

# Noxious Weed Board Meeting

## Minutes Outline

### Lewis & Clark County

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 4, 2023

1:00 p.m. In person & Zoom Option



Noxious Weed Conference Room

Public Works Complex

3402 Cooney Drive Helena, MT 59602

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#### **Members Present**

Dave Burch – Board Member, Chair

Judith Anne Vincent – Board Member, Vice-Chair

Rob McDonough - Board Member

Dave Lewis – Board Member

Pete Christensen – Board Member

Stacey Baertsch – Board Member

#### **Staff Present**

Christian Lehnert – Lewis & Clark Weed Coordinator

Jenny Chambers – Lewis & Clark County Public Works Director

Jade Wills – Lewis & Clark County Weed, Admin II

Candace Payne – Lewis & Clark County Commissioner

#### **Guests Present**

No Guests Present

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**\*Zoom option was available; no participants**

#### **Call Meeting to Order:** (00:00:11)

Chair, Dave Burch called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM.

#### **Roll Call:** (00:00:13)

- Board Members:
  - Neil Snow-Absent
  - Mike Cobb-Absent

#### **Introductions/Recognition of Visitors:** (00:00:52)

- No visitors present.

#### **Public Comment:** (00:01:32)

- No public comment.

#### **Action Items:** (00:02:46)

##### 1. *BLM Letter;*

- *The Board considered the draft BLM letter & authorization for the chair to sign;*

##### *Discussion:*

- *Board would like this letter specifically addressed to Katie Stevens and Roger Olson with the Butte Field Office BLM, Update the date to today's date, CC/Send a copy of the letter to Senator Tester & Senator Daines.*

- (00:11:09) Rob moved to accept the letter with the above corrections and get it sent to the BLM; Judith Anne seconded, all in favor; Motion Passes unanimously.

## 2. LOGO (00:11:55)

- Board considered the logo designs presented.
  - Pete made a motion to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of presented logo designs ( C & D), and Judith Anne 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passes. At this time that is the main logo and color schemes will be voted on later. (C&D contain the same font and format but different color schemes).
- The Board considered authorizing fund 297 WGSCR for logo design & associated costs.
  - Pete presented a motion authorizing FUND 297 WGSCR for up to \$200.00 for logo design & associated costs, Stacey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor; motion passed.

## 3. Authorization of Fund 297 (WGSCR) (00:25:21)

- The board had items in mind to purchase from Fund 297 at this time.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### Christian Lehnert– Weed Coordinator: (00:28:50)

- New Sprayer & Greenhouse are here.
- Staff participated in a presentation for DEQ Mining Bureau
- MWCA Annual Conference is January 30<sup>th</sup>-February 1<sup>st</sup>. As a reminder Budget pays MWCA membership fees for board members as well as room fees.
- New agreement with the Forest Service is \$20,000 for Forest Service Roads and will be completed in house.
- Staff participated in a Conservation District Day in Lincoln and brought the Education Trailer.
- Hopefully have found a board member for the Lincoln Seat.
- Attended a MACO Transportation Committee Meeting in Butte on behalf of the MWCA and the County.
- Attended a September HOA meeting for education purposes.
- Next week plan to work on 2 Hydroseeding projects; Franklin Mine Road & Landfill.
- 2023 Season Summary in your packet.
  - Will work to get this online.
- Rush Skeleton Weed was found here in Lewis & Clark County.
  - Difficult to manage.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> location Fort Harrison.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> location East of East Helena; Alex found this during a subdivision inspection & this was eradicated within 7 days.

#### Jenny Chambers-Public Works Director: (00:51:04)

- Grading & finishing large projects.
- Franklin Mine Road revegetation project is from a large County Road Project.
- Snowplows are up & running & in place for outlying areas.
- Dave Burch thanks the County & Jessica Makus (Special Districts Program Coordinator) for all of her work on his RID (Hahn).
  - Jenny explains to the board the basis of the County Rural Improvement Districts.

Candace Payne-County Commissioner: (00:56:32)

- Attended the MACo Transportation Committee meeting as well last week.
- Empty lots near her home with spurge.
- Lincoln Road looks great.

**Board Reports:**

S. Baertsch: (00:57:53)

- *Noticed a lot of Hounds Tongue & Mullen this year.*

*R. McDonough Exits (00:59:02)*

*Judith Anne would like to know if there is a list of all the County listed Weeds Staff let her know this is a project for this winter.*

- *Stacey & Judith Anne have been looking at problem area weeds and offering to help landowners.*
- *There has been no Dalmation Toadflax in the area in the last 4 years, but a small patch was noticed this week that they will begin working on.*
- *Stacey & Judith Anne worked in a different area to eliminate some yellow toadflax.*
- *Staying on top of what's going on in the area seems to really help with education.*

D. Burch: (01:03:09)

- *EPA Region 8; 18 year annual pesticide review.*
  - *Would like Christian to attend this Zoom meeting Friday at 10:00am and will send him the link.*
- *Not too involved with MWCA but Calendars will be out soon.*

P. Christensen: (01:05:53)

- *Nothing to report.*

D. Lewis: (01:06:04)

- *Picked 2100 lbs of apples, orchard was planted 5 years ago.*
- *Empty lots & spec houses in the area, building has slowed down.*

R. McDonough:

- *Left early but had no report.*

J. A. Vincent: (01:08:06)

- *Considering an area project for 2025- NWTFG, has identified over 30 landowners in area, will write a letter & try to get this organized.*
- *Would like to get the Pledge of Allegiance back on the Agenda.*
  - *Staff will get flags for the conference room.*
- *Empire Road clean up project; piled on BLM and then burned (approved by BLM). Some weeds were sprayed, had a crew with a dump truck, bobcat, and two guys with chainsaws.*
- *Discussion on MWCA TradeWing platform.*
- *Mullen/Hounds Tongue, Lost Horse is awful with knapweed.*
- *South Fork graded by the Forest Service and is a mess, North Fork Forest Service property has Hounds Tongue and Mullen.*

- *(01:17:49) Christian provides an update provided by Mike Cobb(absent).*

- Christian also notes there is Opensite available for bordering Forest Service properties here at the office, will be giving some to Mike for his property.
- Mike is looking in to a NWTFG for Benchmark Road.
- (01:20:17) Staff heard from Neil Snow who is away teaching, no report for this month (absent).

**Discussion:** (01:20:47)

- Opportunities, future goals, events, education.
  - Staff asks the board to please be thinking about the above items.
- 2024 Meeting work plan.
  - Board asked to be thinking of items for next meeting.
- Judith Anne would like the board to consider buying clothing items from Costco and then get them embroidered with the Logo.
  - Could buy extra items to sell at the Home Show such as hats/jackets.
- Suggested to put information out through the MWCA about our Greenhouse, do a presentation to help surrounding Counties.

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

- Wednesday November 1, 2023, at 1:00p.m. Location: 3402 Cooney Drive, Noxious Weed Conference Room.
  - 2024 Meeting Work Plan.

**Adjournment:** (01:28:56)

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 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.**