

Meeting Minutes Powell County Weed Board

December 19, 2023 7:00 PM Regular Meeting Weed Board Office & Virtual

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Board members Joe Dippold and Sandy Graveley, and Coordinator Karen Laitala attended in person at the Weed Board office. Virtual (Zoom) attendees included Jim Stone, Weed Board Chair, and Rem Mannix, County Commissioner.

Approve Minutes: Sandy made the motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting and Joe seconded. The motion passed.

Visitor Recognition: None present

Administrative Report

- Monthly Budget Review: Report presented by Karen. Jim asked what the if there was a COLA raise awarded county employees in FY 2024, if there is one anticipated for FY 2025, and what those percentages were and will be. These questions were addressed by Rem who offered approximations.
- Approve Bills: Sandy made the motion to approve bills and Joe seconded. The motion passed.

County Commissioner Report: None

Member Reports: Sandy mentioned his frustration with vegetation management on their BLM leases. Jim mentioning the upcoming Montana Grazing and Agriculture Conference hosted by Lake County Conservation District. The conference will be held in Missoula January 25th and 26th.

Weed Coordinator Report: Written report submitted. Karen notified the board that she had secured a new 5 year agreement and \$63,798 in initial funds.

New Business: The subject of potentially hiring a remote or hybrid administrative position was given the go-ahead by the County Commissioners who also supported hiring the position as a contractor rather than county employee. Karen offered to acquire a cost-per-hour with the addition of costs in-lieu benefits.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by chairman Jim Stone. Sandy Graveley seconded the motion to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for February 20th, 2024