

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board Chair, Joe Grentz.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the June 8th regular meeting. *Fred Smith motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Dirk Veleke seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Budget Report and Grant Updates

Julie Sanderson gave an update on the budget. A few items that weren't certain are now finalized. There were cost of living increases as well as step increases for 2 employees. Increases came up to about \$13,000, but we also had some decreases because in the previous budget there was still money for health benefits for our previous Office Assistant, Raylene Dowell, who left in early January 2020 for \$15,000. In the end, there will be a net benefit of \$2,000 for 2022.

Julie then went over the Expenditure and Revenue Status Reports. We're at 53% overall for 2021 expenditures as of September 9th. On the revenue side, 56% of revenue has been received. The 2nd assessment deposit will come in October. Overall, we are in a very good spot with the budget. Discussion followed.

2. Grant Updates (DOE, BLM, WSDA, RCO/USACE)

Since our June meeting we have received a total of \$25,000 in reimbursements from 5 separate grants. The new knotweed grant has been received, with a funding timeline of July 2021-June

2023. New funding from USACE begins this month and will be used to control flowering rush in the Rocky Reach Reservoir.

3. Flowering Rush

Adam Pfleeger gave an update on the Flowering Rush Project. Adam said he is collaborating with Chelan PUD to do survey work on PUD property. One new flowering rush infestation was located on PUD property. The PUD is paying for the survey work and their part of the control work. 5 total sites have flowering rush in the Upper Columbia. All control work not funded by the PUD will be covered by the USACE funding. Adam added that he is also collaborating with WSDA and Dale Whaley at WSU Extension. In addition, the DNR also came out to look at all the sites to get an idea of what we're working with before the divers come to do the control work. Adam said DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest) will be the control method. Discussion followed.

4. Knotweed Project Progress

Julie updated the Board on the Knotweed Project. Jenna and Megan worked efficiently and finished up about 3 weeks ahead of schedule this year. As of today, there are 673 known knotweed sites in Chelan County. 158 of those sites are currently being treated. 34% of all the sites are considered dead, but are still being re-inspected for renewed growth. 43% are eradicated because there has been no new growth for several years. That leaves 23% that are still alive and needing future treatments.

5. Ravenna Grass Letters

This year when we sent out the reminder letters for Ravenna grass, we also included a permission form for us to do control work on private parcels with grant funding we received this year from WSDA. We have received about 20% of the permission forms back, signed. About 40% of all the known Ravenna grass cases are now closed because owners have decided to remove the plants themselves. Reinspections will take place over the next couple of weeks.

6. Field Work

Julie told the Board that the field work went well this year, with a much smoother start than last year. We're currently sending out puncturevine and kochia letters for newly found infestations. We are regularly encouraging people to control weeds like Canada Thistle and Russian Knapweed.

7. Outreach, COVID Impacts

Weed Board Staff have participated in nine Farmers' Markets so far this year with one final market scheduled for the end of September. Farmers' Markets are a good way to reach out to the community. In addition to public events, Julie has also made a few appearances on local radio broadcasts to talk about noxious weeds.

8. Open Board Member Position for Wenatchee/Malaga Region

Julie gave the Board an update on progress being made to find a replacement for Ken Bauer's vacated position. Julie was contacted by Katrina Borth, who is an orchardist from Wenatchee Heights. She is interested in applying to fill Ken Bauer's position in Region 1. Fred recommended that we also contact Myron Atwood, who owns Atwood Orchards. Fred said Julie could use his name in the letter so Mr. Atwood would know who recommended him.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

The Board discussed various local weed problems. Dirk asked that staff come up with a plan over the winter to get the owners of the weedy parcels near Walmart to do better control work, as occasional mowing is not sufficient. Julie said we could send a Notice to Control letter right out of the gate next spring if control efforts are not in compliance. Dirk also mentioned other weedy parcels in Chelan where he thought control work has been insufficient, including a "5 to 10-acre parcel west of the clinic". Discussion followed. Fred and Dirk asked that Julie cc the County Prosecutor on the Notice to Control letter next spring.

The Board discussed pushing the quarterly Board Meetings back to later in the evening during harvest months. The Board agreed to change meeting times to 7 pm for the June and September meetings moving forward.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Follow-up Items:

- *Julie will draft a letter to Myron Atwood to see if he is interested in a position on the Weed Board.*
- *Board meeting times will change to 7 pm in June and September.*