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Minutes

Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Weed Board Office, 227-B South Garden Avenue
2:00 PM

Board members present: Wesley Bailey, Tom Pulford, David Hoisington, Pamela Thomure

Also present: Loretta Nichols, Tommy Crossman, and Megan.

Meeting called to order: 2:03 pm.

Action Report	Motion Carried
Motion to approve travel expenses for February Meeting	Yes
Motion to approve January expenses	Yes
Motion to approve January meeting minutes	Yes
Motion to adopt 2024 County Weed List	Yes

I. Public Comment

Public comment opened at 2:00pm.

No public comment.

II. Consent Items

Expenses for February meeting:

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

Motion carried.

January Meeting Minutes

Pam moved to approve the January regular meeting minutes with four edits. Tom seconded. **Motion carried.**

III. New Business

A. 2024 Weed List Hearing (See attachment C):

1. **Hearing opened at 2:15 pm.** Loretta noted changes made from 2023 List as being in bold: addition of Palmer amaranth, *amaranthus palmeri*, and variable-leaf milfoil hybrids, *myriophyllum hippuroides*, as Class A. The addition to Class C Noxious weeds is European, American, and hybrid beach grasses, *ammophila arenaria*, *A. breviligulata*, and *A. arenaria x breviligulata*, which are not on our current county list due to not being found here at this time. Tom verified with Loretta that the employees will recognize the Class C additions in case it does pop up here in the future. Pam inquired as to the Milfoil situation being B designated in Lakes only at this time in Pend Oreille County, is this also the case with the State? Loretta verified this is the true for the State List as well.
2. **Public Comment:** No further comment on list.
3. **Hearing closed at 2:25 pm.**
4. **Motion to pass 2024 Weed List by Pam. Tom seconded. Motion carried.**
5. Discussion continued with Loretta speaking about educating the public of the identification of palmer amaranth, as we have lookalikes in the county that she has seen at the fairgrounds.

B. Revenue & Expense Report:
(See attachment A 1-2)

1. David moved to approve expenses for January. Tom seconded. **Motion Carried.**

C. Employee Updates and Monthly Reports:
(See attachment B 1-3)

1. Tommy updated Board on the new trailer for hauling the Gator.
2. Loretta spoke about applications for open positions and upcoming interviews. Brian Lord returning. Paula at WSDA/WSU training and testing during meeting, hence absence from meeting. All employees have been working hard on NCS Workshop and program preparations.
3. Tommy spoke of the Pesticide Application Records and the difference in herbicides allowed by each entity (Seattle City Lights, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management), even if their properties *hopscotch around each other. Discussed meeting with Josh at GIS regarding color coding to help with future application of herbicides.

D. Coordinator Reports & Updates:

1. Loretta mentioned the Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) meeting on the 20th of February to wrap up 2023. Quick discussion to now refer to Department of Ecology as ECY rather than DOE in Weed Board office. Loretta brought up Hoary Alyssum and the need to contact the State Noxious Weed board to have it added to Pend Oreille County (POC)'s Weed List, as it is currently listed as an exclusion from POC. Notices will be given to local landowners in 2024, with hopes to take care of it despite being non-mandatory at this time, due to the toxicity to horses.

E. Boating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) & Float Plan:
(See Attachment D 1-2)

1. Tommy spoke of the research done to put together the SOP at this time, as well as a Float Plan. Pam mentioned the title could be "Working over Water Procedure," per WAC rules [WAC 296-800-16070] in hand, to help further the SOP being accurate and helpful in preventing injuries in the future. Pam also suggested checking the Labor & Industry website for samples, in the hopes they may have something for working over water. Pam will email

Tommy helpful suggestions. Float Plan looks good, only needs a few small changes to make it specific to Pend Oreille County.

2. Pam asked if the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board office employees would be held accountable as general contractor during work on river. Pam further clarified that our policy should state clearly that anyone working over water must follow the policies, after witnessing people using their kids to work, lack of life jackets, and other liabilities that may be occurring. Pam also added that WRD – Washington Directives – should be looked into as well to find out what we can and cannot be liable for.
3. Tom added that using other State and Federal standards is a good way to function to keep the criteria coordinated. Pam questioned if we will need to present this to the County Commissioners to get it passed once it's been completed. Wes suggested it is likely that we do. Tommy will be doing further research and contacting others within the County.

F. Weed Law discussion led by Pam:

1. Pam spoke of Public Utility District (PUD) taking more responsibility for the river work, rather than the Weed Board doing the bulk of the work. Pam compared Pend Oreille County Weed Board (POCWB) with Spokane County and their lack of river work, while Avista takes all responsibility for the work. Pam recognizes that the POCWB should be a part of it, but that the purpose has been exceeded, and more responsibility needs to be placed back onto landowners, including Seattle City Lights (SCL), PUD, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), City, and Federal. Wes informed her that the POCWB has taken this much responsibility because only 28% of the county is private landowners, and the other entities have not historically taken responsibility and that she is “up against a wall” in her argument to get others to take accountability.
2. The Flowering Rush County Coordinator's meeting was brought up by David, including Mary Fee's statement during that meeting that in 2 years the Weed Boards should have full responsibility and control over the FLR issue in the rivers. Loretta clarified that funding from the Bureau of Reclamation to cover costs for Columbia Basin CWMA watershed system should be complete and available for the local Weed Boards to use to help with control and the attempt to stay ahead of further spread. Further discussion in both directions ensued with no conclusion.
3. Laws mentioned**: RCW 17.10; 17.10.060; 17.10.140; 10.10.010(9); 17.10.145(1); 17.26.020; Pend Oreille County Memorandum of Understanding A-2006-47.

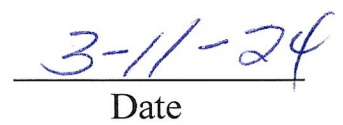
G. Open Discussion:

1. Pam suggested, in reference to using the Gator and Four-Wheeler, that rules/SOP should be checked via Labor & Industry website in case the County does not have anything.
2. Annual Report tabled until March meeting.
3. March meeting date to be moved to March 7th.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:13 pm.


Wesley Bailey, Chairman


Paula Martin, Secretary of the Board


Date


Date

*Secretaries shorthand for a much longer description that goes along with hand gestures and a physical map to look at as example. **Four Pages added onto Packet with signed minutes.