

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, 2020
412 Washington St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Ken Bauer

Others Present

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Board Chair Joe Grentz.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the March 10th 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 reviewed the revenue status report with the Board. 3 of the WSDA Grants we were supposed to receive weren't signed before shutdown, and thus, are all on hold so won't be able to count on that funding this year. The Ecology Agreement and BLM Assistance Agreement are both in hand and ready to start project work.

Julie then went over the expenditure status report. Overall, our spending is under 50%. There are a couple categories that show a higher percentage used because there were a few bigger ticket purchases that needed to be made early in the year, such as backpack sprayers and software licence renewals, however these items were budgeted for.

2. Pandemic Closure & Reopening

The office has been closed to walk-in traffic since the end of a March due to Covid-19. Staff has still been able to take calls, do field work and keep up with office work as usual. The office will remain closed to walk-in traffic until Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start reopening plan.

3. Field Season Progress

Tayna has received about 75% response in returned control plans for the first noxious weed reminder sent out in early April. Tayna sent out 650 puncturevine reminder letters last week and has already received close to 100 returned control plans from landowners. Dirk asked for clarification on what kind of follow up work staff does to ensure people are actually controlling their puncturevine. Julie explained that we follow up by re-visiting puncturevine sites to see if owners are really making progress and doing what they say they're going to do.

4. Board Member Vacancy

Julie asked if any of the Board members have looked into finding a replacement for Ken Bauer's vacant position. Fred Smith mentioned that Stemilt Growers have a lot of acreage and suggested Julie reach out to the grower group to let them know the Board is looking for someone to fill the vacancy. Julie will talk to someone from Stemilt and follow up with the Board on the outcome of that call at the September meeting.

Julie then went over the follow-up items from the March Board meeting. Julie said some of the purple loosestrife on County right-of-way in Fairview Canyon was sprayed last year and this year it appears we got good control. Jenna will be revisiting Fairview Canyon this summer to monitor herbicide effectiveness. Julie added that we're also monitoring loosestrife in Yaksum Canyon and says it's a good area for potential biocontrol release. Julie will give a loosestrife control update at the September Board meeting.

Julie then reminded the Board that at the March meeting Dirk had suggested that at the next meeting it would be nice if field staff could give a parking lot demonstration of the new spray equipment purchased earlier this year. Because of the need to continue social distancing, Julie recommended we reschedule the demo for the September Board meeting. The Board agreed.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Joe asked what method of whitetop control Julie recommends to landowners. Julie said she asks people to spray with herbicide and if landowners are adverse to using chemicals, she urges them to mow early in the growth season.

ADJOURN MEETING

Dirk motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.