



Pierce County

Noxious Weed Control Board

9200 122nd St E

Puyallup, Washington 98373

(253) 798-7263

Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 PCNWCB Quarterly Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 8:59 By Beki:

Attendance:

Program Director – Morgan Heilesen, Secretary to the Board – Melody Meyer,

Accountant – Donna Peoples

Chairperson – Beki Shoemaker, Board members: Janet Azevedo, Erick Balstad.

WSU Representative – Jim Kropf

No public in attendance

Review of October 14th, 2020 meeting minutes:

Erick Motions to accept the October 14th, 2020 minutes.

Janet seconds the motion to accept the minutes.

The Board is in favor, no further corrections, no opposition. October 14th, 2020 Board minutes are accepted.

Directors Report:

Office & County:

Our Audit began Nov 9th. Testing began the week of Dec 1st. Audit finished up last week, exit interview is tomorrow at 10:30, Board Chairperson will be in attendance. Exit Meeting will consist of Director, Accountant, Beki (Board Chairperson), and part of the auditing team to discuss outcome of audit. Will bring exit information to April Board Meeting.

- Telework update: Statement from Bruce Dammeier after November 15, 2020 restrictions announced by Governor's office: *"As for County operations, we have already transitioned to a mostly remote work environment and remain committed to providing superior customer service to our residents. I ask all County residents to comply with these orders so that we can more quickly move past this challenging time and rebuild our community." STOP Facility is working one week on and one week off as well.*
- New Board Member Handbooks have been created, please let us know if there are any concerns or questions with the materials. When board members have time, please read, we can discuss more in April once everyone has had time to review. The first fifteen pages include the calendar and bylaws. If changes are needed, let Director know.
- Does anyone have problems with 2021 Board meetings? Very first page of Board member notebooks has calendar dates.

Comment: *Possible need to adjust July date, but will find out more soon.*

Director comment: *No problem, we will check in at next meeting.*

- August minutes were uploaded to website; after today October meeting minutes will be uploaded – All 2020 minutes will be uploaded to Website.
- Two board member positions are open; We have posted announcements for applicants.
- Washington State Department of Transportation assessment exempt status for noxious weeds – Thurston Co Superior Court granted favor to WSDOT; effective immediately (11/5/2020) counties can no longer levy noxious weed assessments against WSDOT. Communication between Director and Pierce County Assessor - Treasurer on 11/5/2020; “all WSDOT properties have been removed from assessment for 2021”. PCNWCB has been given a list of all WSDOT properties and acreage. We found all of the lands affected: \$750.00 dollar loss only – less than we thought. DOT is no longer being assessed for noxious weed assessment. Total is about \$546.00 for all parcels, plus \$180.00 for additional acres. Comes to less than a \$1000.00 loss.

Board Question: *Do they agree to clean up properties?*

Director: *Yes, they will still clean up. We will still send Notices and Work Orders – especially since we have frequent complaints about the freeways. WSDOT will still clean up according to law – just not paying the noxious weed assessment.*

- Our ordinance was approved for 2021 budget: Everything looks good, no reason to change it.

Board Question: *Will we be going down to County City Building to intro ourselves to the Pierce County Council?*

Director: *We want to get an email out to them and touch bases; still no in person meetings within the county.*

- Disposal rates for noxious weeds have increased again. Last spring it was around \$5.00 for up to 400 pounds (price varied slightly by facility). This year it has increased again to a \$20.00 minimum.

Board Question: *Can we let the council know – can the County Council intervene? This was a problem in a different county. People may refuse to clean up if charged too much.*

Additional comment: *We used to have more cooperation with the landfills, things have changed. It won't do any good to involve council, landfills are privately owned.*

Director: *Our FI's are affected, some can dump at STOP, but some can't, so we have reimbursed for those that are just too far away.*

Comment: *Credit Vouchers may be a possibility, similar to cost share program. Come back to the Board with different ideas for a solution.*

- Resolution attached: Resolution 2021-01. Field Inspector wages: 2021-02 FI wages will change to 16.00, 17.00 and 18.00 per hour.

Resolution 2021-01 is read by secretary.

