

**Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, 1:30 p.m.**  
**412 Washington St.**  
**Wenatchee, WA 98801**

**Board Members Present**

Joe Greutz  
Jerrid Higgins  
Jim Johnson  
Kirk Laird

**Board Members Absent**

Mary Hill

**Others Present**

Jenna Medlar, Field Surveyor, CCNWCB  
Tayna Russell, Administrative Specialist, CCNWCB  
Julie Sanderson, Coordinator, CCNWCB

**The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Board Chair *Joe Greutz*.**

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the March, June and September regular meetings.

- *Kirk Laird motioned to approve the March minutes as presented. Jerrid Higgins seconded. The motion carried.*
- *Jerrid motioned to approve the June minutes as presented. Kirk seconded. The motion carried.*
- *Kirk motioned to approve the September minutes as presented. Jerrid seconded. The motion carried.*

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

**1. Budget and Grants**

**Expenditures**

We are about 92% through the year and the budget status report shows that we are at 93% expenditures. We went over budget in a couple of budget lines due to increasing our license levels for GIS/ESRI and increased spending in Contractual Services due to grant funding received after the 2023 budget had been approved. Expenses are expected to go down for us in the GIS category beginning in early 2024, due to the County switching to an Enterprise GIS system. Office and Operating category will also decrease in 2024 as we continue to phase out of our current CRM (Act!) software. Discussion followed.

**Revenues**

Julie briefly went over the revenue status report. We received 99% of our Noxious Weed Assessment this year, which is very good compared to previous years. Revenue from grants was higher than budgeted because we received \$15,000 in unanticipated grant funding from WSDA this year (after the 2023 budget was submitted) for the tree-of-heaven pilot project.

**Grants**

Julie gave an update on the tree-of-heaven pilot project in South Wenatchee. Contractors were hired to treat the trees with herbicide and remove them about a month later. There was a complication due to a homeless camp within the project area, but the trees were eventually removed. Julie gave information on the spotted lantern fly, an agricultural pest that uses Tree-of-heaven as a host plant.

The Weed Board has been trying to get the message out about tree-of-heaven and spotted lanternfly over the past 2 years. Julie gave a tree-of-heaven talk at the annual Weed Conference in Wenatchee last month and will be giving a similar talk at the GS Long grower meeting in Wenatchee next January.

## **2. Recertification Workshop**

The Weed Board's annual Pesticide Recertification Workshop will be held by webinar again next year, on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Julie has 4 speakers lined up to present on various noxious weed control topics, including kochia and other priority noxious weeds as well as new WSDA pesticide labeling requirements. Julie pointed out that we've doubled the number of participants since we switched to the online format back in 2020.

## **3. Weed List Changes**

Julie reviewed the annual state weed board's process for making changes to the noxious weed list. The only changes affecting Chelan County will be the addition of 2 new class A weeds: Palmer amaranth and variable-leaf milfoil hybrids. The Board will vote on the County Noxious Weed List during the March meeting.

## **4. Board Member Terms**

Julie reminded the Board that Joe Greutz and Jim Johnson's terms will end next April. Jerrid Higgins' (Dirk Veleke's replacement) term will also end next April, but he said he is willing to serve another term. When Jim and Joe leave, their replacements will need to be involved in agriculture, in accordance with the RCW. Julie thanked Joe and Jim for their 30+ years each of service to the Weed Board. Discussion followed.

## **5. Staff Changes**

Julie officially announced to the Board that she will be retiring in June. Adam will be promoted to Coordinator and Jenna will be promoted to Field Supervisor. Jenna's replacement will be hired in March to allow for a smooth transition. Board members thanked Julie for her time at the Weed Board.

## **6. Meeting Times**

Julie suggested to postpone this discussion until new board members can weigh in at the March Board meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Jerrid motioned and Kirk seconded to move the meeting into executive session. Motion carried.* The Board excused staff and convened an executive session for the Coordinator's 2023 performance evaluation.

## **BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

Kirk raised a question about what progress has been made on creating a QAQC document. Julie said that Adam has been working on it and we should have something by the March meeting. Kirk asked how staff go about ensuring that the information is reasonably accurate and updated and maintained currently? Jerrid asked if we have a SOP on collecting weed points. Julie explained that we rely on GIS, which is fairly accurate with GIS coordinates recorded in a collection form. Kirk suggested there should be a written document that would make sure we're consistent in our point collection system. Julie asked for a written example of what he would like to see. Kirk will write one up and send it to Julie. Kirk then asked Board staff to think about starting a volunteer program for helping to control weeds in Chelan County.

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

*Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kirk seconded. The motion carried.*

**The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m.**

## **Follow-up items:**

QAQC document for March meeting