

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WEED ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

Those attending:

**Jerry Lunsford
Harmon Horton
Tom Yankey
Bruce Gochnour
Royce Schwenkfelder
Isaac Ward**

**Lyndon Haines-Wash. Co. Commissioner
Bonnie Davis-Wash. County Weed
Aaron Switalski-Idaho Dept. Fish & Game
Lonnie Huter-BLM**

Guests this evening: Betty Ward-private landowner

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance by Royce Schwenkfelder, Invocation by Bruce Gochnour. Tom Sutton, Calvin Hickey, Sarah Funk, Jasen King and Andy Bumgarner are absent and excused this evening. Harmon and the board welcomed Commissioner Haines as our new weed department liaison. The Commissioner Haines expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of this group.

Re-Organize the Board-Motion by Jerry Lunsford for Harmon Horton to continue as chair, second by Bruce Gochnour. Motion by Bruce Gochnour that nominations cease, second by Royce Schwenkfelder. Motion carries unanimous-congratulations Chairman Horton and thank you.

Introductions: N/A

In the Matter of the Minutes: Minutes of November 10, 2020. Motion by Bruce Gochnour to accept the minutes as written, second by Royce Schwenkfelder. Motion carries. (There are no October minutes as the board did not have a quorum. Note the board did not meet in December and January due to group size restrictions.)

In the matter of claims: N/A

In the matter of Correspondence: Bonnie reminded the board of the NPDES requirements concerning the Notice of Intent and permit requirements. The EPA is no longer handling this it is now regulated by the DEQ in Boise. EPA has notified all the current permit expires October 31, 2021. The permit they are proposing would replace the current one and contains the same requirements and provisions. Comment period on Draft NPDES Pesticide General Permit for Point Source Discharges to Waters of the United States from the Application of Pesticides is January 15-March 16, 2021. If you are interested in more information on this matter contact Bonnie.

General Business

Board Approval of 2021 Cost Share Request & Sifting Committee Report-The Sifting Committee members shared the results of their ranking of project applications for 2021. The recommendation is as follows: Phase 1-Cow Creek, Phase 2-Weed Crusaders and Pine Creek Estates, Phase 3-Middle Valley Waterways, Advent Gulch, Salubria, Valley View, Mann Creek Valley, Midvale Weed Beaters, Up the Creek, Dutch Flat and CW. Another project was denied due to lack of cooperators and one was declined due to being late. Chairman Horton explained the Phase system for Commissioner Haines. Motion by Bruce Gochnour to accept the Sifting Committee's recommendation for 2021 projects as presented and were submitted to the ISDA per the Chairman's directive. Second by Jerry Lunsford, discussion this was done due to the board not meeting due to Covid exposures. Motion carries. Bonnie explained some of the challenges with cost share in addition to the rules/guidelines and especially the 10 year limit for projects. She served on the review committee this year and noted the Cost Share Review Committee seems to pick and choose what they apply this to. Lonnie shared some past experience he has had serving on the review committee and he has felt the same frustrations. She expressed her pride in the amount of private and agency participation our CWMA has compared to others in the state. Our method of operating is very unique and we have the weed board's vision to thank for that.

Poster Contest Update-Posters are due to the weed department by 3:30 p.m. on April 23rd. Judging will occur on Wednesday, April 28 at noon at the weed department. Winners will be recognized at our meeting on May 11, 2021. Tom Yankey explained he was not distributing poster materials to the schools this year. Bonnie and her staff will do so. Bonnie shared a letter that was delivered to each teacher involved with the contest with a 2021 calendar. This was delivered to Weiser, Midvale and Cambridge schools. They will soon be delivering the poster materials to the same schools for the above mentioned teachers. Bruce reported the calendars did not arrive until Christmas Eve and he was able to get the 2021 calendars were delivered immediately after Christmas. People were very happy to see them. The board thanked Bruce for doing this.

Recertification Seminar-Bonnie reported on Calvin's behalf the seminar is scheduled, we have received 3 credits for the evening, flyers were sent and posted and RSVP's are coming in. She explained the move to the Exhibit Hall in Cambridge to allow for social distancing due to Covid concerns. Presenters are: Dave Malmberg-NORCO, Dan Safford-ISDA and Justin Erickson-NOAA. There is no charge for the use of the building since we are county. They do offer janitorial service after the event which includes the sweeping and mopping of the hall which is required after any event. The cost to pay the individual is \$60. The group motion by entire board to take advantage of this service, group second. Motion carries.

New Business

Tax Assessment Inserts-The board selected 3 noxious weeds to be featured on the insert to be included on the insert that will be sent with the tax assessment letters which are mailed by the assessor's office in May. Featured weeds: purple loosestrife, Russian knapweed and oxeye daisy.

Teacher Workshop/Weed Tour-Jerry Lunsford reported he contacted Gretchen Hyde-Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and she and April Hulet-University of Idaho are a go. This year they will be focusing on the I-Roam Trailer. The board directed Bonnie to contact previous caterer, Grubbin' BBQ to provide the lunch. Discussion of tour presentations: Aaron will do a drone presentation (site selection is important), Royce will research a presenter for a targeted grazing presentation, a CWMA project will be selected to visit, new noxious weeds and that will leave 1 additional topic to select. The board will discuss this further at the March meeting.

Spring Newsletter-The board would like the newsletter mailed in April, articles will be due by March 17th. Items to be included in the newsletter include: Teacher Workshop and Weed Tour, New Noxious Weed Species, Recertification Seminar-Calvin, Poster Contest, Targeted Grazing-Royce and drone spraying.

Advisory Board By Laws-Copies of the bylaws were distributed to all board members. It was noted they were last updated 11/13/2012. Chairman Horton asked the board to read these over and we can discuss updates and changes at our March meeting. The board discussed open meeting law updates and Commissioner Haines suggested possibly adding the virtual option to the meetings section. The board feels this is a good idea and discussed trying to add the virtual option in addition to the in person meeting. The importance of meeting in person was discussed but this is another option. The board will discuss this further at the March meeting.

Reports

BLM Common Crupina & Yellow Starthistle 2020 Treatments- Lonnie Huter apologized for his absence the last few months. He spoke briefly of the crupina and starthistle treatments and offered to do a full presentation on both projects at the March meeting. The board is looking forward to it.

Announcements & Upcoming Activities-

*****Recertification Seminar-Thursday, February 18, 2021 6-9:15 pm at the Exhibit Hall***

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Bruce Gochnour, second by Tom Yankey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.