

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
January 28, 2025
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Adolphsen, Fred Grant, Bruce Paul, Dan Peacock, Roberta (Bobbie) Stoneman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Clea Rome (ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Christina St John, coordinator; Samantha Fischbein, inspector

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: Jay Reno and Madison Deckard (Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney), Jeffrey Cole, Don Crawford (Clallam County Parks, Fairs and Facilities), Cathy Lear (Clallam County Department of Community Development), David Allen (Shore Road Nursery)

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. Christina went over the agenda for the meeting. Introductions were made all around.

WEED ENFORCEMENT HEARING – CASE 001-2024

The appeal hearing for an enforcement action (Case 001-2024) that occurred in 2024 was the first item on the agenda. Jay Reno, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, representing the Noxious Weed Control Program, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the noxious weed law and the hearing process. Identical hearing notebooks with material pertaining to the case were given to all Noxious Weed Control Board (NWCB) members, the defendant (Jeff Cole), the prosecuting attorney and NWCB staff members. First, Jay questioned Sam Fischbein about her background and her work in monitoring and contacting the defendant about the regulated weeds on properties owned by Willow Creek Manor, Inc. After finishing his questions, Jay asked the NWCB if they had any questions for Sam. They did not. Next, Jeff Cole questioned Sam Fischbein about her contacts with him.

Jay then questioned Christina St John about her background and her work in monitoring and contacting the defendant about the regulated weeds on properties owned by Willow Creek Manor, Inc. After finishing his questions, Jay asked the NWCB if they had any questions for Christina. Bobbie Stoneman asked Christina about the timing, efficacy and feasibility of chemical control of the weeds on the Willow Creek Manor properties. Christina answered these questions and mentioned that chemical control was not required to comply with the law. Next, Jeff questioned Christina on multiple topics, including the program's history of contacting him about regulated weeds.

Next, Jay asked Jeff a few questions clarifying his ownership of Willow Creek Manor, Inc, his knowledge of the enforcement action and his actions to control weeds on the properties in question. Jeff was then able to address the NWCB about the enforcement action and the history of regulated noxious weeds on his property. After he finished, Jay discussed the decision-making procedures that the NWCB should follow regarding the enforcement action.

The NWCB decided to continue with the rest of the meeting and break into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the case before making a decision.

WEED LIST PUBLIC HEARING:

Christina gave a quick overview of the new species added to the 2025 Washington State Noxious Weed List – roundleaf bittersweet and marsh thistle and the proposal to add English (feral/wild) holly. She then listed the noxious weeds proposed to be selected in Clallam County. After she finished, Fred Grant opened up the weed list hearing to public comment. David Allen spoke about the importance of continuing to control spurge laurel, English holly and herb Robert. Hearing no other comments, the public comment period was closed.

Roberta Stoneman made a motion to adopt the list as drafted. Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed. The 2025 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 2025 Integrated Weed Management plans could be found on the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control website.

The County Parks IWM plan was discussed first. Don mentioned that the County Park's Master Plan was in the process of being updated and they are planning on incorporating the noxious weed plan into that document. Christina mentioned that the program is hoping to survey for noxious weeds in County Parks to build a case to fund a noxious weed removal program. Christina also spoke about a new herbicide, HighNoon, that was added to this IWM plan and the other two IWM plans.

Bruce Paul made a motion to adopt the Park Department 2025 IWM plan. Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Cathy Lear spoke about the partnership between the Noxious Weed Department and Department of Community Development. Christina spoke briefly about the treatments performed in 2024, all of which were performed within the Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration Site. Christina then briefly discussed the 2025 priorities.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the DCD 2025 IWM plan as proposed, Roberta Stoneman seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Christina presented the 2025 Integrated Weed Management plan for the Roads Department. She gave a brief overview of 2024 work on County roads, pits and special sites, as well as the pollinator planting projects. She mentioned how the program prioritized which weeds and roads to focus on treating. She highlighted the proposed changes for the 2025 IWM plan, including adding a couple of new Special Sites, adding HighNoon as an approved herbicide and mentioning the new roads that have wild basil savory infestations.

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the Road Department 2025 IWM plan as proposed, Bruce Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.

Board Updates:

No updates at this time.

ADOPT MINUTES:

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the November special meeting minutes as drafted. Dan Peacock 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. Program staff worked on reports, planting and prepping for the next season. Sam spoke about creating noxious weed fliers to help the public learn about how to ID and treat noxious weeds. Christina mentioned that the program will be giving many public presentations over the next couple of months.

Financial Report:

The Board received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Expenses from November and December totaled \$58,483.00 and were comprised of payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues during the same period totaled \$52,322.44 and were comprised of assessment collections and payments for services from the Roads Department, Lake Sutherland Management District 2, WSDA knotweed grant, Department of Community Development and Jamestown S'Klallam tribe. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of December 31, 2024 was \$226,407.57. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) for November and December were \$6,432.61 and were comprised of professional services and reimbursement to CCNWCB. Revenues during the same period totaled \$2,136.74. The LMD 2 fund balance as of December 31 was \$26,178.38. Christina asked if the Board had any questions. They had none. Christina highlighted that the program was still waiting for part of the Forest Service reimbursement for 2024 work.

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:

Christina asked if there was any interest by the Board to make a comment in support of the listing of English holly as a Class C noxious weed. Christina offered to speak on behalf of the Board during the State Weed Board's public hearing on the listing. Bobbie and Bruce both expressed support for listing holly as a noxious weed. Christina spoke about how the State Weed Board has worked with Washington holly growers to make sure that the listing would not affect their business. Bobbie spoke about seeing holly invading old-growth forests and that it was time to begin controlling it. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to authorize Christina to speak on their behalf on their support for listing English holly as a noxious weed.

Roberta Stoneman made a motion to have Christina submit a public comment on behalf of the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board during the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's March 11th public hearing in support of listing English holly as a Class C noxious weed, Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was no public comment at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into executive session to discuss the enforcement hearing at 6:41pm. The regular meeting resumed at 7:00pm.

The Board decided to leave the enforcement decision as is, keeping the fee in place. Just in case it was needed, it was decided that the Board would pass a motion to keep the current financial penalties against Willow Creek Manor Inc in place.

Bruce Paul made a motion to leave the charges against Willow Creek Manor as they are, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.

REVIEW MOTIONS:

- Adopt list as drafted. RS initiated motion, EA seconded the motion, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Park Department's 2025 integrated weed management plan of work. BP initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Department of Community Development's 2025 integrated weed management plan. EA initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve the Road Department 2025 integrated weed management plan of work. EA initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt the November minutes. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Christina submits a public comment on behalf of the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board during the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's March 11th public hearing in support of listing English holly as a Class C noxious weed, RS initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Motion to leave the charges against Willow Creek Manor as they are, BP initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for April 22nd at 4:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator