

**Clark County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Regular Meeting**

July 13, 2015

Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board Office
11104 NE 149th ST C-200
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

Members Present: Jerry Kolke, Bill Zimmerman, Robert Melo, Lee Wells, Charles Brun

Members Absent: Ken Wright

Quorum present

Guest/Public Present: Aaron Shaw from PUD.

Staff Present: Kevin Tyler, Mike Monfort, Carmen Reynolds

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Notes

Called to order at 9:30 am. Motion to adopt April 6, 2015, meeting notes is the first order of business. Jerry motion, Bill Zimmerman second to approved the minutes.

2. Weed Free Forage Update - Mike

Department of Agriculture has moved to a new system data base called (PISCES).

Carmen enters the inspection reports on the PISCES system, and once the farmer calls in with the bail count the report gets submitted to USDA for approval, than the certificate can be access and printed at any time by the farmer and or their customers. This year Carmen has been printing them and has been mailing them to the farmer and in a couple of instances she has emailed them to the customers that have requested them from her. Mike also advised the board that we have started doing some inspections in Woodland at the southern end of Cowlitz County, it started as a one-time exception, but we have picked up a few more this year. The employee that does the inspections for The Department of Agriculture is pretty overwhelmed and they asked for our help, this year we have done about 300 acres within the last three weeks in the Woodland area. Several Board members expressed concern that Clark County was providing a service to Cowlitz County. Fees have not been implemented as of today; Kevin stated that Don Benton has asked him to wait on taking anything before the council at this time. Bill Zimmerman asked if the USDA was the Certifying agency, for the weed free is program and if we've ever done business with Washington State Crop Improvement Association. Mike responded by saying that the agreement we have with WSDA is very specific to hay, straw and gravel and that's the only area USDA has authorized Clark County Inspectors to act on their behalf.

Charles Brun, asked about herbicide contaminated horse manure and what are we doing to educate the horse owners and the general public about possible soil contamination and Milestone usage. He said that after the straw gets mixed in with the horse manure it kills the garden. Charles asked if we talk to the stables about using the straw, and requested a pamphlet be created and given to consumer/stables about Manure/milestone. Charles said he is receiving calls from the public where they bought manure and it killed their entire garden. Mike emphasize that the consumer needs to know the source they are buying from. Charles asked if we can come up with a brochure. Kevin said he believes that is a state wide issue and we can bring it up with the State Weed Board.



Lee Wells asked to go on record as disagreeing about providing a free service to Cowlitz County, and believes that we should not provide a free of charge service to neighboring counties. Lee believes that we should not be using our resources to help Cowlitz County, and should not be spending Clark County tax dollars on Cowlitz County. Kevin said he agreed to do the inspections because of the close proximity to Woodland and he only agreed to do a couple, until a fee can be established. More discussion needed on this issue. The Board members agreed to revisit this issue.

3. Warning Postcards/letter update

Mike said vegetation management have received an increased number of complaints about the postcard verbiage being too harsh, Mike stated that he believes that the verbiage is necessary to get people's attention and generate a phone call or some form of communication between the department and the general public. The board agreed to the revision of the postcard, Kevin/Mike will work on making some small changes to the wording, but still convey the urgency of the matter.

4. Clark County Fair

Mike gave an update on the Clark County Fair. He reports that all booth arrangements has been made, passes and tickets have been requested and will be received soon. The booth will be different this time, Kevin suggested pressed plants, we also discussed cut flowers, nice photographs we are still sorting out the final details and we plan to expose the weed free forage out a little bit more as a part of what we do. Mike extended an invitation to the Board to come by our booth and check it out and let us if they would be interested in volunteering some of their time at the booth, and let them know there will be tickets available to anyone that wants to work a shift.

5. Workshop Knotweed Partnership

Kevin invited Aaron Shaw from Environmental Services, Clark Public Utilities, Kevin reports that the partnership has been growing and strengthening over the last two years and has helped make our budget stretch a little bit further, Kevin reported that for the last couple of years the department has participated on the Earth Day Event by setting up tables with educational materials at the Home and Garden Idea Fair and the Clark County Fair. We started coordinating and helping each other so we can have a consistence message and reach more people. Aaron Shaw stated that attendance has increased considerably, so we are happy that people are coming to learn about Noxious Weed Control and Weed Management.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Next meeting will be on December 7, 2015 at 9:30 am.

Submitted by,
Carmen Reynolds
Secretary to the Board

