

**Chelan County**  
**Noxious Weed Control Board**  
Meeting Minutes March 14, 2017

**Board Members**

Fred Smith - Chair  
Dirk Veleke  
Joe Grentz  
Ken Bauer  
Jim Johnson, absent

**NW Dept. Staff & Guests**

Mike Mackey, NW Coordinator  
Julie Sanderson – NW Field Supervisor  
Jean Postlethwaite - Recorder  
Valerie Flores - Guest

**Open Meeting:** Board Chair Fred Smith opened the meeting at 1:33pm

**Consent Agenda**

1. Dirk Veleke moved and Joe Grentz seconded a motion to approve minutes of the December 2016 Board Meeting as presented. Dirk asked several questions for clarification of the record. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred introduced Chelan resident Valerie Flores of Chelan who is pursuing a degree in Botany.

**The regularly scheduled meeting was recessed at 1:40 pm for a public hearing.**

**Hearing:** 2017 Chelan County Noxious Weed List Hearing

**Staff report:** Julie

The only change to the 2017 State Weed List to affect Chelan County reclassified Ravenna grass from Class A to Class B. There are currently 37 cases of Ravenna grass in Chelan County; 10 escaped ROW, the remainder intentionally planted. As a selected Class B property owners are required to control by preventing seed production and cutting off the seed heads. Moving this plant to our County Select List will give property owners the flexibility to manage control while permitting us to enforce control if necessary. Our recommendation is to add Ravenna grass to our County Select List.

**Public comment:**

Nancy asked if we had a Class C list. Julie replied our County list includes A, B-Designate and B & C Select, selected for control in Chelan County. That list is on our web site.

**The public hearing was closed at 1:50 pm and the regularly scheduled meeting was reopened.**

## **Action items**

1. Joe Greutz moved and Dirk Veleke seconded a motion to approve the 2017 Chelan County Noxious Weed List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Coordinator Report**

1. Staffing (our 8 month position) is not filled yet. Two candidates were interviewed but were not selected. The ad is on the College job board, Craig's list and the County web site. The goal was to fill the position by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and we continue to seek applicants. Discussion followed.
2. Grants, old and new. We have obligated most of last year's grant funds.
  - \$5,000 is currently available to spend for weed control on County-owned properties
  - \$8,391 remains for the Knotweed Control project and will be spent by June 30. We have applied for another grant for approximately the same amount of money
  - \$13,000 – through Cascadia Conservation, \$10,000 contracted to WSU Extension for bio-control activity and \$3,000 for Noxious Weed staff time. Insects will be distributed throughout the 2015 Chelan burn area. Target plants include Dalmatian toadflax, Diffuse knapweed, St. Johnswort and Purple loosestrife
  - \$5,000 remains for the 2017 Crupina Weed Management. We are coordinating activity with the Forest Service; they are working on public lands and we work on privately owned property.
  - There is no RAC committee so we have no Title II for 2018.
  - \$74,000 applied for through the WA ST Dept. of Ecology; it is currently under review in Olympia. Funds will be used for survey and treatment of Flowering Rush in the Columbia River. The Chelan County Noxious Weed Control is a cooperator with 10 other agencies in this effort and will manage the grant.
  - There is a possibility of a Dept. of AG Forest Health Grant(s) for Wild four o'clock and other small projects.
3. Spring spraying special projects. Two areas of focus are (1) Stehekin runway presenting a severe infestation of Rush skeletonweed over 35 acres. The Park Service is contributing in kind amounts for boat tickets, etc., and (2) Stayman Flats with 12-15 acres also Rush Skeletonweed. Our plan is to provide the chemical and property owner(s) will provide the labor for spraying. (3) Nancy will be spraying ROW for Yellow hawkweed infestations in the county ROW in the Yodelin subdivision, and Julie will work with the WADOT to treat yellow hawkweed on their ROW near Stevens Pass. Discussion followed related to possible chemicals.
4. Budget 2017  
Our budget is "better than it's ever been" with a balance of approximately \$49,000. Staff limitations, grant reimbursements and our graduated assessment all contributed to a stronger bottom line. We will begin collecting the 2017 assessment in April. As revenue increases a new truck will be purchased in 2019.

## **Other Reports**

1. Education outreach (Jean) See attached report.

2. Our Weed Management Workshop for 7 credits (Julie, Jean, Mike) was February 21. Beginning in 2018 the workshop will always be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in February. Approximately 60 persons attended the workshop; many pre-registered and paid in advance. Dale Whaley provided clickers to complete an on-line evaluation at the end of the day. 90% responded including a high percentage 75% of government agencies with the rest private individuals or commercial applicators. Favorite topics include herbicide selection, and sprayer calibration. Proceeds from the Workshop are used for additional Continuing Education activities, equipment and supplies.
3. Legislature - just one Senate Bill No. 5754 regarding management of noxious weeds on state lands. It has passed the Senate and is now in the House committee process. The bill will amend RCW 1710.170 to permit liens to be placed on State lands if noxious weed control activity has not been reimbursed.

### **Board Members Roundtable**

Irrigation Districts and weed control - Joe asked about noxious weed control along ditch corridors emphasizing weeds are spread on and off the ditch ROWs from adjacent properties. He has never seen the Icicle Ditch managers spray anywhere along that corridor since 1952. This is an issue that applies to all Irrigation Districts. Fred said Ditch managers all go to the same winter irrigation meetings. He suggested if we focus on 1 or 2 irrigation districts, word will get around.

Zebra Mussels - Fred asked if there was any news about zebra mussels. Mike replied Sean Seaman represents the Chelan County PUD with Invasive Species Council. They are working with the WA ST Game Department regarding zebra mussel and House Bill No. 1429 will address the problem.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Dirk moved and Ken seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

***Next meeting date will be Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.***