

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
January 23, 2024
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Paul, Clea Rome (ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John, coordinator; Joe Oakes, inspector

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Don Crawford (Clallam County Parks, Fairs and Facilities), Cathy Lear (Clallam County Department of Community Development), Sophie DeGroot (Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator), David Allen (Shore Road Nursery), Chris Morgan (Peninsula College) and Meghan Fallon.

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:30. Christina went over the agenda for the meeting. Introductions were made all around.

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 went over the new species added to the State Noxious Weed List in 2024 – Palmer's amaranth, variable-leaf milfoil hybrids and American, European and hybrid beach grasses. She also highlighted new weed species found in Clallam County in 2023 – wild chervil and kochia.

Christina reviewed the list of currently selected weeds and where they would be mandated for control. There were no new additional species suggested to be selected for control.

Fred Grant opened up the weed list hearing to public comment. Meghan Fallon spoke about her support of the 2024 Weed List and briefly about her time working for CCNWB. She then spoke about moleplant and raised awareness of the threat it poses to humans and animals. Christina promised to show pictures of moleplant to the Board during the next meeting and talked about the process of how Meghan, and the public in general, can reach out to the State Weed Board and get involved in the process of adding or modifying the State Noxious Weed List. Meghan spoke about her observations of how moleplant likes to grow near Himalayan blackberry and wondered if both species benefitted by that relationship.

Next, David asked the Board to speak about any plans for addressing butterfly bush infestations in the Dungeness River and any potential plans for listing it for control. Christina described how butterfly bush is invading newly exposed areas within the County's Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration project. She highlighted that there are multiple organizations that are currently working on controlling butterfly bush within the Dungeness River and what factors would need to be considered before listing butterfly bush for control.

For the moment, there is no push for selecting butterfly bush for control. Christina asked if there were any other questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the list as drafted. Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed. The 2024 Clallam County Weed List adoption process was complete.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLANS

Christina introduced this portion of the agenda where each County Department that manages land (Public Works/Roads; Parks, Fairs and Facilities; and Department of Community Development) must present an integrated weed management for the Board to debate and approve. Drafts of all the 2024 Integrated Weed Management plans could be found on the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control website.

The first plan to be considered was the Parks, Fairs and Facilities. Christina quickly spoke about some the unusual noxious weed species that are found in County Parks. She hopes to have the staffing levels in 2024 that will allow them to survey and treat these weeds. Don Crawford spoke about the plan, though first he wanted to mention his drive to remove noxious weeds when he sees them, using the knotweed at the Longhouse Market and Deli as an example. He then mentioned that the Parks IWM plan was not changing from last year but he hopes that resources can be added to the 2025 budget to allow for more weed control services in County Parks, especially Salt Creek Recreation Area. The goal would be to partner with the Noxious Weed Department to pay for a weed technician to service County Parks. Don asked the Board if they have any questions about the IWM plan. Dan Peacock asked about elk grazing pressure at Salt Creek. Don remarked that he hasn't heard of any excessive elk grazing at Salt Creek. Dan and Don then conversed about elk grazing impacts on ranchers and farmers.

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

Before departing, Don mentioned that as a landscape designer, he specified for butterfly bush in many landscapes and now he has to live that down. The second IWM for consideration was the Department of Community Development. Cathy Lear spoke about the DCD plan and an update on the different projects that the department is working on. She focused primarily on the Dungeness River Floodplain project, mentioned the weeds that have now come in with the repeated flooding and the weeds that are being treated. She highlighted the poison hemlock that has been growing throughout the winter, the Scarsella mitigation site the salmon that have been utilizing the new floodplain and the planting efforts from WCC. The plan was opened for questions and the Board had none.

Dan Peacock made a motion to adopt the DCD 2024 IWM plan as proposed, Roberta Stoneman seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Joe presented the 2024 Integrated Weed Management plan for Roads. He spoke about the plan being a work in progress and adapting to the on-the-ground conditions. Joe reviewed the work that was done in 2023 on County roads, pits and special sites. He also highlighted the planting projects along the roadsides and pollinator enhancement sites. He spoke about the long-term trend of decreasing weed infestation sizes along County roads. Overall program

goals were described, as well as specific goals for 2024, such as surveying more county roads, the high priority pits for treatment and increasing species diversity at our planting sites. Joe finished by highlighting changes in the IWM plan for 2024, such as new control methods for spurge laurel. The Board had no questions about the plan.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the Road Department 2024 IWM plan as proposed, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Board Updates:

Dan Peacock asked about whether WSDOT has an integrated management plan. Christina mentioned that WSDOT does have a plan for each region in the state but that the plan may not have the funding to fully implement the vegetation plan. Christina also mentioned that WSDOT paid their weed assessment.

ADOPT MINUTES:

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

Staff Reports

Because of the late hour, Christina did not review the entire general staff report but instead highlighted a few key points. Interviews have begun for the weed inspector position and Christina hopes to offer the job soon. The crew has been planting, writing reports and working on the IWM plans. The unusual winter weather has made poison hemlock control difficult.

Financial Report:

The Board received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina highlighted that the weed assessment has put the program in better financial shape. Timing of payments and the loss of the weed inspector in mid 2023 allowed the program to save money in 2023. Expenses from October through December totaled \$58,150.53 and were comprised of payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues during the same period totaled \$94,275.97 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, 2023 was \$225,062.59. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) from October through December were \$12,911.08 and were comprised of professional services and reimbursement to CCNWCB. Revenues during the same period totaled \$6,684.80. The LMD 2 fund balance as of December 31 was \$33,780.36. Christina asked if the Board had any questions. They had none.

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.

REVIEW MOTIONS:

- Adopt list as drafted. EA initiated motion, DP seconded the motion, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Park Department's 2024 integrated weed management plan of work. DP initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Department of Community Development's 2024 integrated weed management plan. DP initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Road Department 2024 integrated weed management plan of work. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt the October minutes. DP initiated motion, EA 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 23rd at 4:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator