

Baker County Weed District Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024

Baker County Courthouse Commission Chambers
Baker City

Members present: Chairman Craig Ward, Kent Justus, Dave Clemens, Jon Woolard, John Wirth, Shella DelCurto, Kathy Thompson, Vice-Chairman Bruce Hummel (via video call)

Others present: Lanny Fujishin (Idaho Power), Scott Schaefer (USFS), Gavin Carman (TCWMA), Ted Benson (BLM), Dana Hill, Katy Hill, Morgan Soloman (LIT via video call), Christina Witham (Baker County Commissioner)

Meeting was vocally recorded if you are interested in more details.

1:00 Chairman Ward called the meeting to Order and led Pledge of Allegiance

- February 27th minutes were reviewed. Kent Justus moved to approve, Dave Clemens seconded, minutes passed unanimously.

Commissioner Witham updated the board on several items of interest.

- Gussie Cook was introduced and welcomed as the new incoming Baker County Weed Supervisor.
- The seasonal position was not filled and will be reposted.
- The grant updates and funding were discussed and a handout was given to the board detailing several grants that are ongoing. Christena Cook and Morgan Soloman were very helpful in sorting and gathering information on these grants. Mark Porter also sent an email about the Hoary Alyssum Phase III grant of which there was \$1,500 allocated for "Billboard Style Signs" to be placed in the county.
- The upcoming tax levy was discussed. The board brainstormed ideas such as flyers and posters to inform the public about this levy. Commissioner Witham stated that she had posted some information on Facebook. There was discussion about reaching out to Dan Sharrit and Theresa Smergut for ideas on what they did for Union and Wallowa County weed levy's. Will Price from the Baker County Extension office will continue to send out a "week of the week" to papers as that has been very popular as an educational tool for land owners and voters.
- Roadside update – Rod Tarter is out after having surgery and won't be back for at least a month. Commissioner Witham talked about reaching out to private contractors about filling the gap for possible noxious weed control.
- Herbicide giveaway days will continue in the near future.

Areas/Agency Reports

- Dave Clemens reported seeing some Scotch Thistle rosettes and also is on the lookout for Rush Skeleton Weed moving in from Idaho.

- Kent Justus looked at last fall's work on Mudusa Head, treatment looks good. He is using Rejuva and Plateau herbicide. Might have been some damage on perennials. Post emergent treatment is working good so he may try more. Taylor Grazing Cost Share Funds will be available in May.
- Jon Woolard is very concerned about fill removal from construction sights going on in the Baker area. This soil is contaminated with several weed seeds and is being hauled off to other sites which will spread the noxious weeds.
- John Wirth states Robert Hammond is coming to do some spraying on several projects. Also mentioned tumbleweeds were growing where the county road got sprayed too wide and killed grasses with ground sterilant.
- Kathy Thompson reported that things are starting to green up and Scotch and Russian Thistle are starting to germinate. Puncture Vine was a big issue last year. Her property is a priority on Lookout Mountain project for annual grasses.
- Shella DelCurto is starting to spray Scotch Thistle.
- Lanny Fujishin sprayed Round-up to take out Cheat Grass and repianted with native grasses.
- Ted Benson is working with TCWMA. Met with Doni Brulend on BLM agreements.
- Gavin with TCWMA is working on spring and summer contracts. Working on awarding \$250,000 in contracts. Equipment is ready to spray. They have three open positions they are trying to fill.
- Scott Schaffer states they have sprayed the compounds in Baker, Unity and Pine. Title II 2023 has not gone through the advisory committee which is a \$17,300 grant to spray main artery roads on USFS land. There is another Title II coming in 2024 for \$7,500 for OHV trails.
- Bruce Hummel reported that there are similar weeds here in Arizona that need to be taken care of.
- Morgan Soloman is working with BLM for an OHV weed wash station. Talked about Juniper removal grant in Sardine Creek area. Talked about the LIT threat reduction plan. FIP ends in June of 2025. Informed everyone that she is leaving the LIT and taking a job with the USF&W.

2024 Baker County Noxious Weed Update

- A list was handed out and a discussion was held about the noxious weeds on the list. Everyone wanted to review them and finalize the list at the April meeting. Mark Porter sent out an email with some information about the noxious weed list and every board member will get a copy of that for the April meeting from Chairman Ward.

Public Comment Period

- There were no public comments.

Next Meeting – April 30, 2024 at Baker County Commission Chambers at 1:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Craig Ward, Chairman
 Baker County Weed Board