

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
October 25, 2022
Minutes

LOCATION: Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Harvey Martin (weed specialist), Christina St John (coordinator)

GUESTS / AGENCIES REPRESENTED: None

MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Fred Grant called the meeting to order at 4:27.

ADOPT MINUTES:

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

Board Updates/Correspondence:

Roberta Stoneman informed the Board about a neighbor who had recently learned about her and other neighbor's efforts to kill herb Robert. This neighbor spends a considerable amount of time in the Olympic backcountry and found a butterfly bush within the Elwha valley. After consulting Roberta, he was able to return and kill the butterfly bush.

Dan Peacock described finding cinnabar moth caterpillars on tansy ragwort on his property. The group discussed different locations where they have been found and the extent of damage they can inflict on tansy ragwort.

Staff Reports

Christina St John passed out a handout and discussed the similarities and differences between spotted jewelweed (a Class C species selected for control in the county) and spurless jewelweed (a native). New populations of both jewelweeds have been located within the county this season and are difficult to distinguish unless flowering.

Staff reports began by acknowledging that Cathy Lucero, CCNWCB coordinator for 25 years, had retired at the end of August. Her passion and spirit will be missed! Harvey Martin, the new weed specialist, was introduced and she spoke about her background. Christina then discussed meeting with the Clallam County CFO and County Commissioners to discuss the 2023 budget. Everyone was supportive of pursuing a weed assessment increase as long as there were measurable goals to track how the increased fund would be spent.

Staff shortages during the treatment season constrained the amount of work that the program was able to complete, but Christina expressed pride in what the team was able to accomplish. The program surveyed 41 non-county owned properties, assisted 6 landowners

with treatments and spoke to another 13 landowners about treatment options. Christina presented at or provided informational material to multiple groups interested in noxious weeds. Cathy continued her work at Lake Sutherland treating Eurasian milfoil, completing 12 dives this quarter (18 YTD) and removing 1175 plants. For our work with the US Forest Service, we treated 33 high priority sites and an additional 6 secondary sites. We surveyed 175 acres and treated 156 acres. We focused on priority areas identified by the Forest Service, including the Bonidu and Kugel sale areas, Jimmy-Come-Lately and Dungeness watersheds and FS 2620. Staffing shortages precluded an intense treatment of knotweed this year, but the staff joined the 10,000 Year Institute for two days to treat knotweed in the Bogachiel and Quillayute watersheds. We also treated two knotweed patches on private properties.

Harvey took the lead on summarizing the work relating to the Roads Department Integrated Weed Management Plan this season. Despite staff shortages, the program was able to survey and/or treat 117 roads, covering 225.9 miles. The program was successful in completing most high priority roads for each district, with 27 out of 36 roads completed for District 1 – East Clallam County (75%), 28 out of 34 roads completed for District 2 -Central Clallam County (82%) and 17 out of 19 roads completed for District 3 – West Clallam County (90%). Total, 89 acres were treated with herbicide and 3270 plants were removed manually. The top 5 species treated were tansy ragwort, Scotch broom, meadow knapweed, herb Robert and poison hemlock. Twenty-five out of 26 pits were treated, with 314 acres treated with herbicide and 1101 plants manually removed. Harvey discussed the pits that will receive special attention next year: McInnes, La Push Ballard Pit and Whitcomb-Diimmel. Harvey also discussed the massive effort made this season to water our pollinator plants at Deer Park and the ODT Berm, highlighting the efforts of volunteers, who were crucial to the effort.

Christina finished the staff reports by discussing partnerships with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to treat Himalayan blackberry and knotweed at the Dungeness Levee removal project, working with WSDOT and PUD to treat patches of regulated weeds on jointly managed lands and treated regulated weeds as well as weeds of concern on land managed by Clallam County Parks and Department of Community Development.

Financial Report:

The Board had received the financial report in their packets. Christina asked if there were any questions. Expenses during July through September totaling \$80,458.10 were comprised of payroll, equipment rental, travel, county indirect, and supplies for various projects. Revenues during the same period totaling \$2,431.00 were comprised of assessment collections. The Noxious Weed Fund balance as of September 30, 2022 was \$192,733.75. Total expenses for the Lake Sutherland Management District (LMD 2) during July through September were \$4,896.00 and were comprised of indirect and professional services. Revenues during the same period totaled \$897.35. The LMD 2 fund balance as of September 30th was \$52,295.96.

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:

Draft 2022 Meeting Schedule:

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. *Eric Adolphsen made a motion to adopt the schedule as presented, Bruce Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor, none opposed.*

2022 State Weed List

Christina spoke about the potential listing and Class B designate changes that are proposed by the State Weed Board for 2023. The Class B designate changes would not apply to our county and Christina expressed satisfaction with our county's ability to fulfill our obligations to control all Class B designate species found in Clallam County. Christina also discussed the proposal to list feral holly as a Class C species. She discussed the rationale for listing feral holly, an explanation of the new definition of feral holly and some of the locations within Clallam County where feral holly is present. All Board members discussed issues that they have encountered with feral holly on their properties or in their neighborhood.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time

MOTION SUMMARY:

- Adopt the July minutes. EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Approve staff reports, EA initiated motion, DP seconded, unanimous approval.
- Adopt 2023 Meeting Schedule. EA initiated motion, BP seconded, unanimous approval

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN:

The next board meeting was scheduled for January 24th at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioners Meeting Room. The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:

Christina St John, coordinator