Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
April 22, 2025
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's 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), Samantha Fischbein (weed inspector)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: None

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:
Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Adopt Minutes

Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the January Board meeting minutes. Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.

Board Updates/Correspondence

None.

Staff Report

Christina started the staff report by mentioning that the program has received approval to bring on an additional full-time staff member who will be able to work on contract, grants and at-cost weed control work. She also mentioned how excited the program was to receive their new work truck, a Ford Maverick.

Christina discussed the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's public hearing and vote that listed English holly as a Class C noxious weed. She gave testimony on behalf on the Board supporting the listing of holly as a Class C noxious weed. Roberta and Christina discussed finding holly in remote areas of the forest away from parent trees. Christina also discussed efforts to find a new database system that would work for the program. Christina briefly spoke about different events and community groups that the program attending. The program has been speaking with different land managers and agencies about their weed control needs. Due to being short-staffed, the program has not been able to take on as much work as normal.

Sam discussed the inspector program, including the number of landowners spoken to, notifications sent, number of sites monitored for regulated weeds and site tours performed.

Christina mentioned some of the other projects that the program is involved in. The LMD Steering Committee is putting together a newsletter to send to all landowners within the Lake Sutherland Management District. For our Title II Forest Service work, it appears that our funding is secure but there is always some uncertainty. There is a lot of weed work that needs to occur in the two future timber harvest units located in eastern Clallam County. Christina met with all the Forest Service partners to discuss priorities. For the WSDA knotweed grant, Christina sent out landowner permission agreements, focusing on Ennis Creek, and applied for the next round of grant funding.

For the Roads IWM work, Christina and Sam have had to fill in for the weed specialist, so fewer treatments have occurred. They have been focusing on treating poison hemlock. Volunteers have been assisting at the pollinator enhancement sites. The program has also been coordinating with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for weed control on their properties, especially for their conservation properties along the Dungeness River. The program also surveyed for lawnweed at various parks and treated weeds at the Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration Site. The Olympic Invasive Working Group spring meeting is scheduled for the following week.

Financial Report:

The Board received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting. Total expenses since January 1st were $95,051.84, and included payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, postage and supplies for various projects. Revenue between January through April 10th totaled $100,424.14 and was comprised of assessment collections, Title II reimbursement for 2024 work and reimbursement for January Roads IWM work. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of April 10, 2025 was $231,520.35. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) from January through March was $746.26. Revenues during the same period totaled $4,900.00. The LMD 2 fund balance as of April 10, 202 was $30,332.12. *Dan Peacock made a motion to accept the staff and financial reports, Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.*

2025 Work Plan:
The work plan contains the goals for the inspection and public outreach portion of the Noxious Weed Program. Christina again mentioned the importance of developing a new database that can allow us to efficiently track weed infestations and landowner contact information. Other goals include increasing landowner contact and resurveying for weed infestations that have not been surveyed in a few years. The program has funding to help landowners treat rare noxious weeds, such as hoary alyssum, common tansy and milk thistle. The program would like to update the website and handouts with new pictures and increase our community events. We are also able to assist landowners who have infestations adjacent to infestations on County rights-of-way. We would like to increase outreach to farmers about milk and Italian thistle and acknowledge landowners who control their weeds. The program has begun to survey for spurge laurel and English holly. The work plan lists the infrequent regulated weeds found in the County. The Board did not have any questions about the work plan.

Sam discussed her process of communicating with landowners and how the inspection process works. The Board asked a few questions about landowner follow-up. *Roberta Stoneman made a motion to approve the 2025 work plan, Eric Adolphsen seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.*

New Business

The Board reviewed Resolution 1 regarding the Noxious Weed Control Board's decision on Enforcement Case 2024-001. *Eric Adolphsen made a motion to approve Resolution 1, Dan Peacock seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.* The Noxious Weed Control Board signed the resolution. It will be returned to the Prosecuting Attorney's office to be sent to the landowner.

Christina and Dan spoke about the restoration project that the Makah Tribe has been working on along the Big River. Rob McCoy will be speaking about it at the upcoming Olympic Invasive Working Group. Dan and Christina also talked about weed treatments near the Elwha River and landowners burning weeds.

Executive Session:

The Board went into executive session to conduct a staff evaluation at 5:21pm. The regular meeting resumed at 5:58pm. The Board declared themselves very satisfied with the coordinator's performance over the past year.

Public Comment/Announcements:

None.

Motion Summary:

- Adopt the January minutes: EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports: DP initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve 2024 work plan: RS initiated motion, EA seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve Resolution 1 regarding Enforcement Case 001-2024: EA, DP

Next Meeting/Adjourn:

The next board meeting was scheduled for July 22nd at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner's meeting room. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

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Christina St John, coordinator