

## **Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes**

June 6, 2019

Noxious Weed Control Board Office, Room 2A02. Cathcart Way Operations Center

### **Board Members Present**

Lea Anne Burke

George Ohlsen

Kevin Zobrist – Ex-Officio

### **Others Present**

Geraldine Saw – Coordinator

William Agosta – State Weed Board Member for the  
Western Counties, Northern Tier

### **Approval of Minutes**

Lea Anne motioned to approve the February minutes as written. The motion was seconded by George and the motion was passed.

### **Public Comment**

William Agosta represents the State Weed Board for the Northwest Counties and he is also a San Juan County Weed Board member. He offered to attend county meetings under his jurisdiction. One of the goals that State Weed Board hopes to achieve is to have a more thorough interaction with the County Weed Boards. He reported on the possible changes that will be made on RCW 17.10 to bring the weed law up to date. The Director of Agriculture was planning to form a committee to work on the changes. Some of the things that are under consideration that the Coordinators brought forward are Board member composition. Some counties have difficulties filling vacant positions because of the agriculture involvement requirement. There are also counties who don't want the agriculture requirement change.

The law regarding weed control in forestry land may also change. Forestry land has been defined differently than other land parcels and the corresponding assessment is different. Other important changes include better clarification of the relationship between the State Noxious Weed Board and its' two employee. For the past 10 years, the Executive Secretary of the State Weed Board spent 40 percent of her time dealing with problems in the counties. There are some County Weed Board that have a negative relationship with the County Legislative Authority. William thinks it would be desirable to have the time spent by the State Weed Board employees written in the law. Ideally the State would prefer that the County Weed Boards be funded through assessment, so the funding are secure. Lea Anne asked if the State Weed Board can set priorities and directives to the County Weed Board. William replied that the State Weed Board may step in if the County Weed Board is not enforcing the law.

### **Coordinators Report**

Gerry gave a power point presentation on her report. The WSDA Spartina and WSDA knotweed grant will be ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Gerry will purchase supplies before the

grant ends. We will be receiving \$80,000 for the next two years for Spartina control beginning July 1, 2019. The DOE tree planting grant will be ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> and all the funds has been spent. The SRFB knotweed grant will end December 31<sup>st</sup>. Gerry is working with SWM to continue the knotweed project along the Stillaguamish River. She has written a new proposal for \$200,000 to treat knotweed and reforestation.

Gerry has been working on treating all Class A noxious weeds because of their small numbers. She followed up with previous giant hogweed, shiny geranium and eggleaf spurge sites. A new garlic mustard site was reported by a public. It is located in a park belonging to the City of Mountlake Terrace. Gerry is waiting for permission from the city to treat the site. Biological control for Scotch Broom, thistle and purple loosestrife were released. This is one of the control methods used in weed management. We will also release larvae for poison hemlock soon. Last month, Gerry along with the coordinator of Skagit and Whatcom County gave a noxious weed ID presentation to about 60 WCC crew members.

Three seasonal crew members were hired to work till the end of October. One of the members had worked for us for the past three years. She is hoping to hire one more seasonal. They are tasked to treat poison hemlock, tansy ragwort and other noxious weeds along the roadside. Other tasks include treating weeds in the county's mitigation sites for tree planting.

We will also be staffing a booth during the Sorticulture Garden Arts Festival which will be held June 7-9 in Everett. The festival draws a crowd and we will be able to reach out to many visitors. We will also host a Citizen Science Early Detection Rapid Response Reporting and Identification of Invasive Plant Workshop on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The workshop is joint effort between the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council, WSDA, DNR, the National Forest and Parks, and the county noxious weed control board. In July we will staff a booth for Kla HaYa Days. Gerry's upcoming plans for the season is to train the seasonals and new assistant, conduct knotweed and spartina treatment, make tansy owner contacts, treat the county roadside for noxious weeds and staff a booth at the Evergreen State Fair.

Kevin was featured on the front page in the Everett Herald last weekend. Western hemlock is dying in some areas and the likely suspects are a fungi known as rhizoctonia and drought. He gave presentations during events such as the Forest Health Seminars and were often well attended. People are concern and want to understand tree mortality. The next seminar will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Granite Falls library.

## **Old Business**

### **Assistant**

Gerry reported that interviews were conducted in May and a candidate was selected. HR will have to do a background and reference check before offering the position.

## **New Business**

### **Enforcement**

Gerry said that previously there were talks between Road Maintenance and PDS regarding the possibility of PDS handling noxious weeds enforcement if there is a need. Gerry will follow-up on the status of process.

### **Other Business**

No business was discussed.

### **Next Meeting Planning and Agenda**

The next meeting will be a field trip held on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Location to be determined.

George made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Lea Anne seconded the motion.

Adjourn at 10:40 am

Respectfully submitted by: Geraldine Saw