

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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M.J.P.

Minutes

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Monday September 11, 2023

7:00 PM

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Martin Pierret. Board Members present were Vice Chair Dan Voss and Chance Trainer. Guest Marv Grassl, Farmer and Dondi Doescher, Dondi's Garage Door Solutions attended. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator and Betsy Crysel, Office Manager. Minutes from the July 10, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written 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 – Benton Franklin Fair and Rodeo 8/22-8/26; USACE 9/7

NEW BUSINESS

FC Roadside – Todd reported kochia spraying on roadsides had been completed. A map of the kochia control area was viewed. Marv provided a history on the origin of the kochia control policy. Discussion on controlling kochia followed. Todd acknowledged the challenges faced on roadside weed control with budget constraints. We will follow up with Public Works to discuss to discuss the remaining budget and 2024 roadside work.

State Parks – The agreement for the next biennium has been received for work on the Columbia Plateau Trail and in the state parks. The agreement includes funds for an aerial application on a portion of the trail that is difficult to access. Todd explained the aerial application can be made by fixed wing or drone.

BPA – We have submitted a work plan for the next agreement covering 2024-2026. We hope to see the contract soon.

BLM – We have received payment in the amount of \$2000 for spraying the quarter circle by CSS and the area off of Pederson Rd.

WSDA – Todd provided an update on the Ravenna grass project. We have begun removing Ravenna grass and have at least one landowner that will remove the grasses from his property to receive the voucher for a replacement plant. Betsy explained the majority of homeowners have expressed their preference for FCWB staff to do the removal.

The Scotch thistle project in Connell will take place this fall. Discussion on treating close to the water followed. Todd explained the water is waste water and spraying should pose no problems.

Todd reported additional funds had been received for tree-of-heaven control work and continued surveying. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is partnering with us on the project. We will receive an agreement from the Corps and will perform control work at the Pasco Marina, Levey Park and Snake River Junction. We are also partnering with the Bureau of Reclamation and have treated the Esquatzel Waste Way in Mesa.

WSDA notified us that palmer amaranth had been found in Spokane and Walla Walla counties. Discussion on habitat preference, identification and herbicide resistance followed. Todd mentioned this is the first documentation of palmer amaranth in Washington. Palmer amaranth is now being considered for addition to the 2024 noxious weed list.

State Weed Board – We are still waiting on the Dalmatian toadflax agreement. Todd explained there are small isolated patches scattered around the county.

DOT – Todd reported the D.O.T. had been spotted recently mowing. Discussion on the fire danger from dry weeds along state highways followed. Betsy suggested FCWB should try to resume meetings that were held prior to the pandemic. Chance expressed an interest in attending a meeting.

Other Weed Board Activities – Todd reported staff continue to survey and respond to landowner concerns, noting that there had been kochia work in the city of Connell. Todd mentioned there had been an article in the FC Graphic addressing kochia and weed issues. Staff accompanied Jerry Ellis, Envu and John Westerdahl, Alligare to look at Rejuvra test plots at the Wiswall Ranch. Todd mentioned Jerry is also looking for sites to conduct skeletonweed test plots this fall. Todd explained that Envu is trying to expand its market with some of its products. Discussion on a skeletonweed test plot done with Method herbicide on Havlina Lane followed.

American Rescue Plan Act – The Commissioners approved a one-time payment of \$5,000 to eligible employees as a means of retaining employees. Betsy reported that employees who elected to take the retention incentive signed contracts to remain in the employment of Franklin County for one year or pay back the incentive.

2024 Budget – Todd presented a preliminary look at the 2024 budget. Todd mentioned there could be a slight change to salary and benefits piece of the budget based on conversation with Margot Wilder, Human Resources. Salary increases will be run by HR before the next meeting. Increases and decreases to specific budget line items were discussed. Todd will present the final budget for approval by the Board of Directors at the October 9th public hearing.

FCWB Equipment – The on-site look at FCWB spray setups on various equipment was postponed.

Voucher numbers 23-091 through 23-097 signed in the amount of \$6,551.01

July payroll in the amount of \$24,513.00

August payroll in the amount of \$50,775.00

Next Board Meeting October 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (2024 budget hearing)

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Chairman Martin Pierret

These are the Board of Director proceedings for September 11, 2023

Martini Rivera
Chairman

10/9/23
Date

Joel S. H.
Clerk of the Board

10-9-2023
Date

10-10-10

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