

## TRI COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED ADVISORY BOARD

### Minutes

04/13/2023

Members Present: Jason Parker Superintendent, Denise Helsley, Joann Rutler, Ron Buhler, John Crozier, Chris Taber.

Called to Order at Jerome County Courthouse @ 2:05pm.

**Joann made a motion to approve minutes with spelling corrections, Ron second, Motion carried.**

The board discussed available funds in the RC&D account. Jason stated there is approximately \$35,000.00 remaining in that account. The Board had approved spending \$12,877.48, Jason spent \$12,301.70 for pickup tanks and 4 wheeler tanks.

Joint Powers of Agreement was discussed. Board stated everything looks good. Board members will get their County Commissioners to sign and get it back to Jason. See attached.

Current condition of equipment was discussed, Jason stated Gooding County Maintenance was doing the oil changes, saving Tri-County a lot of money. Pickups will be ready to go by the end of the week.

Cost Share funding was discussed. Everything is up to date. Jason stated \$10,000.00 goes to the bug crew and \$500.00 for the purchase of weed books. Mid Snake RC & D is giving \$500.00 more for weed books.

BLM paper work has been submitted. Jason states it has been a difficult process having Terry's name taken off and Jason's added. Tri-County is getting \$75,000.00 per year for 5 years, bug crew gets 15,000.00 of that, leaving Tri-County \$60,000.00. At this point we are waiting for the money.

Tri-County cost share was discussed. The agreement Jason has written up looks good to the board. **Chris made a motion, Joann second to approve the use of his form, motion carried.** See attached.

Jason states he has set up a face book page for Tri-County Noxious Weed. You can find it under Tri-County Noxious Weed or TCNWC. Please find it and share.

Lava Ridge letters were discussed. See attached. In the letter received from Joan Hurlock of Buhl, she states names of chemicals she feels are harmful, which are chemicals we use daily. Do we want to list those chemicals in our letter then people come back with a negative reaction to what we do on a daily basis. After much discussion the board decided it would not be a good idea to list those chemicals. **READ THE LABEL, IT'S THE LAW. Ron made a motion to accept Jason's letter, Chris second, motion carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget proposal was discussed. See attached. It was noted dues and memberships were added to the current budget. **Chris made a motion Ron second, motion carried, for a 5% over the board increase in the budget.** Jason will update the budget and get it to the commissioners for signatures

New Equipment budget, the board stated ATV's should be rotated out every 4 to 6 years. Jason has received 2 bids, see attached. He stated the new Can-Am's are built heavier and come with cruise capabilities.

Pickups were discussed. Jason stated now is not the time to order, the window is July-August for bids. For F-350 gas they are approx. \$48,440.00. To get off the lot they would be approx. \$10,000.00 more.

Drones were discussed. Jason received 2 bids, see attached. Currently BLM does not allow drones. When approved they will only allow American made drones. The board feels this would be very beneficial to us when approved.

Jason presented a bid for a 4 foot no till drill, that cab be pulled behind 4 wheelers, or hooked onto a 3 point hitch. See attached.

RC & D was discussed, they currently charge \$35.00 per year, plus 5% of money ran through them. If the money goes through the county that saves 5% which can add up to a sizable amount of money. Jason wrote the grant for 2023, so all RC & D is doing is writing checks and managing the balance of the account. **Joann made a motion to move future BLM funding to Gooding County.** Jason stated it may be too late for 2023, with all paper work submitted. Joann rescinded motion until Jason can find out more with BLM.

Jason stated having a conversation with Roger where Roger stated that he felt that he wasn't as able to provide his services to the board the way he had hoped and with his other obligations isn't able to make very many of our meetings. Roger also stated that he would be willing to remain on the board up to the point of the board finding a suitable replacement for him. John stated that if Roger's time restraints allowed him to come to the board meetings and feel that he was being effective, John would be delighted to retain Roger in his position as long as Roger would like to remain. John will check with Jerome County Commissioners to find a possible replacement for Roger.

Next meeting July 13, 2023 at 2:00pm in Gooding.

**Ron made motion to adjourn at 3:40pm, Joann second, motion carried.**