

Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Minutes Outline

Lewis & Clark County

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 7, 2023

1:00 p.m. In person(only)



Noxious Weed Shop

Public Works Complex

3402 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602

Members Present

Dave Burch – Board Member, Chair

Judith Anne Vincent – Board Member, Vice-Chair

Rob McDonough - Board Member

Dave Lewis – Board Member

Mike Cobb – Board Member

Stacy Baertsch – Board Member

Staff Present

Christian Lehnert – Lewis & Clark Weed Coordinator

Candace Payne – Lewis & Clark County Commissioner

Jade Wills – Lewis & Clark County Weed, Admin II

Guests Present

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***Zoom option was not available due to location (Noxious Weed Shop)**

Call Meeting to Order: (00:00:00)

Chair, Dave Burch called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll Call: (00:00:09)

- Board Members:
 - Neil Snow-Absent
 - Pete Christensen-Absent
- Staff:
 - Jenny Chambers-Absent

Introductions/Recognition of Visitors: (00:01:44)

No Visitors

Public Comment: (00:03:18)

- No public comment

Action Items: (00:03:56)

1. Authorization of Fund 297 (WGSCR) (Dave Burch)

- Discussion: Dave Burch would propose staff authorization of 297 up to \$5,000 between meetings with approval from the chair and vice chair for utilization. Money is needing to be used/expended from this fund. Entities that contribute to this fund may look at why the funds are not being expended as this is money that is meant to be spent and utilized. Funding usage could be many things, some Counties fund

wages, etc. This weed money has to, and can only be used for Noxious Weed Controls.

- Dave Burch would like to see a plan for this money. Potentially see a grants coordinator position for projects, good example would be Ten Mile. This position would apply for grants through Department of Ag. Christian lets Dave know the County does have a Grant writer and contract monitor.
- Green House: Will return larger greenhouse to Dave Lewis; thankful for his donation, logistically it is too large for the area.
- Other Ideas:
 1. Dave Burch: Montana Biocontrol. Some funding could be used for purchases/or cost share.
 2. Rob McDonough: Radio Advertising, Mighty Mo- would like staff to reach out and get quotes.
 3. Dave Burch: social media
- Ideas/proposal for usage & Amount:
 - Motion Brought forth for the below (#1, #2, #3) funding authorizations from Fund 297 (WGSCR) by Judith Anne Vincent, and 2nd by Rob McDonough, all in favor, motion Passes.
 1. Greenhouse \$5,000.00 funding authorization
 - a. Grow Weeds for educational purposes.
 - b. Live Samples
 2. Public Education/Radio Ads \$1,500.00 funding authorization
 - a. Board would like to try radio station other than KGR, Mighty Mo.
 3. Slide in Sprayer, \$4,500.00 funding authorization.
 - Motion Brought forth for the below (# 4) funding authorizations from Fund 297 (WGSCR) by Judith Anne Vincent, and 2nd by Mike Cobb, all in favor, motion Passes after the following discussion:
 - Initial \$5,000.00 seems like a little much, would like to propose \$2,000.00.
 - 4. Staff authorization/pre-approval from the board for purchases up to \$2,000.00 for the purchase of necessary items between Board Meetings from Fund 297 (WGSCR). Staff will follow up with Chair OR Vice-Chair upon these purchases and give regular updates to the Board.

Staff Reports:

Christian Lehnert– Weed Coordinator: (00:57:02)

- Receiving roughly 3-5 non-compliance complaints per day.
- MDT Contracts all sprayed out and billed for the FY23.
- Hydroseeding Project for Black Sandy last week.
 - Hydro seeder worked well; learned some do's & don'ts.
- Beaver Creek Project
 - Staff will begin working on Beaver Creek Phase 1; Phase 2 will be left alone this year to allow for growth of desirables.

- FWP Fishing Accesses, Lincoln & Augusta Airports are upcoming projects.
- Seasonals are busy with County Roads, seeing a lot of Spurge, Toadflax, Knapweed, & Houndstongue this year.
- Have 7/8 seasonal positions filled, and an interview Tuesday so hopefully will be fully staffed.
- Spray Days; Elk Creek today, Ford Creek is tomorrow

Candace Payne-County Commissioner: (01:04:52)

- Nothing to report.

Board Reports:

S. Baertsch: (01:05:06)

- Weeds in full bloom through the Valley.

D. Burch: (01:07:10)

- National Weed Awareness Week is going on; MWCA has great information.
- MWCA annual meeting was very successful with over 250 in attendance.

M. Cobb: (01:08:12)

- Lots of Rain in the Area
- Weed pull tomorrow

D. Lewis: (01:15:29)

- Construction is still going crazy in the North Valley
- Lots of rain, grass is growing great

R. McDonough: (01:17:25)

- Weeds seem to be almost a month behind, long winter with wet weather, so they seem to just be coming out.
 - Whitetop
- Grass is coming in well.

J. A. Vincent: (01:19:29)

- Wrote & sent Steve Johns a letter thanking him for his service along with ordering Steve and Linda Omaha steaks which should be delivered Friday.
- Wrote & sent letter to Tommy Thompson thanking him for coming to the meeting earlier this year and seeing if the board can be of more assistance.
- Michelle Broadson, who came to a previous meeting is really struggling with Cheat Grass at the old dump site location.
- Borrowed the Weed District seeder and it worked perfect.
- Lots of rain this year
- Would like to know if Ryan Fields will be sprayed this year? Christian confirms it will be.

J.A. Vincent Exits (01:25:14)

Discussion:

- Bio Control Collection Day (Dave Burch) (01:23:39)
 - Would like to have Melissa come to a August or September meeting
- July 12th Meeting (Dave Burch)
 - Would like to cancel; no objections.
- August 2nd Meeting

- Hold here at L&C Co. Weed District Shop
- Commissioner Payne will not be here for the August 2nd meeting.
- Education:
 - Great to involve kids but it is important to educate adults.
 - May be worth looking into service clubs in Helena that need speakers; potentially send letters to clubs?
 - Bi-Fold or Tri-Fold educational information pamphlet.

Items for Next Meeting: (01:27:50)

- Wednesday August 2, 2023, at 1:00p.m. Location: 3402 Cooney Drive, Noxious Weed Shop
 - Members would like to hold the June meeting at the Weed Shop, again. Board room in the Weed Building will be reserved in event of unfavorable weather.
 - 2023 Season spray report
 - Fund 297- Budget Review/Discussion

Adjournment: (01:30:20)

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minute Outline:

Prepared by: Jade Wills; Lewis and Clark County Administrative Assistant II
Please note this is only an outline, **official meeting minutes are the Audio recording.**