

# TRI COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED ADVISORY BOARD

## Minutes

07/13/2023

Members Present: Jason Parker Superintendent, Denise Helsley, Ron Buhler, Joann Rutler, Chris Taber and Art Watkins.

Called to Order at Gooding County Extension Conference room @ 2:00pm.

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

Art Watkins was introduced as the new Jerome County Representative, replacing John Crozier.

RC&D account was discussed, currently the balance is \$35,307.59 also \$11,988.00 for Southern Idaho Bug Crew, which is not included in that amount. See attached.

Joint powers agreement has been signed and each county should have a copy.

Status of equipment. Jason would like to trade in the 2016 Arctic Cat, which is still having issues. He has attached 3 bids for ATV's. Also would be an additional \$2,200.00 for tank set up and a winch. He felt that all ATV's should be set up with winches. The board decided to wait until October to make a decision.

Cost Share update. Tri County is currently getting money from the state through a grant from ISDA which helps fund the bug crew. We could ask for more money for cost share for the public.

BLM funding, we have nothing as of today. It should be \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00. If we aren't able to use it this year we can carry it over to next year.

County Cost Share we have done approximately \$6,000.00 of private work so far in the 3 counties.

Union Pacific we have done \$12,000.00 to date, they initially gave us \$13,000.00, we still have a lot of work to do so will have to ask for more money.

We have currently spent \$9,500.00 on ITD. They gave us \$10,000.00.

Currently we have spent \$15,500.00 on canals. Much discussion on canals and how to deal with the weed problem. Possibly speak to managers of the canal companies and push weed awareness. Maybe have a training day with canal company employees and educate them, give them weed books. Jason will meet with managers and talk about future weed spraying.

Non ITD – smaller highway districts we have spent \$5000.00.

Jason has set up a TRI-County Face book page and is making an online presence.

Jason has attended 2 meetings of the Mid-Snake Regional Water Resource Commission. He feels that every other meeting would be good to attend. He asked if the board felt he should be attending as a weed commissioner or as a private individual. The board feels he should attend as a weed commissioner.

Jason stated he is off of light duty. His ankle is doing much better.

Jerome County has appointed Jim Meeks to replace Roger Morley. Jim is currently out of town, will attend the next meeting.

Next meeting October 12, 2023 at 2:00pm in Shoshone.

**Chris made motion to adjourn at 3:00pm, Joann second, motion carried.**

Next meeting will be in Shoshone at The Community Center, October 12, 2023.