

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
October 24, 2023
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Adolphsen, Fred Grant, Bruce Paul, Dan Peacock, Roberta Stoneman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Clea Rome (ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John (coordinator), Joe Oakes (specialist)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: None

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

ADOPT MINUTES:

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the April minutes as drafted. Bruce Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Board Updates/Correspondence

Bruce Paul congratulated Christina and the Board on the positive reception the program received during the County Commissioner's public hearing for the weed assessment ordinance. The rest of the Board agreed. Christina mentioned how supportive the public and Commissioners were about the program and congratulated the Board for their work and support. There was discussion about whether the Board had ever recommended an assessment increase in the past and it was decided that it had not. Roberta Stoneman commented that she agreed with the Commissioner's suggestion that we revisit the assessment every few years. Christina agreed that the assessment should at least keep pace with inflation and within a few years we will know how much work needs to be done. Roberta Stoneman asked about how the Board should respond to public comments. Christina mentioned that there is no requirement but that the Board can decide how they would like to respond to public comments. Dan Peacock mentioned the number of positive comments that the County Commissioners received about the noxious weed program and how that reflects on the program.

Staff Reports

Joe Oakes began the staff reports and spoke about weed control along County roads and other Public Works-owned lands. He has been reviewing past reports to see what work has occurred. He is also writing a priority list for 2024 treatments. He then mentioned some of the priority weeds that the program has been treating. Joe mentioned work done in the County pits and treatment of Himalayan blackberry. The program has been re-prioritizing roads that were added to the IWM plan in 2022 without

any surveys for noxious weeds. Christina highlighted the good work that Joe has been doing to organizing the program. Christina also mentioned how the program has been surveying County roads that have never been visited and placing them in the correct priority.

Roberta asked how the program keeps up to date with the newest weed science. Christina mentioned that her and Joe attend were about to attend a conference about weed control and speak with other weed control practitioners to learn what is working for them. Joe spoke about trying different herbicide treatments in the pits and recording our results. Christina spoke about encouraging different weed control organizations to share their results at the Olympic Invasive Working Group meeting so the rest of the Peninsula can learn from their work. Christina also mentioned other resources that the program uses to learn about effective weed control techniques.

Christina then summarized some of the other work that the program has been doing. She highlighted the discovery of kochia along Highway 101 in eastern Clallam County and WSDOT's efforts to control it. She brought a sample to show the Board members. The program will be able to work with the public more and survey more areas once a new inspector has been hired.

Christina briefly mentioned the work controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Sutherland and the work performed for Olympic National Forest. She highlighted the work that was being done controlling wild basil savory on Forest Service roads. The Resource Advisory Committee met in September and awarded CCNWCB a little over \$61,000 for work to be performed in Clallam and east Jefferson County over the next few years. The program also partnered with Olympic National Park to survey and treat knotweed in the upper Sol Duc River and with the Makah Tribe to survey and treat knotweed in the Big River. The program continued treating knotweed on a private parcel along Tumwater Creek. Bruce Paul mentioned the knotweed on private property near Lake Pleasant. Christina went into detail about the knotweed work done on the Big River.

CCNWCB continues to work closely with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and has been building a good relationship with the tribal transportation department. We continue to treat Himalayan blackberry and other weeds at River's Edge along the lower Dungeness River. Christina spoke about the weed issues occurring in the Dungeness River Floodplain project. Christina highlighted the events that the CCNWCB will be attending at the end of 2023.

Financial Report:

The Board had received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina asked if there were any questions. Total expenses between July 1st and October 13th were \$65,950.71 and included payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues received from July 1st to October 13th totaled \$48,210.68 were comprised of assessment collections as well as payment for weed control services from various government entities as well as the Clallam County Road Department. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of October 17,

2023 was \$180,346.65. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) from July through October were \$15,766.68 and were comprised of payments to the diver and boat operator. Revenues during the same period totaled \$580. The LMD 2 fund balance as of October 13th was \$37,422.64.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to accept the staff and financial reports, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.

New Business:

Draft 2024 Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed the 2024 meeting schedule. *Dan Peacock made a motion to adopt the schedule as presented, Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.*

2024 State Weed List Hearing

Christina sent the Board material that was compiled by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board for their October/November 2024 weed list hearing. She highlighted the proposed additions to the Class A species that could affect Clallam County. None of the proposed Class A additions have been found in Clallam County. European and American beach grass and their hybrids are being added as a Class C weed. Christina also mentioned the new proposed rules on conflict of interest for the State Noxious Weed Board. There was a discussion about whether English (feral) holly will be proposed for listing again and the difficulty in controlling it.

Fall OIWG meeting

Christina highlighted some of the speakers at the fall Olympic Invasives Working Group and invited Board members to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the September special meeting minutes. EA initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve financial reports, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the 2024 meeting schedule. DA initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for January 24th at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room. The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator