

**Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board Special Meeting
September 14, 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)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Ed Bowen

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.

WEED ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING:

Christina gave a presentation about the weed assessment and the proposed rate increase. She started with a review about how county noxious weed boards are funded. The current Clallam County weed assessment rates are \$1.50 per parcel and \$0.13 per acre for non-forested parcels and 1/10th of the rate for forested parcels, which was set in 2000. Clallam County has the lowest assessment rate for counties in western Washington. Christina then discussed why the assessment rate needed to be increased, including inflation and increased staffing to meet program mandates and public expectations. State noxious weed laws require county noxious weed boards to work with the public to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled as defined by the law. She then detailed the steps that need to be taken for the assessment rate to be modified. The proposed assessment rate is an increase to \$3.60 a parcel and \$0.31 an acre for non-forested parcels to pay for an inspection program. The proposed rate would lead to an increase assessment bill for the average non-forested parcel in Clallam County (2 acres) of \$2.46 a year and an increase for the average forested parcel (77 acres) of \$1.61 a year. If the proposed assessment was passed, CCNWCB could employ an inspector that could work with private landowners year-round, surveying for noxious weed populations, teaching landowners about noxious weeds and their responsibilities for controlling them, allowing for more one-on-one time with landowners, increased assistance with treating rare noxious weeds, more outreach to schools and community groups, sponsoring volunteer activities and allow us to update the website. If the inspector works with landowners all year, the program will need to hire a seasonal crew lead to lead grant-funded work. Christina then summarized the current assessment (\$1.50/parcel and \$0.13/acre for non-forested parcels) and the proposed assessment (\$3.60/parcel and \$0.31/acre for non-forested parcels).

Christina opened up the hearing to public testimony at 4:43pm. Ed Bowen commented on the assessment increase and program benefits. Christina spoke about some of the benefits the program offers to the any member of the public and clarified the budget process. The public hearing was closed at 4:52pm.

Board Updates/Correspondence

None

ADOPT MINUTES:

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the August special meeting minutes as drafted. Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Discussion of Assessment Recommendation

Fred Grant spoke in support of the weed assessment increase and the need of an inspector. He mentioned that since he joined the weed board in 2001, he hasn't seen an assessment increase although operating costs have risen.

Dan Peacock made a motion to accept the \$3.60/parcel and \$0.31/acre assessment rate to increase revenue. Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the August special meeting minutes. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt the recommendation to raise the weed assessment to \$3.60/parcel and \$0.31/acre to increase revenue. DP Initiated motion, EA seconded the motion.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm. The Board will have their next regular meeting on October 24 at 4:30pm. It will be held at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner's meeting room.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator