

**WASHINGTON COUNTY WEED ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

Those attending:

**Larry Anderson
Tom Yankey
Calvin Hickey
Jerry Lunsford
Harmon Horton
Tom Sutton**

**Aaron Switalski-Idaho Dept. Fish & Game
Bonnie Davis-Wash. County Weed
Kirk Chandler-Wash. Co. Commissioner**

Guests this evening: Lyndon Haines-private landowner & commissioner elect.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance by Larry Anderson, Invocation by Jerry Lunsford. Bruce Gochmour, Royce Schwenkfelder, Isaac Ward Lonnie Huter, Sarah Funk and Jasen King are absent this evening.

Introductions:

In the Matter of the Minutes: Motion was made by Tom Yankey to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting as presented, second by Larry Anderson. Motion carries.

In the matter of claims: Bonnie presented the remaining neighborhood project invoices that were approved for submission for payment to Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District for reimbursement and used as in kind for our first quarter report. The quarter ended June 30th to meet the deadlines the chair authorized Bonnie to submit as presented. The board reviewed said claims, motion by Larry Anderson to accept as presented, second by Calvin Hickey. Motion carries. Bonnie presented the invoice from High Desert Aviation LLC for aerial treatment of 400 acres of yellow starthistle in the Paddock project area in the amount \$18,000. She explained the county has paid this invoice from the weed department budget but the helicopter was funded by the ISDA Cost Share program. Motion by Calvin Hickey to approve submitting the invoice for reimbursement to Squaw Creek, second by Tom Yankey. Motion carries.

In the matter of Correspondence: Bonnie shared an update from Sarah regarding her absence and an email from Jasen explaining his absence both due to the coronavirus. Aaron reported IDF&G are limiting their interactions and follows physical distancing guidelines.

General Business

Cost Share Award-Bonnie reported that Pine Creek Estates, Priority 2 did not use all of their allocated funding on project day. She is requesting the board allow her to submit a reallocation request letter to ISDA to use those funds for Priority #2 projects. Motion was made by Jerry Lunsford to submit a letter to Jeremy Varley, ISDA requesting permission to reallocate \$162.34 to priority #2 projects. Second by Calvin Hickey, motion carries. Bonnie will submit this letter of request.

Poster Contest-The board was given an update of the poster judging and reviewed the list of winners for the 2021 calendar. They discussed only one entry from Weiser (who won 2nd prize) all others came from Midvale and Cambridge. There was some really good artwork. We had 32 posters entered with 7 disqualified due to missing information. Discussion of how to get prizes to the winners. Due to the current pandemic people may not be comfortable with attending a group meeting. It was suggested to send the top 3 notification inviting them to pick up their check and t-shirt in person and we can take their photo individually. The other 9 winners will receive a t-shirt and they can either pick it up at the weed department or we can mail it to them. The board was in agreement with this. Bonnie suggested we feature the winners in the December newsletter which will coincide well with the calendar coming out.

Newsletter-Articles will be due by July 17th, we will fold at our August board meeting. Updating stories that were previously submitted was discussed as well as current suggestions. Tom Yankey asked that Bonnie add to his article the information about the recent yellow starthistle treatment at Paddock.

Fair Booth-Bonnie reported that we will not be setting up the booth as planned. Commercial Booths have been canceled for this year to help with crowding and allow for social distancing purposes etc. The fair board is setting up large screens in the exhibit hall to allow people to view the show events and sale without crowding into the show ring and sale areas. It was stressed this is all about the kids. She also offered the project trailer to the fair board to use as a portable office if they need to move events outside. Commissioner Chandler shared the extension office has expressed concerns over health and safety during fair.

New Business

Review Neighborhood Project Application for 2021-Copies of the 2020 were provided to the board for review. Discussion of the streamlining that was done for the 2020 application to ease the load on project coordinators. After a short review motion was made by Tom Sutton to use the current Neighborhood Project Application for 2021. Second by Calvin Hickey, motion carries.

Neighborhood Project On-Site Reviews-Harmon explained what these are and the reason for doing them annually. Discussion followed that it is beneficial to meet with the project coordinators but this is a different time. Motion was made by Jerry Lunsford to not do On Site Reviews in 2020 due to the pandemic. Second by Tom Sutton, motion carries.

Reports-

Common Crupina-In Lonnie's absence Bonnie reported 2,000 acres were aerial treated on May 23 & 24, 2020. He was back at the site on June 2nd to monitor and found lots of dying crupina. He is deeming this project very successful.

Yellow Starthistle-Bonnie reported for Lonnie on July 1, 2020 400 acres of yellow starthistle was treated on private property in the Paddock area and BLM treated an additional 150 acres on public land. Bonnie stated the contractor doing backpack work will be following up in this area in a couple weeks to treat buffered areas and any skips or misses. Another treatment was done with Payette CWMA in the Four Mile area of Payette County for a large infestation found there. Lonnie will continue to monitor and update the board.

The board thanks Lonnie for all his efforts and dedication to these new invaders.

Project Reports-

Midvale Weed Beaters-

Harmon and Jerry reported they helped out and it was a very good day. It was noted that spraying the airport has made a huge difference there. They discussed when Jerry went there several years ago with his ATV sprayer and needed much larger equipment. Tom Sutton then provided his tractor and Wade (Tom's son) to treat it and Harmon has since been treating it with his Spray-Coup. Harmon reported on weed species present. It was good to see some new cooperators participate in this project.

Mann Creek Valley-They had a fair turnout but unfortunately were rained out at noon.

Pine Creek Mountain Estates-It was explained this group is small and shares a staging area and occurs simultaneously with Advent Gulch. They have had some internal conflicts in that neighborhood and consequently have new coordinator as of last month. It was disappointing they did not contribute to the lunch but were first in line to eat. It is sad they do not understand the concept of what a neighborhood project is all about. Hopefully with continued communication we can work through some of these issues.

Weed Crusaders-This project was fairly well attended with a new landowner joining the group. The weather was gorgeous and they look forward to their fall day. Numerous comments were made of the improvements in weed populations since the treatments began as well as the success of the fall rush skeletonweed treatments.

Advent Gulch-Jerry Lunsford reported it was a good weather day and the turnout was very good. This day focused on the gulch area. One of the major landowners was had a representative there spraying with a tractor which was good. The BLM and Forest Service participated.

Valley View-Jerry reported it was a good day and he got sent to large patch of thistle where he kept plenty busy. Cooperation was good and Bonnie noted the weather was not good when they started but improved as the day went.

Cow Creek-Jerry reported they did a great job. Cooperators were geared up and ready to go. The weed department took 1,900 gallons of water to the project and they were empty by noon. The remainder of the day water was pumped from a local source and shuttled back to the staging area to keep the sprayers going. The weather was good and they worked hard all day. One new cooperator who is renting land came in addition to another landowner getting a helper. They are happy with the results of last year's treatments. Cooperators sprayed 3,519 gallons of mixed herbicide that day.

Bonnie reported a total of 15,990 gallons of mixed herbicide was applied by those participating in the neighborhood projects this spring.

Tom Yankey inquired about upcoming classes for recertification credits. Bonnie stated Mary is working on this and has 2 hour classes arranged both in Cambridge and Weiser. The dates are possibly posted on the Extension Office webpage? She will check on this.

Announcements & Upcoming Activities

Neighborhood Project Applications will be available August 3rd and are due by noon on September 10, 2020.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Tom Sutton second by Larry Anderson. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.