

FRANKLIN COUNTY WEED BOARD

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Minutes

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Monday July 21, 2014

7:00PM

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

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marv Grassl at 7:07; Board members present were Vice Chair Dave Beach, Paul Herrman, and Bill Middleton. Staff included Vic Reeve, Coordinator, Robin Kusske, Asst. Coordinator, and Betsy Crysel, Office Manager.

Minutes from June 16th meeting reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Dave Beach with a second by Paul Herrman. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Monthly Financial – Review of the June Treasurers Report, P&L comparison 2013-2014 (to date & monthly) with Budget update///set up an account for ROI from roadside spraying///

Meetings & Events Attended – Municipal meeting June 18, Attendance down from previous year but meeting was well received, Benton City Chamber Meeting June 19, CWMA Meeting June 24

NEW BUSINESS

Benton County – Discussion continued with Vic revisiting the 3 options, providing a breakdown of what each meant to Benton and Franklin counties, regarding staffing, budgets, and coordinator involvement. Marv shared his thoughts on his meeting with Danny Downs. Pros and cons were weighed as Board members and staff expressed ideas about Franklin County's involvement in regard to maintaining our current program at the current level and implementation of future plans. Many expressed Benton County stands to gain the most, acknowledging there is a vested interest in Benton County's program because their actions affect us; but, uncertainties raise questions that Benton County needs to address. To this end a meeting of the two Boards is scheduled for August 7th from 9am to noon in our conference room. A list of questions will be prepared and provided to Benton County prior to the meeting. The meeting will conclude with Franklin County Board of Director's decision to pursue involvement or walk away.

BLM Survey – Work has been completed and billing will go out this week. BLM has asked for comments on EA.

Incident involving 9554, 9553 – Vic shared pictures of 9554 and 9553, struck on June 26 while parked in PW yard. The claim was filed; checks in the amounts of \$ 4556.62 (9553) and \$ 2121.98 (9554) have been received. The vehicles are in the repair shop. Vic updated on the status of each. The Dodge should be back in service next week. The adjuster's estimate for repairs on the Chevy is lower than Nolan's estimate. Nolan is in contact with the insurance company, waiting for additional cost analysis to determine if it is repairable.

Biocontrol release – A total of nine bio-releases were made this month on Diffuse knapweed, Purple loosestrife, Yellow starthistle and Russian knapweed. Releases included previous locations and some new sites. One new location, the Ringold Fish Hatchery, has the perfect conditions for a new bio-agent, a gall producing wasp that attacks Russian knapweed.

County Rd – SP2 conversion is complete and ready for service. Task 1 payment has been received. Our recommendation for Task 2 of a contact spray on the paved roads has been sent to Matt Rasmussen and we are waiting on his response. The decision to treat only paved roads is based on our observation of the amount of dust present on gravel roads at this time of year which impacts contact application. Our recommendation for the gravel roads is to treat with residual in the fall. Discussion of the presence of grass on the roads and the effect on PW's ability to grade followed.

WDFW – Robin met with Greg Bjornstrom. He still supports an assistance program and continues to push the idea on up to the hierarchy. Robin also had the opportunity to survey and tour with Mike Erickson, Ringold Fish Hatchery specialist. She reported they have been doing a good job of cleaning up Canada thistle. She shared her knowledge of white bryony, bindweed, phragmites, and hairy willowherb with Mike.

White Bryony Grant – Robin reported that White bryony is now at the stage of maturity where it can easily be spotted so we can step up the surveying.

Franklin Conservation- The Conservation District has informed us the contract labor price for Marcus Miller will increase from \$16 to \$26 per hour as of August 1 if we choose to continue using him. We will evaluate which projects Marcus may still be of value in assisting us with and track spending associated with his labor. We expect to be able to use him for roadside spraying, helping with signage and other odds and ends.

DOT – After witnessing the DOT spraying on 395 in Connell, Vic contacted Tom Lenberg to compliment them on efforts and discuss current and future plans. They have been spraying and will continue to spray Kochia north of Sagemoor. They are mowing in areas where crop safety is an issue. Hwy 17 will be mowed. We have been informed there are plans for treating Rush Skeletonweed this fall.

Budget Planning Begins – It is time to begin planning for next year's budget. We will be taking a look at 2014 expenses to date and projected spending for the remainder of the year to develop a preliminary budget.

Upcoming Meetings & Events – WCIF Yakima July 23, Quickbooks training August 8-Betsy, Ben-Franklin Fair August 19-23

Vic will be on vacation from August 11th through August 15th

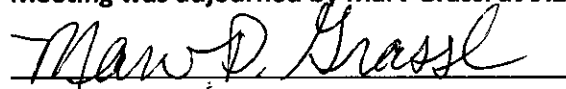
Signed Vouchers14-068 thru 14-082 = \$5,192.67

Payroll expense June... \$19,316.54

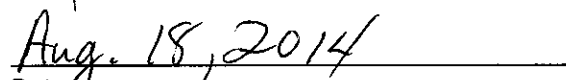
Next meeting Monday August 18, 2014 7 pm

Please call the office or email by 8 am Monday August 18, 2014, if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Marv Grassl at 9:28 pm.



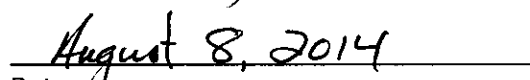
Chairman



Date



Clerk of the Board



Date