

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Monday October 9, 2023 1:00 PM

M. J. P.

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Martin Pierret. Board Members present were Vice Chair Dan Voss, Chance Trainer and Jacob DeRuwe. Guest, Claude Pierret, Farmer attended the end of the meeting. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Betsy Crysel Office Manager and Sabrina Gilley, Inspector. Minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Chance Trainer and a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

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

Meetings & Events – We met with John Rosenau, County Assessor and Fennie Ho, Chief Deputy to discuss assessments

NEW BUSINESS

Regular Board meeting was recessed at 1:16 p.m. by Chairman Martin Pierret.

Martin opened the public hearing for the 2024 budget at 1:16 p.m. There was no attendance by the public. Todd presented the 2024 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 his conversation with Margot Wilder, Human Resources. The salary and benefits portion of the budget also provides for a seasonal position. Other changes to the budget include increases to Fuel, Travel, Insurance, Education, Biocontrol, Capital Assets and Interfund Expenses. The repair and maintenance budget was decreased which is reasonable since our equipment is newer and we have put new tires on all the vehicles. There was a motion from Dan Voss to accept the budget as presented with a second by Jake DeRuwe. Motion passed. The budget hearing was closed by Chairman Martin Pierret at 1:40 p.m.

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

FC Roadside – Todd reported it has been challenging to arrange a meeting with Public Works to discuss the roadside plan and herbicide mix. We hope to meet soon to discuss pricing of chemical mixes and roads that could be sprayed this fall. Highnoon has been purchased to take advantage of a sale.

State Parks – We are currently working on the upper end of the Columbia Plateau Trail under our new agreement. Todd mentioned the new contract is very favorable and allows for an aerial application.

BPA – We are still waiting on the agreement covering the next 3-year period. Todd reported a bit more funding has been added to the proposal. We will also be making an additional fall treatment on the Benton Scooteny rebuild as the project is delayed.

WSDA – The tree-of-heaven project is underway. We have sprayed at the Pasco Boat Marina and Levey Park making a foliar application. Also treated were Bureau of Reclamation ground in Mesa and along the Columbia Plateau Trail at Snake River Junction. The Bureau and Snake River sites were treated with a combination of foliar, hack and squirt and drone application. Discussion on triclopyr used to make the application followed.

Ravenna grass project – We continue to remove Ravenna grass as time permits.

Todd also reported palmer amaranth has been proposed to be added to the State Noxious Weed List as a Class A Noxious Weed. Discussion on palmer amaranth followed.

State Weed Board – We have received the agreement for Dalmatian toadflax and completed the majority of the work. There is still a bit left to finish in the Smith Canyon Ponds area which is Bureau of Reclamation ground.

2023 Cost Share – Todd reported that participants that have signed up for fall applications are beginning to make plans for spraying. There are 4 applicants that need to complete their acres. We will follow up with those we have not heard from.

FCWB Equipment – The On-site look at FCWB spray setups on various equipment has been postponed.

Vouchers #'s 23-098 through 23-107 signed in the amount of \$36,671.97
September payroll in the amount of \$23,878.00

Upcoming Meetings and events – WA State Weed Association Conference, Wenatchee 11/1-11/3

Next Board Meeting November 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

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

These are the Board of Director proceedings for October 9, 2023

Martin Perret
Chairman

11/13/24
Date

Jed B. Ha
Clerk of the Board

11-13-2023
Date

