

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board Special Meeting
August 22, 2023
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Fred Grant, Clea Rome (ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John (coordinator), Joe Oakes (specialist), Meghan Fallon (seasonal weed technician)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Randy Johnson and Loni Gores (Clallam County Board of Commissioners)

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Eric Adolphsen called the meeting to order at 4:31pm. Joe Oakes introduced himself to the Board and spoke briefly about his past employment. Christina mentioned that his job responsibilities were to implement the Integrated Weed Management Plan for County roads and Public Works properties.

WEED ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING:

Christina gave a presentation about the weed assessment. She started with a review on 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. The assessment has never been increased since it was enacted in 2000, even though operating costs have increased and the program has grown. A comparison of the different weed assessment rates in different western Washington counties shows that Clallam County has the lowest assessment rate. Christina then discussed why the assessment rate needed to be increased. 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. 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 a full-time inspector that could work with private landowners year-round, teaching them 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 and volunteer activities and allow us to update the website. We would also be able to comply with our legal obligations for ensuring that noxious weed laws are followed in Clallam County. 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) and opened up the hearing to public comment. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

ADOPT MINUTES:

Dan Peacock made a motion to adopt the July minutes as drafted. Bruce Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Board Updates/Correspondence

Christina spoke about informing WSDOT about noxious weed infestations on Hwy 101 and their quick treatment of those populations. Bruce Paul inquired about when the program would begin working more on the west side of the Peninsula. Christina mentioned that next week they were planning on treating knotweed on the Big River and the following week treat knotweed in the upper reaches of the Sol Duc River. Christina also mentioned working with a landowner with knotweed in Sekiu. Bruce mentioned a knotweed patch near Sappho. Dan Peacock and Christina discussed tansy ragwort populations near Joyce and landowner contacts.

Discussion of Assessment Recommendation

Both Eric Adolphsen and Dan Peacock spoke in support of the proposed increase and the need for a full-time inspector. Christina mentioned that many other weed boards have multiple inspectors and that this proposal is an excellent starting point for building up the inspection program for CCNWCB.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into executive session at 4:52 to discuss staffing performance. The regular meeting resumed at 5:05pm.

BOARD MEETING (CONTINUED):

After coming back into regular session, Commissioner Johnson and Loni Gores entered the meeting to inform us that there was a member of the public who reached out to the Commissioners Office after being unable to join the public hearing. After some troubleshooting, we were able to contact the member of the public and have them join the meeting to make a comment on the proposed weed assessment rate increase. Ed Bowen commented on his concern about the weed assessment increase and the jurisdiction of the county weed board. Christina promised to look further into the matter. The Noxious Weed Board then discussed the comment. The Board decided to re-take the recommendation motion now that they had heard public comments. Christina would inquire with the County about whether the public access issues would require the Board to hold an additional public hearing.

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

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the July minutes. DP initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt the recommendation to raise the weed assessment to \$3.60/parcel and \$0.31/acre to increase revenue.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

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. There may be another public hearing and special Board meeting prior to that, pending a discussion with the County's Prosecuting Attorney's office. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator