

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
January 24, 2023
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Adolphsen, Fred Grant, Dan Peacock, Clea Rome (ex-officio, attended board meeting only), Roberta Stoneman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Paul

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John, coordinator; Allison Frick, inspector

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Don Crawford (Clallam County Parks, Fairs and Facilities), Cathy Lear (Clallam County Department of Community Development), Randy Johnson (Clallam County Commissioner), Cathy Lucero, Joe Oakes (WSDOT), Jill Silver (10,000 Year Institute), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Kyle (City of Sequim), Sophie DeGroot (Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator), Sophie Wilhoit (National Park Service), Gretha Davis (Broombusters), David Allen (Shore Road Nursery), others.

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:30. Introductions were made all around. Some participants joined the meeting after introductions.

WEED LIST PUBLIC HEARING:

Christina gave an overview of noxious weed control and the specific weed laws in Washington state. She summarized the functions on the State and Clallam County weed boards, the different classes of weeds and how required control differs between them. She stated that the changes to the State's 2023 Weed List did not affect Clallam County, so there were no new Class A or Class B designate species added to the county's weed list for 2023.

Christina reviewed the list of currently selected weeds and where they would be mandated for control. The Board received a public request to consider spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) for control county-wide, and Christina presented a slide about the biology and impacts of spurge laurel.

Fred Grant opened up the weed list hearing to public comment. Cathy Lucero spoke about her hesitation to select spurge laurel for control in the past because of the difficulty in controlling infestations. Joe Oakes (WSDOT) spoke about treatments and results from his treatment of spurge laurel along WSDOT right-of-ways and on his own property. Jill Silver (10,000 Year Institute) voiced her support of listing spurge laurel and clarified where the spotted jewelweed infestations are in Jefferson County. David Allen (Shore Road Nursery) endorsed the listing of spurge laurel, spoke about its prevalence in Olympic National Park and its ability to invade intact forest ecosystems. Kyle (City of Sequim) asked if fennel was a species required for control. Christina clarified that non-bulbing fennel was a Class B designate species and suggested a meeting in Sequim in the spring to highlight regulated weeds on city property. The Board asked if there were any other questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Dan Peacock made a motion to adopt the list as drafted (with the addition of spurge laurel as a species selected for control county-wide), Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed. The 2023 Clallam County Weed List adoption process was complete.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLANS

Christina introduced this portion of the agenda by defining what an integrated weed management plan is and the county ordinance requiring the three County Departments that own land (Public Works/Roads; Parks, Fairs and Facilities; and Department of Community Development). Drafts of all the 2023 Integrated Weed Management plans could be found on the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control website.

The first plan under consideration was the proposed plan from the Department of Community Development. The DCD plan specifies three projects that require an IWM plan: the Lower Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration project, maintenance of River's End and a fish passage improvement project on McDonald Creek. Cathy Lear presented about the changes that have occurred on the largest project, the Lower Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration project. The new levee was built and old levee was removed in 2022, opening up over 100 acres of new floodplain. A flood event around Christmas caused the river to overrun the footprint of the old levee and flooded the northern portion of the new floodplain. She also highlighted the removal of the reed canarygrass from the Scarsella mitigation site and the effects it had on native plant recruitment and survival. After the end of the presentation, Christina reiterated how removing reed canarygrass and its extensive rhizome system allowed the native seed bank to germinate and provided bare soil for cottonwood and willow seedlings to germinate.

Upon review, the Board concluded that the DCD Integrated Weed Management Plan had all the necessary components.

