

Noxious Weed Control Board

Meeting Minutes September 11, 2018

Board Members

Joe Grentz
Ken Bauer
Dirk Veleke
Jim Johnson

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, NW Coordinator
Raylene Dowell – Office Assistant

Open Meeting: Board Member Dirk Veleke opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Action items

1. The minutes of the June 12, 2018 meeting were presented. Joe Grentz moved and Jim Johnson seconded a motion to approve minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Truck purchase 2019 – Mike reported that money has been allocated for the past three years for the purchase of a new truck for the department. The truck will be purchased through the state bid process and is estimated to cost \$26,000-\$30,000. Discussion ensued whether to buy a new or used vehicle. Mike's preference is to purchase a new vehicle. Mike spoke to with public works and they prefer that we make the purchase through the public works department.
2. Fire Wash Stations- Mike attended a meeting of officials during the fire season. He requested that they have a wash station installed at fire camp to wash down the trucks and equipment when they return from the field to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. They installed wash station at the fire camp. Fire buckets were dipped into Fish Lake this season for water to fight forest fires. Mike contacted them to make sure that the buckets were washed afterwards to prevent the spread of algae to other bodies of water.
3. Flowering Rush Survey- The second half of the Flowering Rush contract will be completed next week. Four members of the Department of Ag and our staff spent three days on the river surveying. Aquatic Weed Solutions out of Sandpoint Idaho suction harvested Flowering Rush plants in the river. Mike noted that we should have enough carry over to do this next year.

4. Ravenna Grass- Mike reported that Julie has sent out Ravenna grass reminder letters. Ravenna grass is now a class B designate the tops of the plants can be removed to prevent the seeds from spreading.
5. Field Work- Mike informed the board of a possible change of data bases used for recording the data collected in the field. We are currently using ACT software, staff will research changing to Filemaker Pro. The Pest Board uses Filemaker Pro software and are pleased with the program. Mike commented on the staff and their commitment to the mission of the Noxious Weed Board.
6. Grants- Mike reviewed the status of your grant funded programs. Approximately \$81,500 of unused funds are available to use. Department of Natural Resources provided \$14,000 match money for the Department of Ecology grant (\$7,000 per year).
7. Truck Accident- On July 3, 2018 Jenna and Megan were involved in accident while out in the field they were rear-ended on Chelan Street. Staff immediately contacted Margaret Walters HR/Insurance coordinator and have followed Chelan County's protocol for the accident. Jenna has had follow up doctor's appointment to treat a sore neck and back. The truck has been repaired and is back in service.
8. Outreach- Staff has attended farmers markets in Leavenworth and the Pybus Public Market. Dirk Veleke suggested that staff add the Chelan and Manson farmer's markets to our schedule for next season.
9. Knotweed- Mike reported that Jenna and Megan are making great progress with the Knotweed program. Over the past two years we have received over \$35,000 from WSDA for the Knotweed program.

Other Reports

Mike reported that he plans to retire June 30, 2019. Discussion ensued regarding succession planning and future staffing for the department.

Board Members Roundtable

Joe Grentz noted that he missed Julie's input at the meeting. He praised her for her enthusiasm, knowledge of plants and work ethic.

Meeting Adjourned

Ken Bauer moved and Jim Johnson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting date will be Tuesday, December 11 at 1:30pm.