



REGULAR MEETING FOR CLARK COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD



May 4, 2020

Meeting Location: Conference Room-A1/Teleconference
Address: Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665
Members Present: Jerry Kolke, Bill Zimmerman, Lee Wells, Randy Lawffer, Justin O'Dea
Members Absent: NA
Quorum Present: Yes
Guest/Public Present: NA – Unable to have guests/public due to Covid-19
Staff Present: Justin Collell, Denielle Cowley, Chris Walker, Kevin Tyler

Meeting called to order by Jerry Kolke at 9:05 a.m.

1. Review and Approval of meeting minutes from February 3, 2020 meeting (Jerry)

- Randy asked for clarification on the fines in the bylaws – Justin explained the field inspectors will not write tickets/infractions, the Coordinator will do this
- Randy also asked for clarification regarding RCW 17.10.010 – Whoever has the right to control the noxious weeds is legally responsible, For example, if the Rights-Of-Way are state owned the state is legally responsible

Motion moved by Randy Lawffer, seconded by Bill Zimmerman; Approved

2. FIP Update from Coordinator – Pandemic Situation (Justin)

- Significant impacts to the program due to Covid-19
- Funding for temporary staff cut (Loss of one field inspector and one-two field technicians)
- FIP temporarily on hold
- Social Distancing – no face to face conversations, need to keep distance if stopped and comply with best practices
- Letters, phone calls and emails lose human touch
- Mood of public – challenging situation, overwhelming and emotional
- Additional constraints to landowners who cannot control weeds themselves and have no resources
- Noxious Weed control deemed essential so this can be justification for program
- Justin read the Covid-19 guidance email
- Kevin mentioned revenues are decreased across the General Fund due to loss of sales tax, he said property tax revenue is on par with average years, need to reduce/cut expenses, 2021 shows a projected deficit, hiring freeze (some departments are requesting hiring temporary staff back but this will not apply to the Field Inspection Program, Clark County should be receiving money from the CARES Act and this will be used to reimburse the county for Covid-19 response, all departments have been asked to make cuts – Lee asked if there would be backfill





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from Washington State and Kevin replied there is another bill they are trying to pass for revenue

3. Status of other programs across state (Justin)

- Other Weed Boards are very diverse (some not doing enforcements, some per normal for enforcements, some increased on education and using enforcement as last option)

4. Public Comment (Justin)

- Public Comment via email was encouraged due to meeting held via teleconference
- No public comments received

5. Board Input: review adjustments to FIP, set priorities for FIP during pandemic (Jerry)

- Randy asked if any Tansy signs had been posted – not at this time
- Jerry agreed with the guidance Justin read earlier
- Bill said the adjustments sound good and do the best we can
- Lee would like monthly updates and Randy said that would be helpful – Justin will provide monthly updates via email
- Lee said a discussion regarding Tansy will need to happen

6. Items from the board (Jerry)

- No additional items

Meeting adjourned by Jerry Kolke at 9:35 a.m.

Next Board Meeting:

July 6, 2020 at 9:00 am

4700 NE 78th St - Conference Room A-1/Teleconference

Vancouver, WA 98665

Submitted by Chris Walker



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Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.



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Vegetation Management Field Inspection Program COVID-19 Guidance, April 27, 2020

1. Complete all follow ups on any letters sent in past weeks or any new letters sent. If any rise to the level of violation, send information to Justin and Chris so they are informed. If any violations are not addressed in the specified timeframe and a notice of civil infraction is warranted, send information to Justin, Chris, and Kevin. Justin will make the determination on sending the notice of civil infraction.
2. Continue survey work for any known or new infestations and let the team know if you find new infestations and need to send letters. Priorities right now are all Class A noxious weeds and poison hemlock.
3. Chris has returned to the office full-time and is able to send all letters using normal procedures.
4. All staff triage public inquiry/phone calls as much as possible:
 - a. Any requests for site visits should be pushed off if not Class A or poison hemlock.
 - b. Ask property owner to send you a picture.
 - c. Schedule site visit for 3-4 weeks from now if not imminent.
 - d. Provide flagging in the field for any Class A where warning/violation letters sent if requested by property owner. Permission should be requested for any property with a current warning letter and permission is required for any that do not have a current warning letter.
 - e. Pasture surveys on hold until June 1 and then FIP staff will re-evaluate.
 - f. Weed free forage inspections on hold until June 1 and then FIP staff will re-evaluate.
 - g. Any difficult conversations can be pushed to Justin or up to Kevin.
5. Messaging about Public Inquiries/Responding to Phone Calls has been uploaded to the Vegetation Management website to help inform the community about how we are operating during COVID-19. This information should be evaluated and updated regularly.
6. Obtain Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board guidance on these priorities. Weed board meeting scheduled for May 4.
7. Noxious weed control has been deemed an essential service under the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. Contractors performing these services are authorized to work. Concerns raised by private landowners should be answered in this way.
8. Follow all safety measures identified for Vegetation Management during the COVID-19 response. If you can't maintain social distancing, notify supervisor immediately for reassignment.

