



ASOTIN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

**Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board
Wednesday – January 3, 2024
Board Meeting Minutes**

10:03 am: Chairman Tom Petty called the Board meeting to order.

Board Members present: **Jerry Hendrickson, Tom Petty**
Board Members present on phone: **Brit Ausman**
Guests present: **Kodie Wight, Jennifer Zipse, and Megan Stewart (Asotin County Conservation District), Chris Seubert (Asotin Co. Commissioner) and Nelle Murray**

Public Comment

Nelle Murray – The Weed Board and ACCD are supposed to be separate. Need more than 1-1.5-hour meetings 4-5 times a year. Nelle recommends that there be 10-12 meetings per year. Mark Graves is a retired Army Corps Weed Biologist and is looking for part time work. Financial reports should be more specific, details of where the funding is coming from and where is it being spent. ACNWCB did not approve the contract with USFS, ACCD approved the contract. Kodie is doing the work for the contract. Who is paying for her time? ACNWCB approved the RMEF habitat grant. Where is the money being spent and how is it being spent? The Japanese Knotweed infestation is on Army Corps property that is leased back to the City of Asotin. Kodie should be working with the City of Asotin to have them control the Japanese Knotweed. Will no longer ask to be on the Weed Board after reading past minutes, may be more valuable as a member of the public.

Minutes:

Board reviewed the minutes from the October 17, 2023, board meeting.

1. *Jerry Hendrickson moved, and Brit Ausman seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023, board meeting. **Motion Carried.***

Financial Updates:

Board reviewed the 2023 Financial Report.

2. *Brit Ausman moved, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve the 2023 financial report as presented. **Motion Carried.***

New Business:

Asotin Weed Building – The lease with Department of Transportation (DOT) has expired. DOT wants to be able to use the building again. A new lease would cost \$7,000 to update. WCC crew and ACCD staff are currently cleaning the building out; it had been used as storage. DOT will not likely approve a new Weed sign in front of the building.

Noxious Weed Control Board Outreach Signs Update – Updating current signs would require permits through DOT. Permits are required for any signs visible from a state highway. The Weed Board feels that it is important to have outreach signs up in the County. Staff will have a list of location suggestions (not near state highways) at the next board meeting.

****Free Boot Brushes from the Washington Invasive Species Council.** The council was recently awarded a grant by the United States Forest Service to distribute 50 PlayCleanGo® Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks® Original Boot Brush Stations throughout Washington to help protect the sagebrush biome from noxious weed movement and establishment.

- Kodie has asked WDFW for permission to place at least one boot brush at popular trail heads in Asotin County. The Board supports putting boot brushes in place even if ACNWCB does not get selected for one free brush. This would lead to a great community service project for 4-H, FFA, or high school students.

2024 Asotin County Weed List – The WA State Weed Board has added Palmer Amaranth and variable leaf milfoil hybrids to the list. Asotin County has 90 days from the state’s date of adoption to adopt the County’s list (end of January; special meeting will be needed). Also, a public hearing will be held during the County Commissioner’s meeting. Adding puncturevine to the County list would lead to regulation and enforcement control. The * denotes that the ACNWCB is requiring the Class B species to be controlled in Asotin County. The Board supports the suggestion to add white top and rush skeleton as a priority species and add a narrative of importance to control noxious weeds.

2024 Priority Actions – Reporting of progress of the actions will be presented at each board meeting.

Cost-Share Program

- Planned Budget: \$5,000
- Eligibility: Landowners with more than 40 acres
- Rate: 50% cost-share (\$50/ac - \$25/ac payment) NTE \$500 payment
- Goal: Cost-Share to 10 landowners
- Encourage the use of NRCS programs (EQIP)

Weed Management Program

- Planned Budget: \$11,000
- Eligibility: Landowner with 40 acres or less
- Weed Management Plans developed by ACCD staff
- Requires monitoring to document infestation levels from beginning to end of agreement
- Three Year Agreement
- Incentive Payment:
 - o Year 1 - \$75/ac (2024 - 100 acres goal)
 - o Year 2 - \$50/ac (2025)
 - o Year 3 - \$25/ac (2026)
- Payments made in December when implementation report is submitted (not based on invoice/receipts)

Bio Control Program

- Planned Budget: \$1250
- \$50 per landowner
- Goal: 25 landowners participate

EDRR Program

- Planned Budget: \$5,000
- Treatment completed by WCC Crew
- 100% cost of chemical and labor
- Recommended priority weeds:
 - o Class A weeds (not including Med Sage)
 - o White bryony
 - o Orange hawkweed
 - o Meadow hawkweed
 - o Spotted knapweed
 - o Ravenna grass (rangeland areas)
 - o Common crupina
 - o Silverleaf nightshade

Knotweed Program

- Paid by WSDA
- Treating 2 infestations and monitoring 1 infestation

Med Sage Program

- Three infestations in Asotin County
- Continue treatment and monitoring on private property. Collaboration with WDFW on their infestation locations
- Planned Budget: \$21,000
- Assessment
 - o Assess 385 new acres
- Treatment
 - o Ground (foot) Accessible Acres
 - Provide chemical and labor for treatment
 - 153 acres treated in 2023 – Milestone and surfactant (1 treatment)
 - 237 new acres – Milestone and surfactant (2 treatments)
 - o Vehicle Accessible Acres (549 acres total)
 - Provide chemical to landowner to complete 1 treatment
 - 211 acres treated in 2023 – Milestone
 - 338 new acres – Milestone and surfactant

Outreach

- Publicize Weed Board vacancies
- Asotin County Fair Booth
- Farmers Markets Booth
- Pesticide Credit Opportunities
 - o Early Spring – Tour BioControl Center & Classroom Courses
 - o Early Summer – Field Tour

- Early Fall – Classroom Courses
 - Website Update (ACCD and County)
 - Engage Clarkston and Asotin re: City Weed Control Ordinances
 - Nursery & Landscapers Event
3. *Brit Ausman moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion to approve the 2024 priority actions. Motion Carried.*

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am by Chairman Tom Petty.

Review of Motions:

1. *Jerry Hendrickson moved, and Brit Ausman seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023, board meeting. Motion Carried.*
2. *Brit Ausman moved, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve the 2023 financial report as presented. Motion Carried.*
3. *Brit Ausman moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion to approve the 2024 priority actions. Motion Carried.*



 CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE

2-20-24
 DATE



 BOARD MEMBER SIGNATURE

2-20-24
 DATE