

## **WSU / Weed Update**

**May 18, 2021**

**10:32 a.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Bill Wamsley, Charles Edmonson, Patrick Schults, Pam Watson

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Patrick Schults said the Washington State University (WSU) Extension office have started to get back into activities with the reopening of state offices. They currently have a master food program that is just wrapping up. Patrick is in the process of partnering with Gary Fredricks on a small farms program called Living on the Land.

Pam Watson updated the Board for the last years' worth of projects. The 4-H is a youth program and in order to stay connected, they had zoom online game nights. They had participation in all areas of Lewis County and it was a fun experience to connect with the kids and their families twice a month from May through December of 2020. In October of 2020, Pam started Outreach 4-H, a virtual way to meet with kids. They learned about cooking, poultry, large animal classes, a robotic hand and most of these classes were free because the product was acquired by the parents. Last year 4-H held the 4-H Unfair virtual showcase. The 4-H participants were videotaped or their projects were photographed and judged. Pam is still unsure how the fair process will look for 2021

WSU, OSU and the University of Washington applied for the ACER Access Development grant. The grant will help expand commercial viability of maple syrup production from bigleaf maples. The bigleaf maple syrup was a recent event held at a WSU site in Olympia, Washington and Patrick said typically there are between 4-9 sap events a year. They have a large demonstration in Elbe as well.

Charles shared about himself as the new incoming weed director. He is new to Washington and is looking forward to learning about Lewis County. Most of what he has done with the public is to loan tools to individuals for scotch broom removal. He has done a treatment at one site as well.

Bill did say that Charles was able to meet the Weed Board. There is a heavy population of Eurasian Milfoil to the right of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) dock. They have assessed the needs of the lake and have applied for grant funds from the Department of Ecology. The weed program has submitted an application for a permit to treat the milfoil. There are restrictions for irrigation none for fishing and none for swimming. The product works within 20 minutes of application to treat the milfoil. They are hoping to have work done in August. There was a public notice for the permit process and they have spoken with neighbors.

Meeting ended 11:03 a.m.