

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
November 13, 2024 special meeting
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Clea Rome (ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John (coordinator), Sam Fischbein (weed inspector)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Keith Parsons, Clallam County citizen

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Christina explained that the weed enforcement hearing was delayed due to the landowner requesting more time to prepare. The County Prosecuting Attorney and Christina agreed to move the hearing to the board meeting to be held on January 28th, 2025.

ADOPT MINUTES:

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the July minutes as drafted. Roberta Stoneman seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Board Updates/Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Staff Reports

Inspection/Outreach Program

Sam explained that she has been working hard since starting this year and has been processing all the information that was given to her by Christina and the notes from previous inspectors. She stated the 3rd quarter statistics – 1700 unique contacts (speaking to landowners, calls, emails), 752 unique website visits (1289 YTD), 25 landowner notifications, mostly for tansy ragwort. Many letters were initial letters introducing people to the program, what tansy ragwort is and that it is required for control. The program monitored 190 sites, primarily for tansy ragwort, meadow knapweed, common teasel, poison hemlock and hoary alyssum. The program has sent 351 landowner notifications for the entire year, ranging from early reminders, first letters to second and third letters requiring control, primarily for poison hemlock, tansy ragwort, common teasel, common tansy. The program has spoken to over 2,200 people and monitored 405 sites. Of sites that received letters, 149 parcels were compliant. Sam has

been encouraged by the feedback that she has received from landowners who would like to control their noxious weeds. Christina and Sam have performed 40 site visits and treated rare noxious weeds on 95 private parcels and manually removed 9,500 plants.

Since this is the end-of-season review, Sam went through the 12 goals that were set out for the Inspection/Outreach program and approved by the NWCB at the April meeting. She plans on updating the database during the winter and identifying goals for the new year, including expanding outreach and educational opportunities. Sam mentioned that in-person contacts were the most effective at teaching people how to control weeds. Sam described our survey protocol for determining whether weeds are present or not at historical sites. Sites with rare weeds were treated this year. Sam has been manually treating very small infestations of regulated weeds on private properties. She has been performing the removals with landowners to show them how it is done. The program has reached out to many more landowners with common teasel, which was highlighted in the 2024 goals. The program will focus on treating weeds that span between private properties and County ROWs in 2025, with focus on weeds causing infrastructure issues. Sam would like to expand educational outreach efforts for Italian, milk and Scotch thistle. Sam highlighted the educational events that the program attended in 2024 and some of the potential groups to speak to in 2025. Lastly, Sam will work on website materials over the winter.

Christina mentioned that 2024 is the first year that the program has had a full-time weed inspector and it has made a huge difference, allowing us to reach out to more landowners and ensure that infestations are getting controlled. Christina mentioned that in 2024 we discovered that some Italian thistle infestations were actually milk thistle infestations, so we need to increase outreach about milk thistle. Site visits have increased drastically and landowners really appreciate the one-on-one consultations, which empowers them to start controlling their weeds.

Roadside Integrated Weed Management.

Christina then spoke about the roadside, Forest Service and knotweed programs that the Noxious Weed Board worked on in 2024. She started off by giving a shout-out to the wonderful seasonal crew that was working for the Noxious Weed Board this year. They were hard workers who were passionate and up for anything, and the program was able to accomplish so much more work than we have in the past.

Joe was unable to attend the meeting, so Christina spoke about the roadside weed management program. The program performed 174 treatments, focusing on tansy ragwort, which grew very well this year due to our rainy August. Overall, the crew treated 189 roads and surveyed an additional 238 roads, visiting 71% of District 1 roads, 87% of District 2 roads and 85% of District 3 roads. Tansy ragwort was found on 115 roads. The program visited almost all county pits and had success with our new spring treatment methods. We are continuing to treat Italian thistle on County ROW and performed weed-free surveys for 16 private pits and 4 DNR pits. We had 5 volunteers donate 44 hours to water the pollinator plants at the Deer Park interchange and the

plants have been responding well. We are getting more information on what pollinator species are doing well. Planting began this week.

Dan Peacock mentioned the tansy that was growing in along Hwy 112 in Joyce and that he decided to pull it. Christina mentioned that WSDOT did a good job treating weeds east of Lake Crescent and were not as responsive west of Lake Crescent. Christina mentioned that the program will be monitoring WSDOT weeds closely in 2025. Dan then mentioned the program's efforts to remove Scotch broom along East Beach Rd and successful Scotch broom treatments by Olympic National Park.

