



# Pend Oreille County Weed Board

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## Minutes

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

Weed Board Office, 227-B South Garden Avenue

**2:00 PM**

**Board members present:** Wesley Bailey, Tom Pulford, David Hoisington

**Board members present via Zoom:** Pamela Thomure

**Also present:** Mary Malone, Loretta Nichols, Dyana James

**Meeting called to order:** 2:00 pm

Action Report	Motion Carried
Motion to approve travel expenses for this meeting	Yes
Motion to approve August meeting minutes	Yes
Motion to approve the August revenue and expense report	Yes
Motion to approve the proposed increase to weed base billing rates and for it be reviewed annually	Yes
Motion to approve suggested new rates for large sprayer, backpack sprayer and aquatic tools	Yes
Motion to adjourn at 4:16 p.m.	Yes

## Public Comment

Public comment opened at 2 p.m.

No public comment

## Open Discussion

### Open discussion by Board

Wes expressed concern over staff using kayaks & canoes. Loretta noted she talked to ER&R about buying a boat. An airboat would be best, but is very expensive. Could buy something used. Pam noted there is a lot of safety requirements and issues with staff operating boats. She also said the bigger question is whether staff should be doing that work on the water and the decision to buy a boat should wait until after that question is answered. Loretta said another question would be whether we are better off to purchase equipment or find someone with an airboat to captain us. Wes wants all of the options written out by the January meeting. Have Tommy do research on DASH before January as well. Discussion over flowering rush data and where it is stored and doing an article on it. Discussion over accuracy/reliability of information prior to this year. Discussion over Aquatic Weed Solutions contract and schedule. Loretta will ask SCL about in-water herbicide treatments at larger sites. Pam asked if DASH wasn't an option, what would SCL do to treat the FLR? Loretta said she heard AWS is doing an herbicide treatment on the river for the Kalispel Tribe this year. David wants to know what they are doing on Flathead Lake. Need to get a copy of the Army Corps report from Andrew Huddleston. Pam would like to see a cost-benefit analysis on FLR.

## Consent Items

### Expenses for August meeting:

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

### August Meeting Minutes

Pam moved to approve the August 9, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**

## New Business

### August expense & revenue reports

(See attachment A 1-2) Dyana noted we received the WSDA money which was \$5,000. She is billing out from Weed Base and getting those in. Grant billing will go out as soon as we are done with the projects. Both revenue and expenses are going well – we are at 62% of revenue which Dyana said is “really good.” Pam moved to approve August expenses. David seconded. **Motion carried.**

### Employee reports

(See attachment B 1-3) Dyana has been doing a lot of customer service, helping people with herbicides, explaining signs that are out on the river, etc. Discussion ensued regarding river work and the signs that are out. Spent a lot of time in Weed Base, getting things cleaned up and getting addresses in. Mary discussed Boundary/Seattle City Light survey and control work, events and Aquatic Workshop survey results (see attachment C 1-2).



### Coordinator Report

Loretta discussed the SCL survey and control on the river and noted there is no FLR north of dam. There was some where it narrows out south of the dam and she thinks it was missed before. It is the closest it has ever been found to the Boundary Forebay area. David asked if we surveyed between Boundary dam on the north side all the way to the border, and then does Canada have any info: they have said they have not found any FLR. Loretta will follow up with neighboring counties (Stevens, Ferry, etc.) on their process with the 40-acre patch. Pam would like us to facilitate a workshop with the other counties to talk about what they have done, what they have found, successes, failures, etc. Check with the tribe to see about using the Camas Center. In-person only, no virtual option. The initial workshop should focus on the river system. Loretta also discussed job descriptions for Finance and Office Assistant, and Outreach and Field Assistant. She will let Commissioners know we are planning to have a meeting with the Weed Boards. Maybe ask State Weed Board to encourage other counties? See if Montana and Idaho will come as well. Pam noted from the Lakes Commission meeting that state agencies from Idaho are taking care of the FLR; reach out to Molly McCahon for contact info. First meeting will be with local counties; start planning a bigger one with all of the other players. Email, then follow up at Weed Conference - Loretta will talk to folks during the coordinators meeting at the conference.

### Board review of resolutions from the past year

Pam suggested moving this to the next meeting after she has a chance to review notes from the previous year. Mary noted she did look through the minutes and found that there was an exchange time policy signed by the Board and Sharon in May of 2022, but it had been given to HR and there is not a signed copy in our files. When requested, HR said it was between Sharon and the Board and would not give staff a signed copy. Looking at the unsigned copy, Mary said it reads as a policy for any person in the coordinator position – the Board agreed that it had been for that purpose. Pam will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

### Rental equipment fees

(See attachment D) Loretta discussed the proposed changes of \$40/day for use of the 100 gal tank + \$100 deposit – that is about the minimum if something were to break. The backpack sprayer is proposed to stay at \$5/day but add a deposit. Board instructed Loretta to review the rental agreement to ensure it says they are responsible for damages, copy of driver's license? She continued that she is proposing to drop the aquatic tool rental to \$5/day + deposit. Loretta also said for our mandatory control work, we are only charging for spray equipment and herbicides. We don't charge for our time. To alleviate some of this cost would be to add a charge for the vehicle time – she proposed charging a quarter of the hourly rate, to help cover the cost of running that vehicle at least. Minimum charge right now is a \$25.00 fee for when we do control work. Pam moved to approve the proposed increase to weed base billing rates and for it be reviewed annually. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.** Pam moved to approve suggested new rates for large sprayer, backpack sprayer and aquatic tools. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**

### Acronym list

(See attachment E) Dyana noted the list is for Board reference of acronyms commonly used by Weed Board staff.

## Old Business

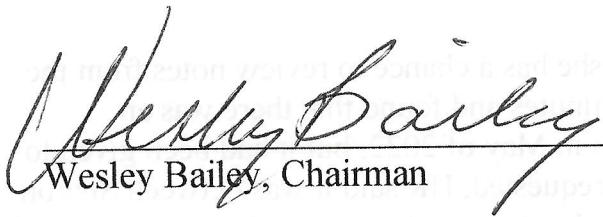
Follow up discussion on contacting state legislators & agencies to form task force group  
Mary noted this item has been on the agenda for a long time and the Board agreed it could be removed. Mary said the State Weed Board is working with the Washington Invasive Species Council on a training for coordinators on how to talk to legislators, so something similar to this agenda item may come up in the future.

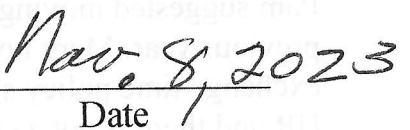
## Open Discussion (Cont.)

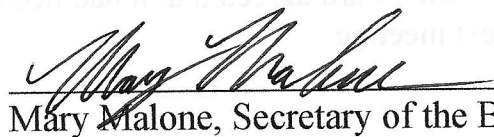
### Open discussion by Board

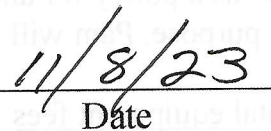
Tom asked Loretta to follow up on knotweed at Petroglyph and noted that Mary's Feed has an "invasive mix" in their seed list. Maybe let Chase from Bonner County know? Reach out to Department of Ag to see if there is a cooperative agreement. Tom also noted he and Mary attended the Oregon Rd. fire meeting hosted by DNR and Spokane Conservation District.

**Meeting Adjourned:** David moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**  
Meeting closed at 4:16 p.m.

  
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Wesley Bailey, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Mary Malone, Secretary of the Board

  
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Date