Beki makes motion that the resolution be passed as read.

Date Correction needed – Resolution to read “passed on January 20, 2021” (corrected from January 13, 2021) Secretary will correct date.

Erick 2nds the motion.

No opposition, Board is in favor of Resolution 2021-01.

Resolution 2021-01 passed.

- Resolution attached: 2021-02 There is a \$5,000.00 limit for ANY major purchases outside of inter-county purchases; need approval from the board in a resolution before such purchases made.

Resolution 2021-02 read by secretary.

Beki motions that the Resolution 2021-02 be passed as read.

Date Correction – Resolution to read “passed on January 20, 2021” (corrected from January 13, 2021) Secretary will correct date.

Janet 2nds the motion.

No opposition, Board is in favor of Resolution 2021-02.

Resolution 2021-02 passed.

Board question: *Electronic signatures will be applied to these resolutions now that they are passed?*

Director: *Yes. As agreed at beginning of pandemic.*

- OPMA (Open Public Meeting Act) training video (RCW 42.30) took place, Video was 16 minutes in length, trainer is Washington AGO. Director played the video via screen share. Electronic signatures will be used to show training completion for January 20, 2021 for Open Government/Records Training Roster.

Financial Update:

Revenues

- Reviewed tax revenues and expenditures table with spend categories included. Board members given time to ask questions if needed.

No questions.

State Business:

- Renewed grant for Variable-Leaf Milfoil to go through 2022 as per Department of Ecology request.

State Business (Continued):

- The contractor spent around \$6,400.00 last summer on treatment for Florence Lake and Josephine Lake. Reimbursement from Department of Ecology received at the end of December.
- Weed Conference successful in November, over 780 in attendance, including both office staff and most of our field inspectors. A total of 12 recertification credits were available for pesticide licensing. It was free. Good speakers and it worked out well (virtual). Morgan is now Vice President for Washington Vegetation Management Association. They will be working hard to figure out all of the details for the 2021 Weed Conference.
- November 12th, 2020 and January 15th, 2021 WVMA conference calls attended by director.

Outreach:

- Director asked Education Specialist to speak about her site visit to Farrell's Marsh: December 1st, 2020 Farrell's Marsh site check, 64 acre park in Steilacoom, maintained by Steilacoom Parks and Trails Task Force, a volunteer organization. Advice sought from volunteers about how to combat the noxious weeds that have invaded the park over many years. A large amount of electronic information was sent out prior to visit, with special focus on revegetation as a long term control method. It is a large area and will require long term care and planning. Volunteers have controlled and removed substantial amounts of Scotch Broom and Knotweed over the past several seasons. Poison Hemlock and Tansy Ragwort are carefully watched for and removed immediately.
- We have been working with Pierce County Parks. We have donated literature and seed packets for their events that are in cooperation with Tacoma Tree Foundation; the Parks department asked permission to give us credit and include our logo on their flyers.
- With permission from managers, the "Protect Your Horses and Livestock from Toxic Plants" Booklets have been put up at trail kiosks, as well as announcement boards, and literature racks at a few of our local feed stores they have been happy to have the booklets available for their customers. These have been good outreach methods at a time when public gatherings for education booths or in person meetings are restricted. Many of our clubs that seek presentations do not have the ability or equipment to utilize zoom technology, so, literature is a good ally right now.
- Noxious weed presentations are scheduled for February 4th (Kiwanis), February 16th (Steilacoom community volunteers), March 9th (WCC / City of Tacoma) and March 31st (combined Sewer & Traffic Safety Meeting).

Last Order of Business:

- Reorganization of the Board:
Need Chairperson and Vice Chair for 2021 Board
**Janet Nominates Beki for Chairperson. Erick 2nds
Beki nominates Eric as Vice Chairperson, Janet 2nds
Board is in favor of these nominations.**

No Public in attendance for comment.

**Beki motions to adjourn the meeting, Board is in favor.
Adjourned 9:50 am
Respectfully submitted by Melody Meyer, Secretary to the Board.**

Beki Shoemaker, Chairperson, District 3

Erick Balstad, Vice Chairperson, District 4

Janet Azevedo, District 1