

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Monday October 14, 2024

1:00 PM

LOCATION: 502 Boeing St Pasco, WA

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at Call to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chairman Martin Pierret. Board Members present were Vice Chair Dan Voss and Jake DeRuwe. Staff included Todd Harris, Program Coordinator; Sabrina Gilley, Inspector and Nick Haack, Inspector. Guests included Marv Grassl, Farmer and Vic Reeve, retired Program Coordinator. Minutes from the August 12, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion from Jake DeRuwe and a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed.

Monthly Financial – Review of the Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2023-2024 and Budget update

Meetings & Events – None attended

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Nicholas Haack – Todd introduced Nick, our new Field Inspector. Nick was welcomed by the Board of Directors and guests.

The regular Board Meeting was recessed at 1:26 pm by Chairman Martin Pierret.

Martin opened the 2025 Budget Hearing at 1:26 p.m. Marv Grassl and Vic Reeve attended the hearing. Todd presented the 2025 proposed budget. Salaries were increased to reflect cost of living which Todd considered reasonable based on his conversation with Margot Wilder, Human Resources. Professional services was increased because of CDL training and aerial applications. Due to a general rise in costs the travel budget was also increased. The chemical budget was decreased because of a cut in the roadside budget. Discussion on projected income followed. Todd reported the projected income from grants is consistent with what we have been receiving from BPA and other agencies. There was a motion from Jake DeRuwe to accept the 2025 budget as presented with a second by Dan Voss. Motion passed. The budget hearing was closed by Chairman Martin Pierret at 1:36 p.m.

The regular Board meeting resumed at 1:36 p.m.

Co Road – Todd reported on the meeting with Craig Erdman, County Engineer and Scott Garberg, Road Supervisor. Todd reported back that the road side budget was reduced to \$150,000. Todd stated that he would adjust the rate on two components of the road side mix to hopefully get better control early and lengthen the residual. Public Works will start on pulling shoulders later this month.

State Parks – Payment in the amount of \$32,595.81 for work on the State Parks properties in the county has been received. Contract work on State parks will continue as time permits.

WSDA – The 2024-2025 Tree of Heaven grant has been completed. WSDA will be billed in the amount of \$15,000. An additional \$5,000 for Scotch thistle work in Connell area was secured. Aerial VM completed imaging of the infestation- scheduled for drone application in the 3rd week of October, Burlington Northern- Santa Fe area railroad to be sprayed. \$5000 grant for Dalmatian Toadflax work was secured to help continue work toward removal of Dalmatian Toadflax from Franklin County. Wendy Descamp has been instrumental in helping get all of these grants and others. She has left her position with WSDA.

Other Activities – Russian Olive and tree-of-heaven trials are beginning to show some positive results. Jerry Ellis (Envu) provided product to do some of the test plots. Jerry toured the test plots with staff. The results of the test plots will be more relevant next spring as we see what has survived.

Camelthorn was located on Port of Pasco property and was subsequently treated.

Corteva- Highnoon was discounted for government use during the month of September. Highnoon was purchased for road side spraying in the dry land area and for F.C. Weedboard use and for a couple of Cost Share participants for their projects.

Possible Purchases in 2024– John Deere Gator – Quotes for gator was shared to the board motion passed, motion by Jacob and seconded by Dan / new copier- Motion passed, motion by Jacob and seconded by Dan

VEBA Contribution and Medical restructure for 2025 – Discussion on the health care benefit and Veba. Todd covered changes to both which was implemented in order to save the county money. Health care benefit contribution is to be 90% of the plan chosen by the employee. The Veba Contribution is based on health care plan chosen, (higher the deductible, higher the contribution). If opting out of insurance, the Veba contribution is higher.

BLM – Funds pushed out, amid budget concerns for BLM, probably won't see contracts offered until spring. Discussion continued around what BLM has done relative to what needs to be done on BLM property.

Voucher numbers 24-087 through 24-098 signed in the amount of \$24,961.18

August payroll in the amount of \$27,573.00

September payroll in the amount of \$20,093.00

Upcoming Meetings and Events – Washington State Weed Conference Nov 6th-8th, one speaker has backed out but Kurt Beckley (drone pilot) has stepped in to fill spot.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Martin Pierret at 2:10 p.m.

These are the Board of Director proceedings for October 14, 2024

Dan Voss

Chairman

11-12-24

Date

Joel B. Hazz

Clerk of the Board

11-12-2024

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