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Minutes

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Weed Board Office, 227-B South Garden Avenue

2:00 PM

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

Also present: WSU Extension Office Director Mike Jensen, Commissioner John Gentle, Loretta Nichols, Tommy Crossman, Paula Martin

Meeting called to order: 2:01 pm

Action Report	Motion Carried
Motion to approve travel expenses for January Meeting	Yes
Motion to approve December expenses	Yes
Motion to approve December meeting minutes	Yes

I. Public Comment

Public comment opened at 2:01 p.m.

No public comment

II. Consent Items

A. Expenses for January meeting:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. November Meeting Minutes

David moved to approve the December 13, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Tom seconded. Pam abstained. **Motion carried.**

III. New Business

A. Introduction to Mike Jensen:

1. Mike Jensen introduced himself and gave his colorful background. Mike [and the Extension Office] is a good contact for grants that the Weed Board may be able to make use of. He clarified that he has a non-voting position on the Weed Board per Statute RCW 17.10.050, as advisor only. If the Board or Staff have questions they can contact him or his office, let them know what interests are coming up, and they can help with that research. He is not as informed with local aquatic noxious weeds. He can help the office with Bear Awareness, First Aid/CPR, and Stop-A-Bleed Training for handy training for field staff.
2. Pam would like to know if it is mandatory that First Aid/CPR training be required for field work. Loretta responded that it is not required at this time, however most of the current or past employees do/have had it.

B. Revenue & Expense Report:

(See attachment A 1-4)

David moved to approve expenses for December. Tom seconded. **Motion Carried unanimously.**

C. Employee Updates and Monthly Reports:

(See attachment B 1)

Loretta: See Coordinator Reports & Updates

D. Coordinator Reports & Updates:

1. Staffing Updates: Hired new Outreach & Field Assistant Position (4/5^{ths}, Spray license required), start date is January 17, 2024.
2. Flowering Rush (FLR) update: County Coordinators meeting is set for January 25th at Weed Board and Extension office building. 15+ will be attending so far.
3. Department of Ecology (ECY) grant approved (tentatively) 1/10/24. Will be following up with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant.
4. State Weed Board is in the process of applying for a Grant through Bureau of Reclamation that would include seven States covering the Columbia Basin, and Canada. If approved, areas upstream may be able to prevent the flowering rush from spreading. Loretta is asking \$300k with 35% match from this one. Pam and John discussed whether a study has been done for this type of Proposal. Loretta stated that they have a Management Plan, which has been in the works for many years.
5. Clarification between Pam and Loretta on use of terminology in terms of PUD Agreement. Pam would like copies of all Agreements; agreed to send Loretta a list of the ones she is most interested in. The Board would like to know if anyone from the Weed Board office follows up on what Contractors/Agreements have been completed. The office maintains spreadsheets that were created by Loretta and Dyana James that track start and end dates, which are included in reports that are submitted with invoicing for each Agreement or Grant, per

requirements. Pam wants Public Records request from PUD and SCL in discussion, to include Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license information. Pam would also like to distinguish the separate plans from what Weed Board Agreement has, compared to Public Utilities District (PUD) and Seattle City Lights (SCL) individual plan. Discussion as to why SCL has Agreement with POC if they already have their own plans. Loretta explained that FLR is only one of many weeds targeted, and the Noxious Weed Control office can help PUD with all weeds, and the agreements help fulfill match necessities with Grants. Pam's "biggest issue is that FLR is way beyond our control." Argued by several members overlapping: Loretta responded that Weed Board office works in tandem with landowners to help identify where the issues are, and to help mitigate the work done to control the weed(s). Tom added that it is beyond any one persons' or entities' control, it must be a group effort along the entire river system. Further open discussion of herbicides vs Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) with no conclusions; discussion about the County Coordinators meeting helping to open communications with everyone surrounding us; Tribal involvement.

6. John asked if any money set aside for Education. Loretta responded yes, through ECY grant there is money for Education, as well as through workshops.
7. Board requests to see Agreements with SCL before anything is signed in the future.
 - a. It is agreed that Agreement will be presented to the Board before signing.
8. New indirect rate thru USFS, in place for 3 years. 19.81%.
9. Receiving applications for seasonal position.
10. Loretta is hoping to team up with Conservation district as they set up education through the public schools. This could target 4th to 6th graders.

E. 2024 Annual Report Review:

(See Attachment C)

1. Pam has approved the changes to the front cover that she had previously asked Paula via email. Tom would like a snippet of history on the Cover Page photo included further in the report. Pam requests including a legal definition of Noxious Weed. Pam requested a detailed page on Flowering Rush. Loretta added as page eleven. Pam's Letter from the Board was submitted for approval by board and will be reviewed at next meeting, general approval of rough draft at this time. Final approval should be done in February, when all changes are complete.

F. Strategic Plan 2024 Review:

1. Pam made requests and suggests #4 to be #1, reword primary mission as it is in the Statute as well. She also requests language be changed under "Outcome Measure" from PREVENT to "Continue efforts with other stakeholders to address the spread..." The Weed Board staff will look over suggested changes and adapt where necessary according to State Noxious Weed Board requirements.

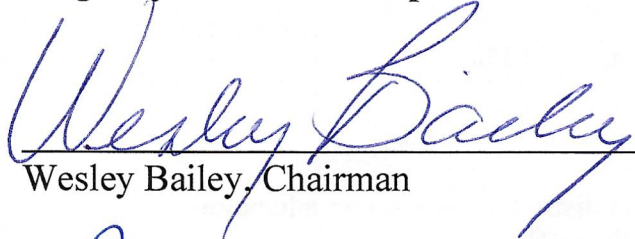
G. Discuss March Meeting date change:

- a. March 5th approved for third Weed Board meeting date in 2024.

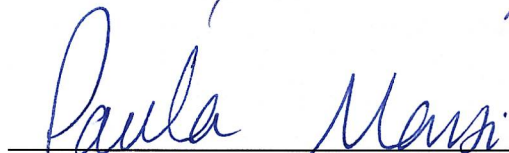
H. Open Discussion:

1. Citations vs Enforcement: Board essentially agrees that this may not be the best method for enforcement as a lien doesn't guarantee a landowner will comply, and a Ticket that leads to the court system does not bring any revenue into the Weed Board office to help offset costs. Preferred action would be to add information to the Spring Workshop about the legal authority the Weed Office has for non-action of weed removal, with the focus to be on educating the public about WHY it is important to fulfill this duty. District 1 Commissioner John Gentle's contributions & requests: Voluntary compliance is always best. A certified letter has a lot of power in helping with compliance as landowner cannot claim ignorance. Send a letter before work is done.
2. John Recommends looking closely at the budget to see which programs cost the most and which bring in the most revenue for 2024. Be specific and meticulous.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:12 p.m.


Wesley Bailey, Chairman

2-14-24
Date


Paula Martin, Secretary of the Board

2.15.24
Date