

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes September 12, 2017

Board Members

Fred Smith - Chair
Dirk Veleke – Vice Chair
Joe Greutz
Ken Bauer
Jim Johnson

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

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

Open Meeting: Board Chair Fred Smith opened the meeting at 6:30pm

Action items

1. Dirk Veleke moved and Ken Bauer seconded a motion to approve minutes of the June 13, 2017 meeting as corrected.

Coordinator Report

1. Update on Items from June Meeting

Thistle Control

Leavenworth infestations have been mowed. Plumeless thistle in Lower Eagle Creek is being controlled and thistles in the Squilchuck vicinity have been sprayed by the owner.

Hoary alyssum

Infestation on Entiat River Road has been sprayed, continues to be monitored and pulled when found. A site visit with owner on Mud Creek Road revealed additional plants growing in a field of Timothy Hay. It is a small field however the hay is being sold, which is of concern.

Rush skeletonweed

- Mike has been monitoring the treated plants in Stayman Flats. He also returned to the Chelan Airport with Vicki Gempko of the National Parks Service. There has been a significant reduction of Rush skeletonweed.
- Terry and Mike sprayed plants in a wedge-shaped area about 10-15 yards wide between Hwy 97A and Hwy 97. Mike has notified DOT of the infestation.
- Dale Whaley, WSU Regional Extension Specialist reported Rush Skeletonweed along the highway near Chelan-Okanogan County border. Okanogan Noxious Weed Control Board and DOT have been notified.
- Julie revisited the sites near Alcoa after the area had burned; nothing was growing at the time however regrowth may flourish now; she will continue to monitor the area.

2. 2018 Budget – The 2018 Budget is much like that for 2017. The total estimated budget for 2018 is \$503,752. The assessment is increased to \$6.75 per parcel. Specific line items to note are (1) \$94,250 which is a pass through of funds from the Department of Ecology for Flowering Rush Survey/Removal, (2) \$20,000 Capital Investment toward the future purchase of an additional vehicle, (3) \$35,000 for a full-time Field Surveyor. The complete budget itemizations are included as separate document in the official minutes. Discussion followed.

3. Ravenna grass and Puncturevine
 - Ravenna grass remains a sensitive but so far successful emphasis. Ravenna grass in Chelan County is most often found in residential and commercial landscaping. Most property owners are complying to control requests and cutting the flowering stalks before they can go to seed. Property owners who will not comply will be billed \$100, after consensus of the Board, for removal of stalks by our Noxious Weed Department staff. This money will be applied as a lien to the property and added to the property tax bill if the owners do not pay. Julie described the notification and inspection process which includes an educational or annual reminder letter, a second letter announcing the inspection of properties for compliance, the actual inspection, and follow-up contact as needed. Discussion followed.
 - Puncturevine
We currently have approximately 250 cases that are in the revisit stage. These include owners who have been previously contacted and who have indicated to us their plans to control. Revisits will confirm their control activity and help to focus our efforts on those who either do not understand how to effectively control the weed or who are simply not complying.. Discussion followed.

4. State Noxious Weed Control Board Update

Recommendations from State Noxious Weed Control Board – The State Noxious Weed Control Board will be considering several requests for the 2018 Weed List. They include:

- Reclassifying Spurge flax from a Class A to potentially a Class B
- Adding Small flowered jewel weeds to the Class A List
- Adding Coltsfoot and Malta starthistle to the Class B list
- Adding Downy brome or Cheatgrass, hybrid Watermilfoil and Spotted jewelweed to the Class C list
- Designation changes to Butterfly bush and shiny geranium for Thurston County
- Providing education about, but not listing, Foxtail grass
- Not removing any of the species the Committee had discussed for now

5. Dept. of Agriculture Task Force on RCW 17.10 Legislative Committee Update
To better address revisions to RCW 17.10 and ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, WSDA will take a more active role by creating a Noxious Weed Task Force. It is hoped that by selecting members from the State Weed Board, county weed boards and coordinators, county commissioners and representations from WSAC, WSU, conservation districts and the timber and agriculture industries legislation can be created or revisions proposed that reflect current social, economic and environmental conditions. Discussion followed.

6. Grant funds carried forward to 2018
There are no funds available for Crupina control in 2018. With no WRAC Committee or mechanism at the Federal level to approve members, Title II money will not be available. We will have \$23,750 from the Washington State Department of Agriculture to continue the Knotweed Control Project. Discussion followed.

Board Members Roundtable

Dirk asked about follow-up on weed prevention discussion when property owners are applying to Community Development Department for building permits. It seems those documents require noxious weed "control". Julie added sometimes sub-divided lots are left undeveloped for years. It is at the sub-division stage through short or long plats where an ordinance could officially require both noxious weed prevention and control on undeveloped lots. Mike and Julie will draft a proposed resolution to the County Commissioners for the Noxious Weed Board to consider at the December meeting.

Dirk also described a large infestation of Russian thistle and other weeds in the Chelan Fruit warehouse district as an example of this kind of weed infestation on recently cleared land. Discussion followed.

Meeting Adjourned

Ken moved and Dirk seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Next meeting date will be Tuesday December 12th at 1:30 P.M.