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Minutes

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Weed Board Office, 227-B South Garden Avenue
2:00 PM

Board members present: Wesley Bailey, Tom Pulford, David Hoisington, Pamela Thomure

Also present: Mary Malone, Loretta Nichols, Dyana James, Tommy Crossman, Paula Martin, Levi Thomure

Meeting called to order: 2:00 pm

Action Report	Motion Carried
Motion to approve travel expenses for December Meeting	Yes
Motion to approve November meeting minutes	Yes
Motion to make Paula Martin Secretary of Board	Yes
Motion to approve November expenses	Yes
Motion to utilize 2023 excess funds for Office/PPE purchase	Yes
Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.	

Public Comment

Public comment opened at 2 p.m.

No public comment

Consent Items

Expenses for December meeting:

Pam moved to approve the travel expenses for this meeting. Tom Seconded. **Motion carried.**

November Meeting Minutes

Pam moved to approve the November 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes with correction to include full names of Field Technicians rather than initials. Wes seconded. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Introduction to Mike Jensen:

Mike Jensen did not show up on Zoom for meeting. Discussion concluded that he should be present, in person or via Zoom, at minimum once a year.

New Secretary of Board:

Pam moved to approve the replacement of Mary Malone as Secretary with the new Office and Finance Assistant, Paula Martin, or any person in said position should Paula Martin vacate position unexpectedly. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**

Wes asked that Paula create a general outline of my job position so that a new employee could walk in and be able to do the work in the future. Pam recommended Paula obtain Open Public Meeting training.

Revenue & Expense Report:

(See attachment A 1-2) Pam moved to approve expenses for November. Tom seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Discussion occurred regarding interest charges being placed on Contracts that do not pay on a timely basis. Loretta will research interest being added in the future if not paid within a specific period of time, and will include this in writing on Contracts in the future. Discussion regarding use of any remaining funds at end of year to help keep office and field staff fully supplied for the upcoming year. Recommendation by Tom that a running list of PPE and office supplies be kept. Loretta has a short list that she is currently purchasing from and will ensure she does everything she can before end of day December 14. A preliminary motion was placed by David for Loretta to go before Commissioners next year to ask that any "carryover" money be kept in our budget rather than lose it to the County's discretion. This was tabled for a future meeting.

Pam made motion to approve Loretta to purchase all necessary supplies and PPE for staff and weed program with any excess funds from this budget of 2023. Tom seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Made note to add to January Calendar to discuss budget for expenses to include office furniture, PPE, and any other items Staff thinks of in that time.

Wes requests report of what items were purchased, immediately following the board meeting until the cut off on 12/14/23, at the next board meeting. Place on agenda.

Pam ensured Loretta, as Coordinator, always goes through the Board first for approvals before going to County Commissioners. Ensures that Loretta/Coordinator can always reassure Commissioners that the Weed Board has already approved the issue.

Employee Updates and Monthly Reports:

(See attachment B 1-3)

Dyana: Spent time cleaning office out, training new employee, Paula Martin. Will continue the training process. Updating addresses in Weed Base from Assessor's database.

Mary: Two week-long conferences. Followed by being out sick.

Loretta: Trainings, Conferences, DOE reports.

Tommy: Conference. Out sick often. Working on Standard Operating Procedures for his position to help out new and temporary employees from here forward.

Coordinator Reports & Updates:

Staffing Updates: Interviews (17 applications for F&O Assistant), Hiring new Outreach & Field Assistant Position (4/5th, Spray license required).

FLR update: Mark Porter with Oregon Dept of Agriculture shared that our triploid FLR spreads more easily due to roots being abundant and able to spread and re-grow wherever they've broken up and washed downstream. Visually, we do not see the spread above the water until it's well established. ¼ mesh captures it best. DASH boats are most efficient and productive at this time. Discussion about any other processes we could use, none available that we are aware of at this time. Canada recently introduced weevil because it feeds on FLR. FLR also being fought in Montana now; pools only, not rivers so far. Not enough data on herbicide use for statistics at this time.

USFS agreements: Amendment 1 has been signed and another (NCS) is in the works. Modification to extend deadline for use of funds.

Loretta is finishing grant application for DOE (Department of Ecology) today (12/13/23).

Pam wants to discuss multi-year contracts in the future.

Important Dates Calendar:

(See attachment C) Mary updated calendar. Add Integrated Weed Management Plan to July. Pam would like an update every 3 – 6 months to track progress. Calibration workshop well attended and will be done again in 2024.

Loretta noted that she talked to coordinators at the Weed Conference – sounds like the January FLR meeting will be good to go. Pam asked to include Zoom at that meeting to allow more people to attend.

Contractor Report:

(See attachments D 1-3)

Discussion about contractors all using same/similar techniques to develop set criteria so contractors keep up, and so we can compare how the upkeep is working or not. Is there a way to focus on methods and results, get the contractors to keep better notes. Create a plan to get contractors a form/report with date, time, chemical/manual, wet/dry conditions, methods used,

include pictures and reports for accuracy. Pam would like them to be on par with the Army Corp's tactics and plan development. David shared his computations about cost per pound being better in 2023 than it was in 2014. Board would like PO county to share data with the other counties in Washington to find out what methods have been used and shown the most improvement with use. Wes would like herbicide statistics as soon as they are available.

Discussion about airboat needs. Paula will check contracts and update with options in January.

Pam would like a copy of Aquatechnex License Agreement.

Tommy had handouts (added to minutes; Attachment F). Detailed accountability of plants statistics for 2020 to 2023. Printed maps, but did not include them as attachments because there were too many. Available upon request. Graphs are not by acreage, but by number of plant's removed in specific areas. The conclusion is that we have better contractors at present and statistically everything is looking more improved than it was 4 years ago. We will be asking for notes to be added to the phone app while in field; make drop-down options to simplify, including water levels at various times/dates of the year.

Open Discussion:
No open discussion.

Old Business

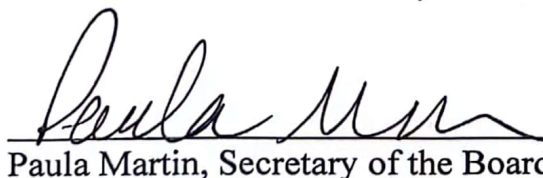
Board review of resolutions from the past year

(Attachment E) Loretta will have Dolly's office review Attachment E to verify the insurance amount's required for participants is adequate. The current fee for participation is sufficient per current year's accounting. It is on the schedule to be reviewed in April on the Important Dates Calendar for 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:02 p.m.


Wesley Bailey, Chairman


Date


Paula Martin, Secretary of the Board


Date