

APPROVED 12.11.24

Grand County Noxious Weed Control Board

Special Meeting Minutes

November 4th, 2024 16:00

Grand Center, 182 N 500 W, Moab UT

Virtually on Google Meets

Members Present

Tim Higgs, Jordan Nesbitt, Sena Hauer

Members Absent

Kevin Walker

Others Present

Elizabeth (Izzi) Weimholt, Paul Holyoak

1. 16:00 Jordan Nesbitt called the meeting to order

2. Approval of minutes from July 1st, 2024

Tim Higgs made a motion to approve, with the amendment to replace “Motion passes unanimously” with the recorded votes

Seconded motion, with amendments - Sena Hauer

Motion passed 3-0

3. Citizens or Agencies to be heard

Jordan Nesbitt, BLM - Jordan announced that next week the BLM will begin an aerial application of Imazapic on cheatgrass in the Cisco desert / Dolores triangle area. Imazapic was chosen for its lasting efficacy over the next 5 years. The BLM will then seed the area with native seed this fall. Paul Holyoak inquired about community approval of removing cheatgrass, to which Jordan assured that everyone she has talked to is in favor of treatment. Paul stated that he feels cheatgrass is the only good springtime grass. Jordan then updated the board on other recent projects through the BLM: a contractor recently completed 188 acres of Tamarisk extraction in Fish Ford, there are ongoing fuel reduction treatments along I70, 16,000 acres of cheatgrass have been treated, and the Westwater partner trip that GCWD participated in was a success.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

a. Board application updates

Izzi reiterated the state bylaws for the member requirements for County boards. They specifically focused on the requirement that two members shall be farmers/ranchers with their primary source of income being derived from production agriculture. Sena counts as one of these members, so the current vacancy must be the other. Paul Holyoak expressed that he would like his application to be voted on and Izzi clarified that an interview and a vote on a recommendation can take place at the special meeting in December, but it cannot take place at this meeting because it is not on the agenda. The board continued to discuss applicants such as Paul Holyoak and Kelly Quinn. Sena stated that she doesn't want the weed board to become adversarial. Izzi was not able to find the exact end date of the previous term but Tim suggested that the new term start on January 1, 2025. Izzi stated that there needs to be official interviews for potential candidates, that all candidates must be interviewed at the same meeting, and these must be agenda items. Paul expressed frustration at the timeline of voting on potential candidates. Sena suggested the board move on to another agenda item because it was starting to feel adversarial.

b. Annual department presentation

Izzi told the board that the presentation is available to watch on youtube.

c. 2025 department budget overview

- Izzi shared that the proposed budget is about \$10,000 more than last year's budget, which can be attributed to a second truck lease (\$20,000 in the capital equipment line). The department is in need of another truck because GCWD has been awarded grant funding for a new position focused on urban fire mitigation (5-year award). That position will need a separate truck to be autonomous from the rest of the crew, as they will be working on different projects in different locations.
- All other line items have been decreased
- The budget has not been approved yet but Izzi hopes that this request will be approved with amendments because the position requiring the \$10,000 truck is responsible for bringing in \$75,000 annually
- Sena wanted to bring to the board's attention that the county will have to reckon with lower tax receipts because it was a bad revenue year for private businesses
- Izzi updated the board that they will not be asking for the other full time position (Operations Manager) because of the new truck request

d. Weed Supervisor report

- Izzi talked about the Westwater trip organized by the BLM with the weeds department and the DNR treating knapweed and tamarisk. The trip required significant prep work, and this is the second annual trip. Sena wondered what the weeds issues on that stretch of water are. Izzi explained that the likelihood of weeds being transported to more spots along the river increases when the campsites get overgrown with invasive plants. GCWD and the BLM intend to

return in the spring to backpack spray. Jordan added that the BLM's focus on fuels mitigation was helped by GCWD's technical knowledge of invasive species.

- Izzi shared that the department will have a full crew starting tomorrow, 11/5/24
- The commission has a priority in 2025 to create a committee to plan the new building for GCWD / Moab Mosquito Abatement District

6. Grant updates

None

7. Committee Reports

8. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

- December meeting will include interviews of potential board members
- December meeting will also vote on meeting dates for 2025
- Bylaws will be reviewed at the January meeting, along with a vote for Chair and Vice-Chair

9. Jordan entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn – Sena Hauer

Seconded Motion - Jordan Nesbitt

Motion passes 3-0