

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board

Meeting Minutes June 11, 2019

Board Members

Fred Smith
Ken Bauer
Joe Grentz
Dirk Veleke
Jim Johnson

Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, Coordinator
Julie Sanderson –Field Supervisor
Adam Pfleeger- Field Supervisor
Raylene Dowell- Recorder

Open Meeting: Fred Smith opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m...

Action Items

The minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting were presented. Fred Smith moved and Joe Grentz seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Education

Julie Sanderson reported that staff will be doing outreach education at farmers markets in Wenatchee, Leavenworth and Chelan as well as the Salmon Festival in September. NCW Life has been replaying the program that Julie did a couple of years ago with Bonnie Orr the Dirt Diva about weeds. Dirk suggested that the Noxious Weed Department do an educational segment on KOZI radio.

2. Field Work

Julie reported that staff has been surveying for Tree of Heaven. Tree of Heaven is a host for the Spotted Lantern Fly. The Spotted Lanternfly feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees and has destroyed numerous crops on the east coast. Points are being gathered so if Tree of Heaven is added to the noxious weed list we will be ready to begin control of this weed.

Staff has been surveying Horse Lake road for whitetop. We will apply for a BLM assistance grant to spray and survey whitetop for internal areas on Horse Lake road. Stayman Flats was sprayed for Rush Skeleton weed by Woodland Resources.

Staff did photo monitoring for Crupina at Moore Point. Samples have been collected and sent in for Crupina bio-control research. Julie will be meeting with Department of Ag on Thursday to request additional funding for Crupina. Dirk suggested that we ask private property owners to fund Crupina control on private land. Discussion ensued the department will work towards enforcement in the future.

3. Budget

We have approximately \$150,000 in this year's budget \$27,000 will be used for the purchase of the new Ford ranger truck. We received the truck today it is ready to hit the field tomorrow.

No Title 2 funds this year. The DOE grant for Flowering Rush has about \$21,000 carry-over; this should be enough to hire a diver to suction the Flowering Rush plant in the Columbia River in September.

The Knotweed grant has \$3,800 this money will be exhausted by the end of this month. We hope to acquire additional funding for the rest of this year.

We will apply for another BLM grant to spray weeds on property adjacent to BLM properties.

4. New Employees

Julie introduced Adam Pfleeger to the board. Adam is the new Field Supervisor and will be taking Julie's current position.

Megan Whitmore has returned for the summer season. Megan works with Jenna on the Knotweed program.

Gabe Savabody is our new summer employee. Gabe has been busy surveying for Tree of Heaven, Thistles and will be working on Puncturevine.

Julie will be the new Noxious Weed Board Coordinator as of July 1, 2019.

5. City Ordinance

The City of Wenatchee approved including Puncturevine as a public nuisance in the city code. Cliff Burdick, Wenatchee inspection service manager said the first step in the process is talking to the property owner, with the goal of voluntary compliance. If no action is taken the board can fine the property owner. Julie will be meeting with the City to discuss their process and how it aligns with our process.

6. Mike Mackey Retirement

Mike thanked the board members for their support over the past eleven years. Mike explained that he met with Chelan County Commissioners and has asked them to write a letter to the State Weed Board requesting that Douglas County start a weed control board. Mike reported that the commissioners have agreed to write the letter. Mike will share the letter to this board for their input before it is sent out.

Board Members Roundtable

Joe Grentz asked the question "How are the County Commissioners going to specifically help us get Douglas county fight Puncturevine. Mike suggested that the board voice their concern to Department of Ag. Department of Ag has the power to enforce on Class A weeds (Puncturevine is not a class A).

Jim Johnson commented that the Entiat River road is looking good and has been sprayed.

Dirk reminded the board that budget time will be here soon and also the time to make suggested changes to the weed list. He suggested adding Knapweed, Toadflax and Whitetop back on the list. Fred added that many of the canyons that are being developed have a lot of whitetop, specifically Nahaum Canyon.

Meeting Adjourned

Dirk made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Next meeting date will be Tuesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.