

**Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board**  
**July 26, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**LOCATION:** Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Adolphsen, Bruce Paul, Dan Peacock, Roberta Stoneman

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Fred Grant, Clea Rome (ex-officio)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christina St John (coordinator)

**GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED:** None

**MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:**

Eric Adolphsen called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

**ADOPT MINUTES:**

*Dan Peacock 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 expressed concern about an unknown plant that was growing along the Hoko-Ozette Rd. It has a single stem with a white bloom on top. He also noted that it has been about a month and a half since the road has been mowed, so plants have had time to regrow. Staff promises to investigate this unknown plant. Bruce Paul mentioned that he heard positive feedback about the weed treatment along Mary Clark Rd, especially the treatment for Scotch broom. Christina mentioned that she had multiple positive interactions with community members while working out there.

**Staff Reports**

Christina was able to hire two seasonal technicians for the summer season, both of whom started working in late June. There have been some staff changes, with the weed specialist leaving in mid-May and the weed inspector leaving in late July. Christina interviewed for the weed specialist position and hopes that the position will be filled by mid-August. The announcement for the weed inspector position should be submitted by the end of this week. The weed inspector position has been reclassified so that it is at an equal pay grade with the weed specialist position.

Due to staff shortages and the transition period between coordinators, the program has been focused on the highest priority projects within each program. In the last quarter, 70 non-county owned sites were monitored and 1984 plants were removed, including many large poison hemlock plants. Scotch thistle, an uncommon weed in the county, was found at two new sites. Christina provided handouts about Scotch thistle and described

some of its characteristics and areas where it has been found. This quarter the program has sent out 48 landowner notifications and estimate that we have had about 70% compliance, with some larger landowners not complying. We obtained 16 new landowner agreements and have made 171 public contacts by phone, drop-in or email.

For our work with the US Forest Service, we have completed 5 DNR pit surveys. Christina and the board discussed the pits and the progress made within them to control noxious weeds. Christina described a grant program that USFS is applying for that could potentially provide Student Conservation Association interns to CCONWCB during the summer season. As of the board meeting, the program had completed 19 high priority projects on Forest Service land.

Christina reported the accomplishments related to the Road Department Integrated Weed Management Plan. A conditional offer of employment was made to a candidate the day prior to the meeting. As of July 26, the program had surveyed and treated 25 roads, 4 special sites and 4 county-owned pits. Many of the county pits were treated early in the season with a new herbicide and we will be resurveying those pits in the coming weeks. The program has also started watering on the Deer Park slopes and Olympic Discovery Trail berm site in Agnew. At Deer Park, we have had 7 volunteers who have signed up for watering. Christina described the great partnership with the Clallam Conservation District in recruiting and signing up volunteers.

Christina also discussed the RVMT study of PUD land along Highway 101 west of Lake Crescent. The RVMT were able to describe the presence and abundance of Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry within PUD's right-of-way, though the study was complicated by PUD's recent mowing. Christina and the Board discussed ways to supplement the study and additional areas that may be appropriate for determining the most effective way to control Scotch broom infestations.

Cathy has been working diligently at Lake Sutherland and has been diving one or two days a week. She has completed one circuit of the lake over four dives and has removed 239 plants.

### **Financial Report:**

The Board had received the financial report and transactions since the last meeting in their packets. Christina asked if there were any questions. Total expenses since April 20<sup>th</sup> were \$59,615.26 and included payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues during April through June totaling \$45,085.77 were comprised of assessment collections as well as payment for services from the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of June 31, 2022 was \$270,760.85. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) during April through June were \$579 and were comprised solely of indirect. Revenues during the same period totaled \$9,293.49. The LMD 2 fund balance as of June 31<sup>st</sup> was \$56,294.61.

*Bruce Paul 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:**

### **2023 Budget**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023 budget. Christina provided a comparison of the 2022s budget with the proposed 2023 budget. Some salary and benefit increases were anticipated in the budget due to cost-of-living increases. Due to a few different factors, including the transition period where two coordinators are on the payroll, the beginning fund balance for 2023 is lower than it has been in recent years. Christina and the Board discussed the pros and cons of recommending to the Clallam County commissioners to raise the assessment fee, which has not been raised since it was implemented in 2000. The Board agreed that we should investigate raising the assessment rate. Christina will initiate that process and provide the board with more information during the April 2023 board meeting. The Board expressed support for both budgets as presented.

*Bruce Paul made a motion to approve the proposed 2023 weed control budget and Lake Sutherland Management District budget. Roberta Stoneman seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor none opposed.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None at this time

## **MOTION SUMMARY:**

- Adopt the April minutes. DP initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff and financial reports, BP initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve 2023 noxious weed and LMD 2 budgets as drafted, BP initiated motion, RS seconded, unanimous approval.

## **NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:**

The next board meeting was scheduled for October 25th at 4:30 p.m. It would most likely be held at the County Courthouse in the Commissioner's meeting room. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

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Christina St John, coordinator