

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2020
412 Washington St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Ken Bauer

Others Present

Jenna Eardley, CCNWCB Field Surveyor (phone)
Adam Pfleeger, CCNWCB Field Supervisor (phone)
Julie Sanderson, CCNWCB Coordinator
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 June 9th regular meeting. Joe Grentz motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Budget report

Julie Sanderson gave an overview of the draft 2021 budget. The Office & Operating budget line increased the most due to outdated MS Office software which will need to be updated in 2021. The education & training budget line was slightly increased so Board members can attend the 2021 Washington Weed and Invasive Species Conference if they so choose. If interested, Julie will send out more information on how to register.

Julie then briefly went over the current revenue & expenditure status reports.

2. Grant updates

Julie gave a run-down on current grant funding, on-hand and pending. The WSDA grant to control invasive knotweed in Chelan County is fully spent as of August 31st. The WA Ecology grant to control garden loosestrife in Fish Lake was halfway spent this summer on contracted herbicide treatments. The rest is allocated for a second herbicide treatment in 2021.

As far as pending grants for 2021, the WSDA has approved a \$3,000 grant proposal to control Ravenna grass in Chelan County, although still no word on whether it will be available for 2021 or 2022. Julie has submitted a proposal for a \$25,000 grant from BLM, however no agreement has been signed yet. We are also waiting to hear when we can submit a proposal for more knotweed funding, no word on that yet.

The BLM grant is administered through WSDA and will be used for weed control in the area burned during the Sleepy Hollow Fire. The grant will be used in cooperation with City of Wenatchee, Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County PUD and some private property owners. All adjacent properties will benefit from this work. It will be a 2-year grant for control work to begin in 2021.

3. New flowering rush sites

The Chelan County PUD did a survey this year for flowering rush in the Rocky Reach pool and found 2 new sites. One site is on PUD property and they have agreed to cover the cost for control work. WSDA will pay to control the second new site and additional sites that were previously found. Julie discussed with the board that one of the new flowering rush sites is located in the river where there is no property ownership. The Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction on the original river bottom, but the river area between the original water line and the new water line since the dams raised the level is a gray area for weed control responsibility. Fred moved that the Board vote on pursuing a letter in support of getting the PUD to take responsibility to control noxious weeds in the river. The board unanimously agreed.

4. Knotweed progress

Jenna Eardley and Megan Whitmore have done a thorough job following up on knotweed sites this year and control efforts are paying off. Out of 618 knotweed site in Chelan County, 458 (74%) have been eradicated.

5. Ravenna grass letters

62 Ravenna grass reminder letters were sent to land owners in August. So far, 25% have responded with control plans. Some owners are resistant to the idea of completely removing the plant, instead opting to control the plant by cutting off the plumes prior to seeding.

6. Field work - general & puncturevine

Land owners appear to be doing a great job controlling their puncturevine this year. Only 11% of all puncturevine sites were found to have new plants during surveys this year. Adam Pfleeger has been doing a good job of getting land owners to control their weeds in Chelan, Manson & Entiat. Overall, field work went well this year.

7. Outreach, farmers' markets etc., COVID-19 impacts

The Noxious Weed office has been closed to walk-in traffic since March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however land owners have still been able to contact staff via phone, email and using the web form to report weed infestations. We will learn from the commissioners soon when County offices can open back up to the public.

The Weed Board's participation in 2020 outreach and educational events was also greatly impacted by COVID-19. With the exception of the January Weed Management Recertification Workshop and the Outdoor Sportsmen Show in February, scheduled attendance at yearly education & outreach events had to be cancelled for 2020.

8. Changes to the County Select list

Julie asked Board members to start thinking about changes to the County select weed list. The Board will discuss the list at the December meeting and vote to approve the list at the March meeting next year.

9. Open Board Member position for Wenatchee/Malaga region

Ken Bauer is officially still on the board until a replacement is found or until his term ends in April of 2022, even though he hasn't attended meetings since March. Julie asked the Board for input on a replacement from the Wenatchee/Malaga area. Fred mentioned he recently called and talked to a few orchardists, but wasn't able to spur any interest. Joe Grentz said he also talked to local orchardists, but to no avail. Fred suggested putting a notice in local publications. Julie raised the idea of sending a letter to everyone on the list of growers in the Wenatchee/Malaga area.

BOARD MEMBERS ROUNDTABLE

The board didn't have anything to further to discuss and thanked Julie for her updates.

ADJOURN MEETING

Dirk Veleke motioned to adjourn the meeting. Joe Grentz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.