



1995 3rd St

Baker County Weed District
Baker City, OR 97814 Office (541) 523-0618
<https://www.bakercountyor.gov/weeds>

Baker County Weed District Advisory
Board Meeting Minutes
August 6th, 2024

Baker County Parks Department
2960 Broadway St, Baker City, OR 97814

Members present: Chair Craig Ward, Vice-Chairman Bruce Hummel, Dave Clemens, Jon Woolard, Marty Harriman, and John Wirth.

Others present Michelle Kaseberg (Public), Ted Benson (BLM), Will Price (OSU), Commissioner Whitham (Baker County), Shanda Hyllested (Tri-County CWMA), Brian Clapp (Union County), Lanny Fujishin (Idaho Power), and Gussie Cook (BCWD).

Meeting was vocally and zoom recorded

1:12 pm Chairman Ward called the meeting to Order

☒ Chairman Ward dispensed of the pledge of allegiance. Seeing as this was a special meeting called to order, only new business was discussed.

Michelle Kaseberg was present to discuss the finalization of PAC information. They will need a measure number before they can begin collecting donations. Once the measure number is received, and filing is completed, all processes for the PAC may begin. Bruce Hummel and Craig Ward are listed on the account for signatures. They will be recording and submitting all necessary information for the funds. Discussion ensued.

SEL 805 draft and approval

- Some changes were asked for in the draft of the SEL 805. These changes are listed below...
 - o Question
 - Remove overall cost of the measure- remove \$130,000 from the question.
 - Draft was missing a zero in the cents per thousand claims. Change draft to read as "Shall Baker County levy \$.066 per \$1,000 assessed value for four years beginning 2025-2026 for noxious weed programs."
 - o Summary
 - first sentence "This is a special levy outside the County's tax base that was first introduced in the early 2000's as a special four-year levy that proposed a tax of \$0.0585 per \$1,000 of an owner's assessed property."
 - Get rid of sentence two as it becomes a part of sentence 1.
 - Change sentence "The tax rate under the new levy will be approximately \$0.0660 per \$1,000 assessed value based on 2024-2025 fiscal year assessment." Just make sure it says \$0.066.
 - change sentence "Funds were used to provide noxious weed treatments county-wide and outreach/education to local communities."



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After conferring with the County Council on these changes, we were made aware of some requirements for the filing process. The board was able to discuss and revise their changes to the ones below...

- Question
 - change to "Shall Baker County levy \$.0660 per \$1,000 assessed value for four years beginning 2025-2026 for noxious weed programs."
- Summary
- Keep the first and second sentence you wrote as we do not have time to investigate the true start date of the Weed Levy. The currently known year actually dates to 1984 but may even date back further than that timeframe.
- -Change sentence "The tax rate under the new levy will be approximately \$.0660 per \$1,000 assessed value based on 2024-2025 fiscal year assessment." Just make sure it says \$.0660.
- -change sentence to "Funds were used to provide noxious weed treatments county-wide and outreach/education to local communities."

Jon Woolard moved to approve both the SEL 805 and SEL 801 with changes per County Councils approval. Bruce Hummel seconded.

G. Cook made the board aware that two sentences are required on these forms, per County Council and government entities, on the filing forms listed below.

- This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

- The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based upon the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate.

Another revision by the County Council allowed the board to make additional changes that are seen below...

Question

- "Shall Baker County levy \$.0660 per \$1,000 assessed value, \$130,000 annually, for four years beginning 2025-2026 for noxious weed programs."

Summary

- Keep first and second sentence you wrote
- Change sentence "The tax rate under the new levy will be approximately \$.0660 per \$1,000 assessed value based on 2024-2025 fiscal year assessment." Just make sure it says \$.066.
- -change sentence "Funds were used to provide noxious weed treatments county-wide and outreach/education to local communities."-change sentence to "Funds

In the World of Invasive Species, Our Successes are Invisible and our Failures are Obvious. Dr. Rich Old
www.bakercounty.org/Weeds/Weeds.html



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were used to provide noxious weed treatments county-wide and outreach/education to local communities.

Agency Reports

- ☐ Bruce Hummel discussed OSU's efforts in forage assistance due to the wildfires going on. Flyers were handed out at the meeting; however, OSU Extension has links and more information on the website. Will Price also discussed additional funding and loss recovery claims that may be associated with these wildfires. There is information with OSU on how to navigate these processes. Commissioner Whitham discussed community meetings that will be held by government entities regarding the wildfires. Will Price of OSU also announced that ODA and OHA water testing occurred in Thief Valley Reservoir, Brownlee Reservoir, and Hells Canyon syno toxins due to algae. This means it is unhealthy for livestock to drink.
- ☐ BLM-Ted Benson- Discussed holding a meeting to discuss Badland Complex and Durkee Fire future treatments. He hopes to have a meeting soon to "get the ball rolling". Tri-County and Baker County have been asked to be there.
- ☐ Dave Clemens discussed Rush Skeletonweed and how it is spreading within the County. He discussed how wildfire gives Rush Skeletonweed a place to flourish.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 PM