

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, 2021
412 Washington St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Board Members Present

Fred Smith (phone)
Dirk Veleke (phone)
Joe Grentz (phone)

Board Members Absent

James Johnson

Others Present

Julie Sanderson, CCNWCB Coordinator
Adam Pflieger, CCNWCB Field Supervisor (phone)
Tayna Russell, CCNWCB Office Assistant
Jenna Eardley, CCNWCB Field Inspector (phone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board Chair, Joe Grentz.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the March 9th regular meeting. *Joe Grentz motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Fred Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Budget Report and Grant Updates

Julie Sanderson went over the Expenditure and Revenue Reports. We will be receiving close to \$20,000 in reimbursements towards the end of July from multiple grant-funded projects. We're still waiting for the knotweed agreement to finalize, which should be happening in the next few weeks. The assessment came in strong, from both private and state lands.

Julie told the board she asked Mary Fee about billing the DOT for ROWs. It will be a bit of a process and maybe not until 2022 until they can get a committee set up for it. In the revision of the law they lined out the details of the formation of the committee and they want the billing to be consistent across the counties. Discussion followed.

Dirk asked about whether or not the board should be involved in approving the budget, which hasn't been done in the past. Julie will find out when it's due to be turned in to the Commissioners' office. Normally the budget would be turned in by mid-August. Julie said a special meeting can be called prior to turning in the 2022 budget. Julie scheduled a special meeting for budget approval on July 27th. *The budget will be sent to the board members by July 22nd for review.*

2. Pandemic Closure and Reopening

Julie updated the board on the most recent happenings with pandemic reopening. Most of the offices are officially open, but we're still asking people who aren't vaccinated to wear masks. Julie told the board that it was announced at the last department head meeting that the county maintenance department will be putting up new entry signs regarding masks

3. Field Season Progress

Julie gave the board an update on the 2021 field season thus far. April and May have been really busy. Adding whitetop back to the county weed list is keeping us busy. We're going back and surveying places where whitetop has been found in the past and sending letters to owners where it's been found this year.

Megan Whitmore started June 1st and is working on the knotweed program for 2 days a week with Jenna and 1 day a week on general weed work, mainly surveying for whitetop and puncturevine.

Adam was up in the Stemilt Creek area this week. Control work on the thistles in that area over the past few years has yielded good results.

We've had several people call in and ask for help with identifying their weeds and control methods this season. We're also getting feedback from people who've attended the Wenatchee Naturalist class Julie teaches at each year as well as referrals from Master Gardeners. Julie did 2 radio interviews this spring and a couple call-ins on KOZI's "Second Cup" program. We've already completed 2 farmers Markets this year.

Julie asked if the board had any questions on the field work. Dirk Veleke inquired about the vacant land between Walmart and the ball fields in Chelan, which is usually mowed by this time of year, but has not been mowed yet this year. Adam said he looked at the 4 vacant lots today. *Adam will directly contact the 4 Chelan vacant lot owners this week to let them know now is the time to mow.*

4. Board Member Vacancy

Julie updated the board on the progress of the search for candidates to fill the board vacancy. We posted a notice of the vacancy on our web site and sent a bulk mailing to 90+ owners of agricultural land in the Malaga and Wenatchee areas on May 26th. An article was also published in the Wenatchee World this week. Julie asked the board if they had any other suggestions for getting the word out on the board vacancy.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Julie asked the board if they were okay to continue calling in for future board meetings. Dirk said he is fine with call-in meetings. Fred and Joe agreed that we should continue with the call-in format.

ADJOURN MEETING

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dirk seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Follow-up Items:

- *The budget will be sent to the board members by July 22nd for review.*
- *Adam will directly contact the 4 Chelan vacant lot owners this week to let them know now is the time to mow.*