

APPROVED 01.27.25

Grand County Noxious Weed Control Board

Special Meeting Minutes

December 11th, 2024 at 17:00

1000 Sand Flats Rd, 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, Ben Menard, Maria Rago

1. 17:00 Jordan Nesbitt called the meeting to order

2. Approval of minutes from November 4th, 2024

Motion to approve, with the amendment to add Kevin Walker under Members Absent - Sena Hauer

Seconded motion - Jordan Nesbitt

Motion passes 3-0

3. Citizens or Agencies to be heard

None

4. Old Business

The Board reviewed the State code for County boards, stating that "Two members of the board shall be farmers or ranchers whose primary source of income is derived from production agriculture" Noxious Weed Act 4-17-105(3). Izzi had previously clarified with the State board authority that these two members can be anyone involved with production - i.e. nursery worker, farmer, rancher, commercial gardener - as long as their main income is from plant production. The remaining three board member seats do not have requirements.

5. New Business

a. Interview Board member applicants

i. Paul Holyoak

ii. Ben Menard

The Board interviewed each candidate separately, and the candidate that was not being interviewed stepped out of the room. Both candidates were asked the same questions (below):

1. What motivated you to apply to this board?
2. What do you hope to contribute to this board?
3. Can you commit to bimonthly meetings for the extent of your term?
4. What is your opinion of bio control?
5. Can you identify Utah Noxious Weeds?
6. Do you know how long the seeds are viable for morning glory / field bindweed?

Both candidates answered the questions to the best of their ability.

b. Discussion of new board applicants and interviews

Each Board member shared their thoughts and opinions of the candidates based on their applications, interviews, and presence at past meetings.

c. Vote to Recommend an Applicant to the Board

Sena Hauer and Jordan Nesbitt vote to recommend Ben Menard

Tim Higgs votes to recommend Paul Holyoak

After the vote, Tim brought up the potential issue that the majority vote may not count, under the impression that the vote must reflect the majority of the entire 5-member board. The board moved on to the next agenda item with the caveat that the vote would be revisited if it turns out that the vote does not count. (NOTE: Izzi later checked with both the County Commission and the County Attorney, and both upheld the simple majority vote).

d. Vote on meeting dates for 2025: January 6th, March 3rd, May 5th, July 7th, September 8th, November 3rd

Motion to approve future meeting dates as presented - Sena Hauer

Seconded motion - Tim Higgs

Motion passes 3-0

e. Weed Supervisor report

Izzi acknowledged how recently the last board meeting was held, then shared the Weed Department's major project for the winter season (free removal of Giant reed and Ravenna grass on residential property), and explained how homeowners may get in

contact to receive treatment and a voucher for replacement plants. Izzi also talked about the new department Instagram: @grandcountyweedsdept

6. Grant updates

The department is halfway through the state and federal fiscal year, and will be submitting invoices for work completed in 2024. The request for an additional full-time grant-funded technician and a Fuels Reduction Coordinator (Community Wildfire Defense Grant) has yet to be approved or denied by the County Commission.

7. Committee Reports

None

8. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

a. Items from Staff

Maria Rago (Crew Lead) gave an update on the crew's progress, and explained how the crew has been so productive that they're having trouble finding enough work.

b. Weed Board Members

Izzi and Tim reiterated that at the next meeting, the Board will vote on Chair, Vice Chair, and will review the by-laws. Sena Hauer requested to hear back about whether the new board applicant can be recommended without 3 votes or the County Commission Liaison present.

Motion to adjourn - Sena Hauer

Seconded motion - Jordan Nesbitt

Motion passes 3-0