1,400.00 for the work. Todd mentioned WSDA has requested billing for any grant work completed to date. Betsy will bill for tree-of-heaven and Ravenna grass work at her first opportunity. Discussion on the Scotch thistle project followed. Todd reported Nick Bunger is willing to fly the drone for the project, however we are unsure if the area will be sprayed this fall.

2023 Cost Share – Participants are working on fall spraying of their acreage. We know of 3 that have been completed but there are still a few more. We will follow up with those that we have not heard from. Discussion on the sign-up period for 2024 followed.

Cell Phone Stipend – Todd discussed the reimbursement to employees for the use of personal cell phones for work related business. Currently employees are reimbursed quarterly at a rate of \$50.00 per month. Todd suggested employees receive a stipend in the amount of \$50.00 monthly beginning in January 2024. The monthly stipend would simplify the reimbursement process. There was a motion from Paul Herrman for a \$50.00 monthly stipend per employee for business use of personal cell phone with a second by Chance Trainer. Motion passed.

Voucher numbers 23-108 through 23-124 signed in the amount of \$57,439.98

Meetings and events – Walla Walla Noxious Weed Control Board 11/7 Todd and Betsy attended; Todd reported Vic Reeve, Walla Walla Noxious Weed Coordinator had given a year end report. Vic expressed his wishes to build the program in Walla Walla County. Todd and Betsy had attended in support. Vic informed us later that he and the Board of Directors for Walla Walla Weed Board had different visions on the direction the Weed Board should take. Vic has resigned his position as Coordinator.

October payroll in the amount of \$ 25,464.00

Next Board Meeting December 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (year-end presentation for the Board)

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Martin Pierret at 1:50 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings for November 13, 2023

Martin Perret
Chairman

12/11/23
Date

Scott B. G.
Clerk of the Board

12-11-2023
Date

