

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday October 21, 2019 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 James Ferguson was in attendance. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office manager; Marc Miller, Lead Inspector and Luis Esquivel, Inspector. Minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Terry Utecht and a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed.

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events – US Fish and Wildlife 9/17, the focus of the meeting was to set priorities for weeds to control. Scotch thistle and yellow starthistle were the weeds of main concern for those in attendance. The meeting was attended by BCNWCB, SCBID and Hanford Reach. Todd reported US Fish and Wildlife seem willing to spray for weeds with the money that is available. City of Pasco and USACE 9/26, FCWB has done some spraying on USACE since the meeting to assist them. State Weed Board Meeting & Mediterranean Sage tour 9/29 Asotin Co, F.I.D. 10/17/19. Todd reported Mediterranean Sage is one of the weeds Asotin County focuses on. Discussion on identification and habitat followed.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Budget Hearing- Marv Grassl opened the public hearing for the 2020 budget at 1:20 pm. There was no public in attendance. Todd presented the budget explaining salary increases were intended to provide a cost of living increase. Todd explained Wes' salary was increased to reflect completion of his probationary period and job performance. Todd's salary was increased to align with the responsibilities of the Coordinator position. The benefits portion of the budget saw minimal increases as the county contribution remains the same. Todd increased the insurance category substantially after receiving an unexpected increase the previous year. Slight increases were made to communications, biocontrol, travel and promotional advertising. Todd decreased capital assets by \$10,000.00 since the pickups have been replaced and are in good running shape. Other decreases to the budget were made in the fuel, shop and supplies categories. Discussion on the growth in the city of Pasco and clarification on the base assessment followed. There was a motion by Paul Herrman to accept the 2020 budget as presented with a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed. The budget hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:37 pm.

Regular Board Meeting resumed at 1:37 pm.

Roadside Spray Program – Todd reported the fall residual application will be underway soon. Scott Garberg has informed us Block 17 is ready for spraying. Discussion of the herbicide mix to be used and the strategy for spraying followed. Selected roads in the irrigated area will be sprayed to address skeletonweed. The timing of the applications and available moisture as they relate to a successful result were discussed. Areas with good marestalk control were compared to areas that did not have as good control. The consensus was that better control of marestalk was achieved this year in most parts of the county than last year. Ease of use with the EcoPaks was also discussed. The plan is to spray until mid-November if weather holds.

Cost Share Program – Todd explained the chemical for the fall cost share participants was ordered and will be delivered to the aerial applicator. Discussion on the 2020 cost share followed. Todd recommended closing the cost share sign up period once a specified cost share return had been reached in order to keep the program worthwhile for landowner participation.

FCWB –

Betsy reported the fall newsletter had been sent to over 100 landowners who elect to receive the publication electronically.

Todd summarized noxious weed work over the past month. Staff spent time in Smith Canyon spraying Dalmatian toadflax. Todd reported there is a noticeable decrease of toadflax in that area which is a great improvement from previous years, noting it is much harder to find. Staff also spent time spraying on the Columbia Plateau Trail, USACE ground, and Carrson AG ground with a focus on yellow starthistle and Scotch thistle. We continue to assist with spraying where help is needed. Staff also assisted with Ravenna grass removal. Marcus explained he had revisited locations where doorknockers had been left and reported several homeowners had either removed, cut back or cut off seed heads. The doorknockers created by Luis and Wes have encouraged more voluntary compliance than letters.

Rob Lowman, Baisch Vegetation Management informs us the City of Pasco circles have been treated. Staff will keep an eye on the area to check for re-infestation. Todd expressed concern that the timing of application, herbicide used and conditions may not have been adequate for long term control.

There were some minor repairs to equipment. A boot was replaced on Gator 1 and SP2 underwent diagnostic to detect the cause of the check engine light.

There was discussion on recent fires and the noxious weed issues that arise from them. Marv expressed concern that rush skeletonweed is one of the first weeds to establish after a fire event. The suggestion was made to contact any agencies that have ground where fires occurred and help them establish a plan for spraying and reseeding.

PCard- Todd reported he and Betsy had contacted several banks to inquire about obtaining a Procurement Card (PCard) for FCWB. Todd explained all of the banks had recommended the Weed Board participate in Franklin County's PCard program with Umpqua Bank because they use the same EIN number. There was a motion from Terry Utecht to procure one credit card with a \$5000.00 limit paid on a monthly basis, through participation in Franklin County's Cardholder Agreement with Umpqua Bank, under Franklin County's Procurement Card policy with a second by Martin Pierret. Motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Weed Conference, Wenatchee 11/6-11/8 (FCWB staff will present a calibration workshop)

Voucher numbers #'s 19-132 through 19-148 signed in the amount of \$47,648.72

Payroll September...\$23,510.00

The Board of Director's were invited outside to have a look at the new spray setup on pickup 2747. The setup is designed for dual purpose. It will be used in the fall roadside work but is removable and transferable to different rigs for other applications.

Next Board Meeting Monday 11/18/19 @ 1:00 pm

There being no other business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:25 pm.

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for October 21, 2019

Maw D. Grasse
Chairman

Nov. 18, 2019
Date

Jed B. Ha
Clerk of the Board

Nov. 18, 2019
Date