

High Plains Weed Management Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 15, 2009

1. Call to Order: The January 15, 2009 meeting of the High Plains Board of Directors was called to order by President Jeff Schledewitz at 1:35 p.m. Those in attendance included:
Board Members: Jeff Schledewitz, President; Emily Munter, Vice-President; Owen Walker, Treasurer; Kay Grote, Secretary; Gerald Davis; Dan Weinreis; and Robin Lapaseotes
Staff: Dennis Beyer, Roy Lyles, Jennifer Rogers
Guests: Ron Moore, Kim Erickson (contractor), Paul Cook (contractor), Mark Brohman (Environmental Trust), Lisa Beethe (Environmental Trust), Glenn Lemburg (contractor), and Justin Liss (contractor).
2. Minutes for Approval: Motion made by Kay Grote to approve the November 13, 2008 Minutes; seconded by Gerald Davis. Motion carried - unanimous.
3. Treasurer's Report: Jennifer went through the January 15, 2009 Treasurer's Report; payments are going out twice a month at the first and the fifteenth; Motion made by Emily Munter to accept the January 15, 2009 Treasurer's Report; seconded by Dan Weinreis. Motion carried - unanimous.
4. Bills-to-be-Paid: Jennifer went through the January 15, 2009 bills-to-be-paid. No immediate action taken.
5. Reports
 - a. Environmental Trust Report: Mark Brohman, Executive Director for the Environmental Trust handed out a letter from the Trust to the Board outlining the audit that he and Lisa Beethe, Grants Administrator completed over the last two days with High Plains. The Trust had sent High Plains a letter indicating that they were to undertake a funding freeze until the audit had been completed, and that is now being released. Mark and Lisa simply wanted to ensure that bills were being paid properly, the correct acreage was being charge and that generally everything was in order. The letter presented to the Board outlines a series of steps they are requiring be taken to correct any problems that were found. In addition, the Trust suggests implementing a checklist for each file to ensure that applications and forms are being signed. One of the biggest concerns was the lack of signed contracts with the landowners prior to work being started. In addition, the Trust is requiring the removal of Storm Forestry as a contractor with High Plains. Many of the issues and incomplete projects were attributed to this particular contractor. There are also certain projects that need refunds from Storm Forestry due to improper billing.

The Trust had received some complaints from landowners and contractors and the Board requested additional information on some of those issues. Robin Lapaseotes thanked Mark and Lisa for coming out to complete the audit and wanted to assure them that all of these action items will be taken care of. Motion made by Gerald Davis to accept the suggestions and requirements as set forth by the Environmental Trust; seconded by Robin Lapaseotes. Motion carried – unanimous.

- b. Project Manager Report: Dennis Beyer thanked Mark and Lisa for coming out and completing the audit and providing the suggestions and changes that should help the organization to run better. On separate notes, some of the Board Members and Dennis met with Senator Harms on December 1st and he requested a packet of information to take back to discuss with the Department of Agriculture. All of the other contract work is going smoothly and they are hoping to get any problem projects finished up with the help of other contractors soon. Kay Grote suggested additional items be addressed during the Executive Session, item 7B.
 - c. Communications Committee Report: Emily Munter has no new activity to report as the Committee has not met since the previous Board meeting.
 - d. Legislative Committee Report: See Project Manager Report
 - e. Byproduct Committee Report: The Byproduct Committee has not met to date.
6. Old Business
 - a. Contractor's Agreement / Payments: All of the contractors except Storm Forestry met in December to discuss the payment schedules and new guidelines. Roy Lyles reported that it was an excellent meeting and everyone is in agreement as to the new stipulations.
7. New Business
 - a. Board Vacancy: John Berge called and informed Jennifer that he was resigning from the Board due to taking a position in Washington D.C. Staff should follow up with some of the original individuals that were interested in serving on the Board and report back at the next meeting.
 - b. Executive Session: Motion made by Kay Grote to move into Executive Session at 2:15 to discuss contractor and staff evaluations; seconded by Robin Lapaseotes. Motion carried – unanimous.
 - c. Field Coordinator Position: Tabled until the next meeting
 - d. Project Manager Job Description: Tabled until the next meeting

At 4:45 pm the Board moved out of Executive Session. President Schledewitz said that the Board appreciates the Trust coming out to Scottsbluff to meeting with the staff and the board in order to address any problems that have occurred. The Board has set a timeline for addressing all of the recommendations.
8. Next meeting time and date: The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 11th at 1:30 pm.
9. Adjournment: Motion made by Owen Walker to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Gerald Davis. Motion carried – unanimous.