

# FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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## Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Thursday October 13, 2022 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, Dan Voss and Martin Pierret. Staff included Program Coordinator Todd Harris, Office Manager Betsy Crysel, Lead Inspector Luis Esquivel and Inspector Sabrina Gilley. Minutes from the August 11, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Martin Pierret and a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

**Monthly Financial** – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2021-2022 and Budget update

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** – City of Mesa Public Works (Cade Scott) 8/17/2022, City of Pasco Code Enforcement 9-28-22

### NEW BUSINESS

**The regular Board meeting was recessed at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Marv Grassl.**

Marv Grassl opened the public hearing for the 2023 Budget at 1:10 p.m. There was no attendance by the public. Todd presented the 2023 proposed budget explaining the increases to salaries and benefits. The Program Coordinator, Office Manager, Lead Inspector and Inspector positions reflect a salary increase of 4 %. Todd considered the increase reasonable based on a conversation with Eric Wyant, Human Resources. The Commissioners also approved an increase to the benefits contribution by \$310.50 for 2023 making the new contribution \$1,690.06 monthly per employee. The salaries and benefits portion of the budget also provides for a seasonal position. Other changes to the budget include increases in the categories of fuel, rent and liability and property insurance. Capital assets and repairs and maintenance budgets were decreased to balance the increase in payroll and benefits. Decreasing capital assets is reasonable considering the Weed Board has replaced older equipment in recent years. There was a motion from Terry Utecht to accept the 2023 budget as presented with a second by Martin Pierret. 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.**

**FC Roadside Spray Program** – Todd reported payment in the amount of \$2,976.54 had been received for contact work. Todd has been communicating with Nutrien, Wilbur Ellis to get pricing on chemical mixes. There is 55 acres of dryland mix on hand for fall work. We are trying to put together a meeting with Public Works to discuss the roadside plan. Todd has communicated to Craig Erdman, County Engineer, that there will be an increase of 3.00 in the application charge to cover rising costs of fuel and freight. Craig appears to be agreeable to the increase from \$20.00/mile to \$23.00/mile. We were informed the roadside budget will be \$175,000.00 for 2023. This is a decrease of \$5000.00 from the current budget. Discussion on the cost of the herbicides Terra Vue and High Noon followed.

**WSDA** – Staff is continuing to survey for tree-of-heaven as time permits.

M.D.G.

**BLM** – We are still waiting on the contract covering fall 2022 and spring 2023 work and the additional 25-30 acres. We have contacted Greg Haubrich; WSDA Pest Program Manager for information on the status of the contract but have not heard back from him yet.

**State Weed Board** – We are still waiting to receive the contract for the Dalmatian toadflax eradication program. Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board; Executive Secretary informs us we should see the contract soon. Todd reported the dalmatian toadflax work has been completed. The majority of the work occurred in the Smith Canyon Ponds, totally approximately 8 acres. Other smaller infestations were also treated.

**State Parks** – We have plans to spray noxious weeds, particularly diffuse knapweed in the northern part of the county along the Columbia Plateau Trail and the Palouse Falls area.

**Noxious Weed Spraying & Activities** – Todd reported Sabrina had passed her pesticide license exam. Congratulations Sabrina! FCWB will do range test plots at Wilsall's with Rejuvra and Panoramic for cheatgrass, goatgrass and Medusahead. We also have a small project spraying rush skeletonweed in the city of Pasco. Todd mentioned we will provide guidance to a landowner off Jake Rd who is working on yellow starthistle.

**Walla Walla County** – Vic Reeve accepted the position as Coordinator for Walla Walla Noxious Weed Control Board

Voucher numbers 22-116 through 22-126 signed in the amount of \$6,903.66

September Payroll in the amount of \$32,899.00

Upcoming meetings and events – Wenatchee 11/2-11/4 (FCWB giving calibration presentation)

Next Board Meeting Thursday 11/10/2022 @ 1:00 pm

These are the Board of Director proceedings for October 13, 2022

Maw D. Brass

Chairman

Nov. 10, 2022

Date

of all B. Hen

Clerk of the Board

Nov 10, 2022

Date