Dan Peacock made a motion to adopt the DCD 2023 IWM plan as proposed, Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

The next plan under consideration was for Parks, Fairs and Facilities. Don Crawford, the Parks, Fairs and Facilities director, spoke about how weed management tools have changed over the years, using a tool box with different tools as props. He spoke about his experiences managing landscapes in his previous positions and that he was impressed by the IWM plans that the Board has approved for Parks, Fairs and Facilities in the past. There was a discussion with the Board and attendees about the benefits of growth regulators to reduce lawn maintenance needs. Don reiterated the need to incorporate all weed management techniques and think outside the box. Upon review, the Board concluded that the DCD Integrated Weed Management Plan had all the necessary components.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the Park Department 2023 IWM plan. Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Christina presented the 2023 Integrated Weed Management plan for Roads. Christina began by summarizing the program's 2022 accomplishments and challenges. Despite staff shortages, most high priority roads and almost all pits and storage areas were surveyed and treated. Volunteers, both from the Master Gardeners and Clallam Conservation District, were integral to the success of the program. The Roadside Vegetation Monitoring Team (Master

Gardeners) found that the program achieved a “good” efficacy rating for treating weeds of concern. Volunteers were also instrumental in the success of our pollinator enhancement projects, devoting 51 hours to watering during the summer and early fall and 71 hours to planting in the late fall. A detailed summary of the program activities can be found in the 2022 Roads annual report on the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control website.

Christina highlighted the progress made in controlling noxious weeds along county right-of-ways since the program started in 2017. There have been significant declines in the area infested with tansy ragwort, meadow knapweed, spotted knapweed, poison hemlock and common teasel on roads that have been treated every year since 2017 or 2018. She then spoke about the programs’ goals and how weed species and roads are categorized for treatment priority. Christina then highlighted the program’s goals for the 2023 season, highlighting priorities for roads, pits and special sites. She also spoke about some of the changes in the pollinator plantings, such as new watering equipment, new species to be used on the sites and a shift from planting grass plugs to direct seeding grasses. She then highlighted the changes in the 2023 plan when compared to the 2022 plan, mainly the new sites and one new category 1 weed (mountain knapweed).

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the Road Department 2023 IWM plan as proposed, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

ADOPT MINUTES:

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

Board Updates:

There were no Board updates at this time.

Staff Reports

Because of the late hour, Christina did not review the general staff report but instead asked if there were any questions from the Board. Since the last report, staff had been planting along roadsides and in the pollinator enhancement projects, working on composing the 2022 Roads annual report and preparing the 2023 Integrated Weed Management plan, and were working on the 2022 Forest Service annual report. There had been some staff turnover from the last meeting, with Allison Frick starting as the new weed inspector and the weed specialist position open again. Christina spoke with the Board about hoping to have a new weed specialist starting by March.

Financial Report:

The Board received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina asked if there were any questions. Expenses from October through December totaled \$53,372.82 and were comprised of payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues during the same period totaled \$91,633.90 and were comprised of assessment collections and payments for services from Lake Sutherland Management District 2, Roads Department, Department of Community Development and Jamestown S’Klallam tribe. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of December 31, 2022 was \$230,994.83. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) from October through December were \$17,375.90 and were comprised of

professional services and reimbursement to CCNWCB. Revenues during the same period totaled \$6,768.91. The LMD 2 fund balance as of December 31 was \$41,688.97.

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:

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no public comment at this time.

Christina spoke about partnering with Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board to provide at-cost weed control services on roads with high priority weeds that could spread into Clallam County. Sophie DeGroot, coordinator at JCNWCB, also spoke about the partnership and the locations and species to be targeted (wild chervil, perhaps spotted jewelweed if funding allowed). Sophie was prepared to write a draft contract for the two counties consider. The Board was supportive of the idea of partnering with Jefferson County and the need to prevent new weeds from entering Clallam County. The Board supported the partnership as along as CCNWCB had the time and personnel to complete the project.

REVIEW MOTIONS:

- Adopt list as drafted. DP initiated motion EA seconded the motion, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Department of Community Development's 2023 integrated weed management plan of work for three projects, The Lower Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration Project (referred to as the Dungeness dike setback), maintenance of River's End (at the mouth of the Dungeness River), and McDonald Creek fish passage reconfiguration. DP initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Park Department's 2023 integrated weed management plan of work. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Road Department 2023 integrated weed management plan of work. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt the October minutes. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for April 25th at 4:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator