

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

June 16, 2014

7:00PM

LOCATION: Weed Board Office, 502 Boeing Street, Port of Pasco

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 7:02; board members present were Vice Chair Dave Beach and Terry Utecht. Staff included Vic Reeve, Coordinator, Robin Kusske, Asst. Coordinator, Todd Harris, Lead Inspector and Betsy Crysel, Office Manager.

Minutes from May 16th meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Dave Beach with a second by Terry Utecht. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Monthly Financial – Review of the May Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2013-2014 (to date & monthly) with Budget update

Meetings & Events Attended –DOT Meeting May 21, Vic & Betsy

NEW BUSINESS

RSI has completed treating the right of way. This year they used a new mix which includes Round-up at very high rates. Unfortunately this will have a negative impact on all grasses and other beneficial vegetation. This is disappointing because we have made good progress getting some competitive vegetation started. The timing of treatment in recent years has provided good control of Kochia but we have concerns that the new mix may result in noxious weeds regaining a foothold.

Biocontrol release – After surveying previous release sites and finding good results diffuse bugs were released at a new site within the city limits. Two Dalmation Toadflax releases were made in Smith Canyon. One of the Dalmation Toadflax releases was a repeat site and one was new.

County Rd – Spring Residual payment has been received and spring contact has been billed in the amount of \$20,718.00. Marcus Miller will be staying on to assist staff with projects. Scouting of sprayed roads underway to make recommendations on Task 2. We have seen good results but also notice Skeletonweed popping up which may be attributed to reduced pressure from other weeds. We have roughly enough chemical left for an additional 100 miles which will be determined after surveying is complete. Vic and Todd are working on an SP2 conversion.

Website – Robin shared her thoughts on the new website. Staff is directing the public to the new site at every opportunity. So far we have not received any contact via the website but as it is still in infancy this is expected. We anticipate this to change as the word gets out. The website address has been added to business cards and the letterhead.

WDFW – Robin and Philip Buser spent two days surveying the Youth Ranch where there has been a history of Yellow starthistle, treating 1.5 acres. Robin reported she was pleased the survey turned up less than she expected. Windmill Ranch was also surveyed and Poison hemlock sprayed. White bryony

was discovered which Philip intends to treat. Philip greatly appreciated Robin's expertise as he is new to his position and still learning noxious weed identification for the area. Robin and Philip have a good rapport and mutual goals for weed control, two characteristics that continue to build the working relationship.

Tackweed Pull – Robin and Betsy met with Dan Dotta of the City of Pasco regarding the tackweed pull and municipal meeting. Unfortunately, a showing of just two volunteers at last year's event did not justify the amount of time and effort that went into media promotion of the "Great American Tackweed Pull". The tackweed pull has been cancelled but we will continue to promote "pull a tackweed a day" ideology and look for volunteers to adopt portions of the bike path. Dan informed us the city sprayed Milestone on both sides of the path between 4th and Chiawana Park last fall.

Puncturevine Test Plot – FCWB conducted a test plot at Fred Olberding's circle corner using Milestone, Opensight, Vision, and Plateau. We will be monitoring the site for results.

Trail spraying – Todd and Marcus Miller spent a week on the trail spraying Scotch thistle and Yellow starthistle. The job was done primarily with the Gator although due to terrain some had to be sprayed with the handgun. Weed pressure is scattered which Todd attributes to his ongoing presence in the area.

Benton Co. Weed – Vic presented the breakdown of options to the board and staff concerning a possible merger with Benton County Weed Board. Option 3 appears to provide the most benefit to both without reducing Franklin County's program; however, it means Vic will divide his time to coordinate both counties. Option 3 allows for hire of office manager and an additional field person for Franklin County. It also provides Benton County with a full time office person and one field person. A lively discussion followed as pros and cons were weighed and concerns expressed. It was determined more information is necessary. A meeting between Chairmen of both Boards is being arranged.

BLM – Sean McDougal contacted FCWB about a \$2500.00 pilot project for surveying and treating Juniper Dunes. Vic and Todd met with Sean to come up with a plan. Todd explained the scope of the project. The funding will be used to survey section 24, 30 and 34, occurring over 3 days with an additional day for treatment if funds remain following surveying. The paperwork will be signed and returned this week for an anticipated start the week of June 23rd.

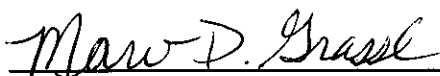
Upcoming Meetings & Events – Municipal meeting June 18, Benton City Chamber Meeting June 19, CWMA Meeting June 24

Signed VouchersVoucher numbers 14-059 through 14-067....\$5,771.70

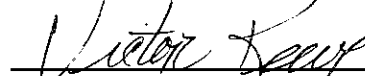
Payroll expense May \$19,311.62

Next meeting Monday July 21, 2014 7 pm

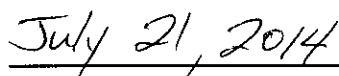
Please call the office or email by 8 am Monday July 21, 2014, if you are unable to attend the meeting.



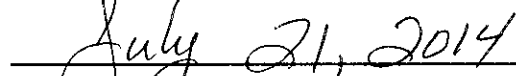
Chairman



Clerk of the Board



Date



Date