

# FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

MAILING - 1016 NORTH 4<sup>TH</sup> OFFICE – 502 BOEING STREET PASCO, WA 99301  
OFFICE: (509)-545-3847  
EMAIL: [fcwb@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:fcwb@co.franklin.wa.us)

## Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday October 19, 2020 1:00 PM

LOCATION: 8751 Pasco Kahlotus Road, Pasco

### OLD BUSINESS

The virtual meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:00 pm. Board Members present were Vice Chair Terry Utecht, Martin Pierret and Dan Voss. A quorum was established. Staff included Todd Harris; Program Coordinator, Betsy Crysel; Office Manager, Luis Esquivel; Inspector and Marc Miller; Lead Inspector. Minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented with a motion Martin Pierret and a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.  
**Monthly Financial** – Review of the September Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2019-2020 and Budget update  
**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – None

### NEW BUSINESS

The regular Board meeting was recessed at 1:16 pm. by Chairman Marv Grassl.

**2021 Budget Hearing** – Marv Grassl opened the virtual public hearing for the 2021 budget at 1:16 pm. There was no public in attendance virtually. Todd explained the largest change to the budget was in the salary and benefits category. Staff will receive a 2% cost of living increase. The fulltime staff has been reduced from 5 to 4 reducing the salary and benefits portion of the budget by approximately \$25000. There is room to bring on a seasonal helper. The categories that saw increases included office supplies, fuel, communications, shop rent and research and biocontrol. Todd explained the increase in communications and interfund expenses were to account for billing of services by FC departments that might result from Covid. There was a decrease in the professional services. Overall, the 2021 budget decreases by approximately \$38,000 with the greatest portion of it from payroll. Discussion on the cost of living increase and the increase in parcels despite Covid-19 followed. There was a motion from Terry Utecht to accept the 2021 budget as presented with a second from Martin Pierret. Motion passed. The budget hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:28 pm.

Regular Board meeting resumed at 1:28 pm.

**WSDA** – Todd explained the Tree of Heaven project made available from funding through WSDA had begun. The purpose of the project is to determine the best chemical, application method and timing for control. Todd mentioned that work was done at Sacajawea Park and in the Court St and I-182 bridge area. Other possible sites were discussed. Todd noted the project runs the course of two years and is for the amount \$5000. Discussion on application methods followed.

**FC Roadside** – Todd reported that Robert Mendez, Public Works had sent a letter to individuals with “Owner Will Maintain” areas that are not following through with their agreements reminding them of expectations for complying with their agreements. As inquiries came in to Public Works, individuals were directed to contact the WeedBoard for clarification on what is expected of agreement holders. Todd developed a list of expectations after consulting with John White; Connell Road

Supervisor and Scott Garberg; Pasco Road Supervisor. The list was sent to Public Works for review. The intent is to develop a standard of road maintenance expectations for "Owner Will Maintain" that is representative of both the WeedBoard and Public Works. Discussion on expectations followed. Todd reviewed the chemical mixes that will be proposed to Public Works for roadside work next year. One of the mixes is an alternative for the dryland area which has good potential for a Bareground application. Discussion on the mixes and costs followed. John White informs us there will be no increase in the roadside budget for next year.

**WA State Parks-** Todd explained fall work has resumed in Sacajawea Park and there are plans to get back on the trail soon. Todd mentioned yellow starthistle is a predominant weed on the trail. Discussion on other State Parks followed.

**BPA-** Betsy reported Cozette Fink, Natural Resource Specialist for BPA had been contacted to discuss contract renewal. Betsy explained contracts were being written for 3 years going forward. FCWB will need to submit a work plan by mid-November to allow time to get the contract in place.

**WSDOT-** Todd shared a letter sent to Weed Boards which updates the position of WSDOT and assessments. The letter also stated Kittitas County had lost the law suit brought against WSDOT. WSDOT's position states that they work together with county Weed Boards on noxious weed control.

**Weeds of Focus-** Todd reported staff has been working on saltcedar and Dalmatian toadflax around the county. Discussion on the locations and severity of infestations followed. Todd mentioned there were only 2-3 known sites of Dalmatian toadflax, noting it was good to see the progress made in reducing the infestations over the years. Discussion on herbicide used to control saltcedar followed.

**Upcoming Meetings & Events –** WA Vegetation Management Association & Invasive Species Conference, Remote education opportunity, Nov 3-Nov 6; up to 12 pesticide recertification credits available

Voucher #'s 20-123 through 20-136 signed in the amount of \$9,337.32

Next Board Meeting Monday 11/16/20 @ 1:00 pm

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.by Chairman Marv Grassl

These are the Board of Director proceedings' for October 19, 2020

Marv D. Grassl

Chairman

Nov. 17, 2020

Date

Jared B. Gh...

Clerk to the Board

November 17, 2020

Date