

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday October 18, 2021 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, Paul Herrman and Dan Voss. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel, Office Manager and Luis Esquivel, Inspector. Marc Miller, Lead Inspector attended by phone. Minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented with a motion from Terry Utecht and a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed.

Review and approve minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting

Monthly Financial – Review of the September Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2020-2021 and Budget update

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Pioneer Seed Tour 10/14. Staff reported the tour was very interesting.

NEW BUSINESS

The regular Board meeting was recessed at 1:18 pm. by Chairman Marv Grassl.

2022 Budget Hearing – Marv Grassl opened the public hearing for the 2022 budget at 1:18 pm. There was no attendance by the public. Todd explained the changes to the salary portion of the budget. The Program Coordinator salary will increase to 60,000 annually. An increase by the same amount will be applied to the Office Manager position held by Betsy and a Lead Inspector position held by Marcus. Todd further explained that Luis and Marcus perform the same roles. Luis will be promoted to a Lead Inspector position to bring his salary in line with his responsibilities. To balance the increase in Luis' salary the overtime budget will decrease by \$2,000.00 since over the last several years overtime has not exceeded \$2000.00. Other changes to the budget include increases in the categories of communications, fuel, insurance, office rent and the cost share. Repairs and maintenance will receive a slight reduction. Discussion on the rising costs and availability of chemicals followed. There is room in the budget to cover rising chemical costs. Further discussion on projected income from contract work was discussed. There was a motion from Dan Voss to accept the 2022 budget as presented with a second from Terry Utecht. Motion passed. The budget hearing was closed by Chairman Marv Grassl at 1:40 p.m.

The regular Board meeting resumed at 1:40 p.m.

WSDA Grant Work – Todd reported Greg Haubrich, WSDA has informed us the payment of \$5,000.00 is processing. We expect to see payment soon.

BPA- Todd provided a breakdown of the work involved in the Benton Scootene rebuild. We will be spraying this fall from the Columbia River to Hwy 17 and State Route 260, however; there is not a lot of spraying in farm ground. The majority of the work will be done on the ends of the line. Todd explained the work this fall will be done prior to the rebuild and will include some staging areas. The work performed this fall will bring in an additional \$13,000.00. The contract also includes spraying in 2023 following the completion of the rebuild.

M.D.G.

FC Roadside – Todd provided an update on the meeting with Craig Erdman, County Engineer & Scott Garberg, Pasco Supervisor to discuss fall work and 2022 plan. Todd recommended using the herbicide in inventory to spray roads this fall. There is approximately 150 acres of irrigated mix in public works inventory. Craig and Scott were in agreement and it was decided to add milestone to the mix for use in the dryland on the Pasco Kahlotus Highway, Largent, Moulton and Snake River Rd. Todd discussed the possibility of purchasing two pallets of roadside mix in 2021 since chemical prices are expected to increase by 12% and because chemicals may be scarce. The Board agreed to the purchase upfront. Public Works will reimburse the WeedBoard for the chemical in 2022, most likely after the first quarter. FCWB will meet with public works again in November.

Noxious Weed Problem Areas/Activities – Todd reported staff has been working on Dalmatian toadflax in the Smith Canyon area.

BLM – Todd reported additional funds have been received to treat another 115 acres of the Juniper Dunes area. Funding came about after following up on a complaint by a landowner. The landowner has also agreed to spraying 40 acres of ground adjacent to BLM. Franklin County will make this application. The recently acquired funds are in addition to the 140 acres grant work slated for this fall.

State Audit - 2018-2020 – Todd informed the Board of Directors that the State Auditor had notified us to prepare for an audit of years 2018-2020. The audit will be conducted remotely. Betsy will gather the information requested and make arrangements to get documents delivered on or before October 20th.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – Budget Presentation to Commissioner's Nov 2; Weed Conference Wenatchee 11/3-11/5

Voucher #'s 21-123 through 21-130 signed in the amount of \$10,572.93

September payroll... \$31,018.00

Marcus returns to work Nov 1st. We will work around the limitations given to us by his doctor.

Next Board Meeting Monday 11/15/2021 @ 1:00 pm

There being no further business meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marv Grassl at 2:00 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings for October 18, 2021

Maw D. Grassl
Chairman of the Board

Nov. 15, 2021
Date

Jack S. He
Clerk of the Board

November 15, 2021
Date

