

Noxious Weed Board Meeting

Minutes Outline

Lewis & Clark County

Regular Monthly Meeting & Annual Shop Tour

May 3, 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
Pete Christensen – Board Member
Stacy Baertsch – Board Member

Staff Present

Christian Lehnert – Lewis & Clark Weed Coordinator
Alex Lopez – Lewis & Clark County Weed Planner
Jenny Chambers – Lewis & Clark County Public Works Director
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: (00:00:01)

Chair, Dave Burch called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Roll Call: (00:00:32)

- Board Members:
 - Mike Cobb-Absent
 - Neil Snow-Absent
- Staff:
 - Candace Payne-Absent

Introductions/Recognition of Visitors: (00:01:16)

- Alex Lopez- Seasonal Noxious Weed Planner
 - Returning for the season

(00:03:15): (Dave Burch)

- Members, please respond to the e-mail when you receive the board packet the week before the meeting. (with attendance status)

Public Comment: (00:04:17)

- No public comment

Action Items: (00:04:22)

1. *Resolution 2023-001 Establishing the Lewis & Clark County Noxious Weed List (Christian Lehnert)*

(Enter Stacy Baertsch 00:10:32)

- *No public comment has been received.*
- *Minor Change: #5 Garlic mustard petiolate to petiolate*
- *Rob McDonough brings up discussion on Mullen and that it is biannual*
- *Dave Lewis moves to adopt the Noxious Weed Board Resolution 2023-001, Pete Christensen 2nds.*
 - *Motion passes 5 for; 1 opposed.*

(00:11:19) Introduction of Stacy Baertsch; newest board member representing Canyon Creek/Marysville

2. *Authorization of Fund 297 (WGSCR)*

- *Microscope; Noxious Weed Planner (Christian Lehnert) (01:13:01)*
 - *Quotes proposed for purchase of a microscope & supplies for plant identification by noxious weed planner.*
 - *Requesting budget authority not to exceed \$300.00.*
 - *Judith Anne Vincent makes a motion, Rob McDonough seconded; all in favor-motion passes with no further discussion.*
- *HBIA Home Show (Jade Wills) (01:16:52)*
 - *Requesting approval:*
 - *Early commitment fee; registration/booth fee and up to \$500 for ½ page ad in the home show book. (Discounts due to early commitment).*
 - *Pete Christensen makes a motion for budget authority for the 2024 HBIA home show registration/booth fee and up to \$500 for advertisement in the home show book, Rob McDonough seconded; all in favor. Motion passes with no further discussion.*

Staff Reports:

Christian Lehnert– Weed Coordinator: (00:24:29)

- *297 budget report will be given in the future, there is roughly \$41,000.00 in there. Income into this fund comes from MDT Funds and Dept of Ag/trust funds. Staff will put together a easy flowing spreadsheet as the AS400 report is difficult to read.*
- *Shop is up and ready for the season.*
- *7/8 seasonal sprayers have been hired; 2 have started so far, 2 start Monday, and 2 more start on the 15th.*
- *Hydro seeder is here, will be checked out during the tour.*
- *Discussion: Judith Anne would like to know about the greenhouse? Christian lets her know it is still in the works however staff is trying to work out the logistics. Jenny Chambers mentions there will be a masterplan that will take a while to implement but they are looking at moving the mag chloride tank and fuel island and trying to stag and see where the greenhouse can be put. The donation from Dave Lewis and family is very appreciate however very large, it will be returned in the event it cannot be logistically used here.*

Alex Lopez– Weed Planner: (00:30:30)

- 11 inspections since April 17, 2023, roughly 370 acres
- Currently there are 2 new code compliance cases for the year.

Jenny Chambers-Public Works Director: (00:36:05)

- County is putting millings down through the end of June on Franklin Mine Road.
 - Tomorrow they are awarding the Valley Drive project for the reconstruction and widening.
 - The interlocal with Helena is moving along.
- Christian adds staff attended East Helena Ag days May 9th and Jim Darcy Ag Days May 12th.

Board Reports:

S. Baertsch: (00:40:51)

- *Nothing to report but delighted to be here.*

D. Burch: (00:43:13)

- *Finally retired from the MWCA*

P. Christensen: (00:45:59)

- *Area is greening up; nothing to report*

D. Lewis: (00:46:13)

- Lots of construction in the East Valley
- Hearing reports of winter kill in the area alfalfa fields
 - Possibly over 1,000 acres
 - 40 Apple Tree orchard, fire took off in green grass-must be dry

R. McDonough: (00:48:36)

- Greening up in some snowbanks.
 - Discussion on the board members serving at the pleasure of the commission.
 - Policy
- Dave Burch; would like to get something together going forward for board member appreciation as well as better communication when new board members are coming in, applications incoming, as well as establishing a policy & procedures for members serving at the pleasure and new applications/new board members coming on.
- Christian Lehnert (01:06:06): Agrees and would like to work on putting forth a better policy moving forward as there is a need for it.

J. A. Vincent: (01:10:47)

- Mosquitos are out
- Discussion of Tommy Thompsons previous meeting attendance/project he was talking about.
- In regards to Dave Lewis' growing area would like to see if we can put together something-Mailer/brochure/Postcard/Door Hanger.
- Would like to put the Classic Car Show on the radar for next year (June), good exposure, maybe do some type of raffle.

- Jackets/Shirts, embroidery items has been in discussion would like to follow up on as well as a logo.
 - Pete said he will work on this
- No school/group weed education planned for this year.

Discussion:

- Bio Control Collection Day (Dave Burch)
 - Would like to look into this, Melissa with MT Biocontrol will help with this, would like to invite to a future board meeting & come up with a day and time.
 - Discussion; reviewing historical release data, Alex will look into this.
- Embroidery Items & Spray Days (Judith Anne Vincent; from December cancelled meeting)
 - This item will be moved to a future meeting.
- Social Media work with Betsy for Noxious Weed Awareness Week (Christian Lehnert)
- Other Discussion:
 - Gun range collection day
 - MCWA 7 Guns in 7 Days raffle during Noxious Weed Awareness Week
 - May 18th Pull Your Share at Sun River Canyon
 - Alex & Christian planning on participating
 - Dave Burch (01:27:13)
 - May 11, Board Training; need to RSVP by May 5, 2023.
 - (Rob McDonough) Would like to get Steve Johns a card/dinner/something for his service on the board. Members will need to donate funds as County money cannot be used for such expenses. Judith Anne will get something going.

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

- Wednesday June 7, 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.

Adjournment: (01:31:02)

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m. Motion presented by Pete Christensen, Seconded by Judith Anne Vincent

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.**