

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
July 23, 2024
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), Sam Fischbein (weed inspector), Joe Oakes (weed specialist)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: None

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

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:

Dan Peacock mentioned that he had two tansy ragwort plants in his hay field and almost had a fire on his property. Fred Grant asked about cow parsnip and whether it was a weed. Christina mentioned that it is a native plant that can look like giant hogweed, a noxious weed and spoke a little about its biology. Bruce Paul mentioned that the Hwy 101 bridge was back open. There was a discussion about different crews working on removing tansy ragwort around Lake Crescent. Bruce commented that there seemed to be more tansy ragwort this year than in the past. Christina agreed and expressed her theory that the warm winter on the west side of the Peninsula allowed tansy ragwort to grow faster and flower earlier in their life cycle.

Reports:

Staff Reports

Sam spoke first about the inspection program. She has been focusing on Sequim and Port Angeles on properties with poison hemlock. She is reaching out to landowners who have been contacted by the program in the past and surveying new areas to reach out to landowners who have not had any communication with the program. Since March, she has performed 30 site tours with landowners, where she walks the property with the landowner to help them identify weeds and develop a treatment plan. She has also been teaching landowners how to safely treat weeds. She has also been treating common tansy on private properties and reaching out to landowners around Lake Sutherland about orange hawkweed. For the rest of the summer, she will be focusing on

going out to the west side of the county to speak to landowners about tansy ragwort and perform surveys of areas that the program hasn't spent a lot of time at in the past. Fred Grant asked about the poison hemlock that he saw at Carrie Blake Park during the logging show. Sam spoke about reaching out to landowner and he was able to remove it after the hemlock started flowering. Fred and Christina spoke about who has maintained that area in the past. Christina mentioned how the inspection program has grown and become much more effective since the assessment increase allowed the program to hire a full-time inspector. She is impressed by the positive results that the program has seen so far and the amount of public outreach Sam has been able to do. Christina mentioned that the program had to initiate enforcement proceedings against three landowners. Two of the properties controlled their regulated weeds and the program had to hire a contractor to remove the weeds from one of the properties. Christina briefly mentioned the role that the Board plays in hearing these cases and that there may be a weed enforcement hearing at the next board meeting.

Next, Christina reiterated the program's focus on trying to eradicate common tansy on private and public lands and the communication that she and Sam are having with private landowners and public agencies about treating this weed. Christina showed the Board hairy willowherb, a rare class B-designate noxious weed in the County, and described some of the infestations in the County. She also mentioned that two new milk thistle infestations were found and controlled.

The program is still working on the renewal of the Lake Sutherland Management District. Christina mentioned that the renewal vote had just happened and landowners voted for renewal by 96.7%, which is a testament to the professionalism and effectiveness of the program. Christina described the next steps and brought samples of Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed to show the Board and talked a little about the weeds.

Christina talked about the three seasonals that the program was able to hire, including a seasonal who will be focused on knotweed control. Christina has been working with one seasonal, Rachel, on Forest Service lands in both the Sol Duc watershed and the Jimmy-Come-Lately and Dungeness watersheds. Christina mentioned the spotted jewelweed infestations that are increasing along a Forest Service road between Snow Creek and Woods Rd and has gotten into a creek in the Jimmy-Come-Lately watershed. For knotweed work, the knotweed seasonal Kari will start soon and the program sent letters to landowners along Ennis Creek asking for permission to treat.

Joe mentioned the importance of controlling tansy ragwort based on seeing the infestations in Mason County. Joe mentioned that despite an early start, there are new poison hemlock and tansy ragwort growth on roads and pits. He mentioned focusing on treating tansy ragwort in Sekiu. Joe has been surveying pits that were scheduled to receive rock material, working on public requests and retreating infestations. Joe mentioned how great the seasonals have been to work with. Joe then spoke about some of the areas that need to be checked, such as the pits on Hoko-Ozette Rd. He also also been surveying private pits for weed-free certification and working on

removing Italian thistle, a Class A weed, from a few sites. Many local pit owners are excited to work with the program and are keeping their pits weed free. Bruce Paul mentioned that there was a pit east of Port Angeles that looked like it was moving material with Scotch broom. Christina promised to reach out to that landowner. Joe spoke about partnering with different agencies and crews to locate and treat weeds. Getting an early start on treatment has helped with weed control on roads.

Financial Report:

The Board had received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina mentioned that biggest portion of the assessment is received in April and October and that the LMD assessment was just voted to be increased. Christina asked if there were any questions. Total expenses between April 1st and July 12th were \$71,382.42 and included payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues received from April 1st to July 17th totaled \$120,947.60 were comprised of assessment collections as well as payment for services from the Roads Department, Lake Management District and Jefferson County. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of July 12, 2024 was \$267,029.58. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) during April through July 12th were \$2,189.02 and were comprised expenses for the renewal of the LMD, such as advertising expenses in the local newspaper and office supplies. Revenues during the same period totaled \$11,538.81. The LMD 2 fund balance as of July 17th was \$42,720.60.

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

New Business:

2025 Budget

Christina reminded the Board that the program is responsible for two budgets – Noxious Weed Control and the LMD. Christina spoke about purchasing the new truck for the program. Christina briefly spoke about the County's budget, as well as her goal of hiring another full-time person in 2025 and where that revenue would come from. In the past, the Roads program went through WSU Extension, but going forward we will have a contract directly with the Roads Department. Christina spoke about reallocating money already in the contract to allow for hiring the additional employee. Christina spoke about some of the changes she has proposed for the 2025 budget. The total budget has not changed. Christina described some of the updates on the program's goals and performance markers that more accurately reflect what the program is currently working on and how we collect data.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 weed control budget. Bruce Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.

For the Lake Management District, landowners just voted to raise the assessment, which is now reflected in the 2025 budget. Christina spoke about the changes that she has proposed for the budget and the expanded goal to other non-native invasive plants. *Eric Adolphsen made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Lake Management District budget. Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fred Grant thanked Joe and Sam for their hard work. Joe asked for an update on the kochia infestation along Hwy 101. Christina spoke about the program's removal effort and working with WSDOT to remove it.

Bruce Paul mentioned the orange hawkweed blooming in Forks. Christina and Sam will be surveying Joyce and Forks in the next week. This year will be focused on introducing ourselves and educating the public about noxious weeds and landowner's responsibility to control them.

Bruce asked about the difference between common tansy and tansy ragwort. Christina talked about the differences between the two, including the different flower shape and life cycles. Dan mentioned seeing large tansy ragwort along WSDOT properties in Kitsap County. Christina mentioned that the Port Angeles WSDOT crew has been great to work with. Bruce asked about contacting PUD. Christina mentioned that there has been staff turnover and she is hoping to reach out to them to restart conversations. Christina announced that the leader of the Master Gardeners's RWMT, Bruce Pape, passed away recently. He had been instrumental in creating the program that monitors the program's roadside treatments.

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the April minutes. EA initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports, EA initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve 2025 Noxious Weed budget as drafted, EA initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve 2025 LMD budget as drafted, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for October 22nd at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner's meeting room. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator