

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

**Those attending:**

**Jerry Lunsford**

**Isaac Ward**

**Tom Yankey**

**Bruce Gochnour**

**Royce Schwenkfelder**

**Calvin Hickey**

**Sarah Funk-Idaho Power**

**Bonnie Davis-Wash. County Weed**

**Zac Huling-Idaho Dept. Fish & Game**

**Jasen King-Idaho Dept. Lands**

Attendees via Zoom: Sarah Funk, Jasen King, Zac Huling (see full listing above).

***Guests this evening:*** *Betty Ward-private landowner*

Bonnie Davis stated that Chairman Horton is unable to be here this evening so the board will need to select an interim chair for the meeting.

Motion by Bruce Gochnour that Royce Schwenkfelder serve as the interim chair in Harmon's absence. Second by Jerry Lunsford, motion carries.

Interim Chairman Royce Schwenkfelder called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance by Jerry Lunsford, Invocation by Bruce Gochnour. Harmon Horton, Tom Sutton, Lonnie Huter and Andy Bumgarner are absent and excused this evening. Chairman Haines had a family emergency this evening. Bonnie reported this is our first live meeting via Zoom which our agency representatives joining in this evening.

***Introductions:*** *N/A*

***In the Matter of the Minutes:*** Minutes of February 9, 2021. It was noted the appointment of Bonnie Davis as the Recording Secretary was omitted from the minutes. Motion by Jerry Lunsford to accept the minutes as amended, second by Bruce Gochnour. Motion carries.

***In the matter of claims:*** *N/A*

***In the matter of Correspondence:*** Bonnie shared that we have received our award letter from ISDA for the 2021 Cost Share. We did receive the full amount requested of \$11,550. She is arranging for the signatures, commissioners will sign on Monday and it will be returned to ISDA at that time. Zebra mussels were found in aquarium products being sold in the state. ISDA is aggressively working on this and stores such as Petco's, Petsense etc. are cooperating as well as small privately owned shops. The manufacturer is cooperating in getting the products pulled from the shelves. They were discovered in Washington who is cooperating as well as Utah, Wyoming and Oregon. It was discovered at a Petco in Seattle, Washington. This again is why we encourage people NOT to dump their fish tanks in creeks, rivers, ditches etc.

**General Business**

**Poster Contest Update-**All the materials have been delivered per the board's request. Bonnie stated we ran out of Idaho Noxious Weed Books but had enough to provide one to each participating class and they are aware of the online options. Reminder we will be judging posters the 28<sup>th</sup> of April at noon at the weed department.

**Recertification Seminar-**There was an estimated 65 in attendance which is more than normal. The speakers were good and it went very well. The exhibit hall worked out really well and it is a nice facility. Some did complain about it being so far but they were pretty good overall. It was nice to see so many come early just so they could visit with people. There were probably more issues with licenses this year than before and some are still working through that process. ISDA is still closed and open by appointment only with a great deal of staff working from home so it makes getting answers a bit more difficult. Thank you to the board for all their help putting up tables and chairs and the check was sent for the janitorial services. Bruce pointed out maybe we should think about once in a while having it up there so one group isn't doing all the traveling.

Royce stated he wished we could get together and make a donation for that hall to get things like a drop down screen. Maybe a projector that can stay there and hook to the internet and they have worked on the sound system but we ended up not using it because they were good speakers.

**Final Noxious Weed Spring Insert for Tax Assessment**-Bonnie presented a draft of the spring tax assessment insert for the board's approval. Bethany Muffley, ISDA has updated the insert per the board's request. Motion to accept the spring tax assessment insert as presented by Calvin Hickey, second by Tom Yankey. Motion carries.

**Teacher Workshop/Weed Tour**-Jerry reported that everything is set and Bonnie stated there are 9 teachers signed up for the workshop to date. Bonnie reported Grubbin' BBQ is scheduled for catering. The board directed her to order the same menu as in 2019. Bonnie asked the board about serving lunch at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall in Cambridge, it is available that day and Chris Braun has us penciled in. She suggested we ask the Cambridge FFA students to do the set up and take down of tables and chairs. If we were to do that we would not have to rent tables and chairs and we could make a donation to the FFA in lieu of paying a vendor. We would also need to pay the janitorial fee of \$60. The board agreed this would be an ideal location for lunch. Bonnie will get in touch with Jodie Mink and see if they would be interested. Tour discussion: Royce has arranged for the Targeted Grazing presentation by Mike Pellant who worked for the BLM and has worked on targeted grazing after the Soda Fire with Lance Okeson, BLM but most of this work has been on cheat grass and annual grasses for fuels management not noxious weeds. Royce noted where we have already done the goat grazing on the Weiser River people do understand the concept of it. In the past he put on a Fuels Management presentation for the Adams and Washington County Commissioners. It might be really good if we could have it at one of the fire locations. Discussion followed Advent Gulch may be a good Neighborhood Project to visit and get their input about all their years of reclamation work to eradicate noxious weeds and now "after the fire". It could cover things from reductions in grazing to weed presence after the fire. We could do a couple stops down in that area. Aaron & Zac are doing a lot of reseeding after the fire on the Andrus but after discussion with Zac the sites are not visitor/tour friendly. He noted they have aerial reseeded approximately 2,300 acres and have done some broadcast seeding with an ATV. They have applied for a grant to aerial treat about 500 acres. Zac shared that Aaron Switalski mentioned that Aaron may be doing a drone demonstration of spraying but needs 24-48 hours-notice to file a flight plan. Locations were discussed including the possibility of doing it on Brownlee Summit. Zac will check with Aaron regarding this. Jerry Lunsford requested a new noxious weeds (we do not have here) presentation. This could be done at the Exhibit Hall after lunch. Royce agreed to see if Gretchen and April would return for the tour and present on the IRoam trailer. Other options include a possible presentation on the infrared flights that are taken during the fire that shows the temperature of the burn. If it burns this temperature no grazing for one year, next level is two years etc. Royce shared during the fire the forest service and contractors that were working the fire and were staged at the Exhibit Hall did such a meticulous job of cleaning their equipment. It was suggested doing a presentation on cleaning UTV's, ATV's after recreating, fires, construction and other activities or use. The board discussed since Covid everyone is recreating on an ATV or UTV and many do not wash them off upon return or when they go somewhere. Royce said the spotted knapweed that is now everywhere on the Middle Fork of the Weiser that was not there years ago is attributed to recreational use. Bonnie asked that the board finalize the tour at our next meeting pending responses back from presenters.

**Spring Newsletter**-Articles are due by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Sarah reported Idaho Power is good with the dates. We will be folding at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will begin at 5:00 p.m. please come early if you can.

**By Laws Review**-Advisory Board members reviewed the bylaws directing Bonnie to update for approval at the April meeting.

## **New Business**

**Draft 2021 Neighborhood Project Schedule-**Not complete, will be presented for approval at the April meeting.

**Cooperation Appreciation Dinner 2022-**Board members discussed the value of the dinner. Does it keep people motivated and engaged? Do they look forward to it, Bonnie stated people do enjoy and look forward to it. It was noted it gives people a chance to see what is happening and what others are doing. It is important to keep this in front of everyone and keep the landowners support. It was asked if any other CWMA's do anything like this? No, some have a dinner for their board members but not for all the cooperators. Bonnie stated there is not another weed board like this one. Our projects and activities bring the community together and Royce stated that was the intention of this when we started and added it brought all the agencies and others together as well. Bonnie stated this board drew the roadmap, you wrote the book and we are implementing your story along the way. Isaac Ward stated it is a time the coordinators are recognized and that encourages the rest of the cooperators and feels it is important. Royce stated he knows it is a lot of work but it is what sets us apart from a lot of other endeavors in counties. Bonnie stated this board has built something that no one else has. Tom Yankey stated it doesn't seem to matter if the roads are dry or snowy we always have a full house. Royce asked our agency partners what they think of the dinner. Sarah stated it is awesome people enjoy it and brings everyone together and they get to look at all the projects. Betty Ward commented all the people looking at the pictures that are displayed of the work being done. Motion by Tom Yankey to hold the Cooperator Appreciation Dinner in 2022, second by Calvin Hickey. Motion carries.

**Summer Biological Control Workshop-**Bonnie reported that Paul Brusven, Nez Perce Bio Center is doing in person educational seminars. Many individuals are interested in biological control. This would not be a part of our tour but maybe a half day workshop that our CWMA would sponsor. We could possibly even get some credits out of this. Possibly do this in July? We never know what the insect schedule is going to be however it could be an indoor seminar. She explained they maintain the database of all biological releases statewide. The board directed Bonnie to set this up as another educational opportunity for our landowners.

## **Reports**

**BLM Common Crupina & Yellow Starthistle 2020 Treatments-** Lonnie is ill this evening and unable to be with us.

## **Announcements & Upcoming Activities-**

**Gopher Trapping Seminar-Saturday, March 27, 2021.**

**Next meeting is Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn by Calvin Hickey, second by Bruce Gochnour.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.