

**Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**January 29, 2024**

**Call to order:** Tamara Cowles called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Others present included board member Bill Bezanson, ex officio member Dan Teuteberg, WSU Extension office manager Lisa DeWall.

**Open Forum for Public Comment:** No public comment was submitted or given in-person.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Lisa DeWall had three items to add to the agenda: Title II funding, board member recruitment and draft agenda for hearing February 9, 2024. Bill Bezanson made the motion to approve the agenda with additions. Tamara Cowles seconded, and the motion passed unanimously,

**Approval of the October 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes by Bill Bezanson. Tamara Cowles seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Selection of the 2024 Board Chair and Vice-Chair:** After a brief discussion, Tamara made a motion that she will remain as Chair and Bill Vice-Chair. Bill seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

**2024 Budget:** Lisa DeWall shared the 2024 adopted budget for the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program. The total budget for 2024 is \$161,743.01 (*salary's & benefits \$152,383 and operating \$9,360.01*).

**Draft 2024 Mason County Noxious Weed List:** The draft 2024 Mason County Noxious Weed list was reviewed. Bill made a motion to move the list forward to the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 hearing for public comment and a final vote. Tamara seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

**Noxious Weed Control Coordinator Position:** Dan Teuteberg reported that the hiring committee interviewed three candidates for the position. He then presented the board with the recommendation to hire the top candidate. A motion was made to hire the top candidate by Bill Bezanson. Tamara Cowles seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Title II Funding:** Lisa reported that she received notification that there has been a delay with the release of the Title II funds since Congress has yet to pass the new Farm Bill. So, there is no funding for 2024 USFS work, but should have it for 2025. However, the good news is there are non-Title II funds for USFS infrastructure funding in 2024 (*about the same amount as Title II*) this will be the first order of business for the new coordinator.

**Board Member Recruitment:** There is the need for ongoing recruitment efforts in District 4 & 5. The board discussed making it a priority to fill the vacant positions. Bill offered to assist the coordinator with these efforts.

**Draft Agenda for Hearing to Adopt the 2024 Mason County Weed List:** Lisa shared the draft agenda for the hearing on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Board members agreed to add the announcement of the new coordinator.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am**

Recorded by Lisa DeWall 01/29/2024

Approved by MCNWCB on 02/09/2024