Lake Sutherland Management District 2

The LMD has officially been renewed/recreated! Currently the program is at the last step of reappointing the LMD Steering Committee. This will be the last year that Cathy will be diving and she is training a new diver, Lisa. The two divers combined performed 18 dives and removed 676 plants. We are excited to get Lisa on board as our diver going forward.

Forest Service Project

Since the program was fully staffed with great seasonal technicians, we were able to get many more projects completed this year. In 2024, we completed 22 of the highest priority projects and 2 secondary projects, including revisiting the special botanical areas of Cranberry Bog and Pat's Prairie. We also partnered with the Backcountry Horseman of Washington to treat Canada thistle in meadows in the upper Dungeness watershed and the FS and Quileute Crew to treat yellow loosestrife at Snider Work Camp.

The Forest Service work was dominated by spotted jewelweed, which has spread from east Jefferson County to Clallam County along FS 2850. In 2024 it was found in the Jimmy-Come-Lately watershed, which is an important creek for local tribes and has healthy salmon populations. The program spent 13 days treating jewelweed, treating 1.1 miles of the creek and wetland. We have also worked with other stakeholders to increase our reach in 2025. Christina mentioned how jewelweed has degraded wetlands in the Dickey watershed.

Knotweed Projects

In 2025 the program had a full-time seasonal, Kari, devoted to knotweed work, who was the perfect fit for the project. The program partnered with a few other groups to treat knotweed in 9 different watersheds. Christina mentioned that the program held two OIWG meetings, which were well attended by a number of different weed control groups on the Peninsula.

Christina briefly mentioned that the program also performs weed control for the Department of Community Development and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Financial Report:

The Board received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina asked if there were any questions. Christina mentioned that the LMD assessment has been increased with the renewal, stabilizing the fund. Total expenses between July 1st and October 31st were \$108,619.92 and included payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues received from July 1st to October 31st totaled \$63,816.35 were comprised of assessment collections as well as payment for services from the Department of Community Development and reimbursement through the WSDA knotweed grant. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of October 31, 2024 was \$232,568.13. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) during July to October were \$17,457.06 and were comprised of diver payments and expenses related to the LMD renewal, such as advertising expenses in the local newspaper and office supplies. Revenues during the same period totaled \$5,210.71. The LMD 2 fund balance as of October 31st was \$30,474.25.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to accept the financial reports, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed. Later in the meeting, Eric Adolphsen made a motion to accept the staff reports, Dan Peacock seconded the motion.

New Business:**Draft 2025 Meeting Schedule**

The Board received the 2025 schedule in their packets. The schedule is the same as previous years, where the meetings are on the 4th Tuesdays in January, April, July and October at 4:30pm.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A member of the public, Keith, described his frustration with Scotch broom growing unchecked along state highways and asked if there was any way that WSDOT could be encouraged to control it. Christina has described previous attempts to work with WSDOT and PUD. While Scotch broom is not required for control, there is a lot public interest in removing it, so Christina promised to reach out to WSDOT and PUD to encourage removal. Keith mentioned that it affected his allergies and would like to see it removed. Christina talked about the Master Gardener project to determine what native vegetation and procedures that could keep Scotch broom out. Christina mentioned that she would like to restart conversations with WSDOT and PUD about Scotch broom control. Dan Peacock mentioned that he knew the new PUD commissioner who might be interested in helping in this matter and that he would reach out to them.

Bobbie Stoneman wondered if it was possible to change a listing of a noxious weed to require it to be controlled. Christina briefly mentioned the procedure, the type of weeds

and promised to speak out it more fully in the January board meeting. The determining factor is whether all seed production can be prevented in one calendar year, and Scotch broom does not meet that criteria. If a weed does meet that criteria, the County Noxious Weed Board can select it for control during the January board meeting. Even though a weed is not required for control, the County Noxious Weed Board can still encourage control. Dan Peacock asked for a weed control pamphlet on Scotch broom.

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the July minutes. EA initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule. RS initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for January 28th at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner's meeting room. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator