

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes June 11, 2013

Present:

Board Members

Ken Bauer
Fred Smith
Joe Grentz
James Johnson
Dirk Veleke

NW Dept. Staff

Mike Mackey, Coordinator
Julie Sanderson
Kelley Carlson
Terry Lillybridge
Jean Postlethwaite

Open Meeting - Ken

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve minutes for previous Board Meeting was made by Joe Grentz, seconded by Fred Smith and passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Early Spring Notifications

We are continuing follow-up of cases as control plans are returned. For most cases confirmation of treatment is obtained through emails or phone calls. A few cases with histories of noncompliance require field visits and that is done when necessary. Our policy agreed to by the Board is to collect documentation of 2 years of noncompliance before taking legal action which involves obtaining a warrant to enter the property and control the noxious weed(s).

2. Knotweed Project Status

2012 Summary:

As of early October of last year:

- All known Knotweed sites on our control list have been treated.
- The exceptions: 3 newly-discovered sites and 25 non-participating cases.
- Because we started treatment earlier last year we were able to treat almost twice as many new sites (not previously-treated) as we had originally anticipated.
- Approximately 280 sites were treated in 2012 (161 previously treated, 119 new). This number is an approximation because in Mission Creek overhead canopy precludes getting accurate GPS locations for the 78 known knotweed sites. We did our best with printed maps and written notes and estimated that about half of the 78 sites needed to be treated.
- In general, dry site knotweed patches are more easily killed than those in wet sites. Multiple treatments are often necessary on wet sites.

Early preparations for 2013 Season:

- Re-visit notices were mailed in early May to all participating landowners (414 knotweed patches). This notice explained our plan to re-survey all known knotweed sites in Chelan County starting in early June. It also indicated that we would only be re-treating sites that exhibit significant, relatively healthy re-growth (sites that have just a few weak or deformed sprouts will be treated next year, if necessary).

Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons.
Dave Barry

- We will start to gather data about the success of our 2012 treatments within the next few weeks as we begin re-visiting our monitoring sites and will present that information to you at our next meeting in September. Treatment will begin as soon as possible. Revisits of most sites will include spraying at the time of inspection, when possible.

3. Early Spray Projects

About 20 acres of County-owned property at Chelan Falls at the new trail head was treated for apple sprouts, Dalmation toadflax and blackberry using back-pack sprayers. Skeletonweed along Hugo Road has also been treated.

4. Knotweed Injection /WSDA Outcomes

Following treatment last year with injecting glyphosate directly into the Knotweed stems a Wenatchee woman called to report her grass was dying where dead canes were laying 8 months after the knotweed had been treated. She had mowed them over, left them for 2 days then raked away the debris.

The WA State Dept. of Agriculture was contacted. Their soil tests revealed the presence of Glyphosate in the soil under the dead canes and in pieces of stem and grass far over the label limit. Tim Miller, WSU Extension works with glyphosate and Knotweed and will be working with the representatives of chemical manufacturers to revise the labels.

5. Complaints' and Responses

We've received more calls requesting information and help than to complain. Complaints we do receive are in the nature of requests. One such request, Kelley participated in, was the coordinated effort by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County PUD and private land owners in the Maiden Lane vicinity south of Horse Lake Rd. to spray for Whitetop. As those efforts move forward the PUD may use a helicopter for more cost-effective and efficient treatment. BLM, a large land owner in that area is not presently involved in the project.

6. Crupina Activity

Julie was at Lake Chelan for 3 days May 2-4 and for 8 days May 16-23 with WCC crews to help spray private property and adjacent FS property. Two days of rain required hand pulling and prompted Julie to talk to one land owner to allow spraying next year. He has signed a permission form.

7. Grants

Grant funds have been extremely important to our work. We currently have 5 fund accounts; Fund Account Chart illustrates the balance at the beginning of the year for each account and the remaining balance. We received an extension of the Dept of Ecology Watermilfoil grant to June 30 next year. The County Interfund provides \$10,000 annually for treatment on County property, difficult ROWs and along fence lines.

8. New Web Site

The web sites for all County Departments are being revised and moved to a new web server. Jean has been working closely with the IT Web Master to create a new look for the Noxious Weed Web page that is useful to everyone, interesting, current and humorous.

9. Road Signs

Mike introduced the graphic for display on 4'x6' a sign to be posted along a County Road.

10. Bio-Control

Dale is busy collecting insects for Diffuse knapweed and Dalmation toadflax.

11. DOT/Tribal/National fish hatchery Weed Management

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Dave Barry*

Mike has been working closely with the DOT to get ROWs sprayed. The Colville Tribal authority has sprayed 123 acres in the vicinity of Mill Bay using Woodland Resources, Inc.

12. Budget

We currently have \$62,000. Another \$5000 grant will be used early this summer and \$16,000 will be reimbursed for expenses incurred April 1 to June 30, 2013. We won't need to borrow until possibly October, but that is unknown. Mike passed around the County Financial Status Report for May. The NW department is a stand-alone department and has spent only 47% of our budget.

13. Move to a New Building

The County Commission bought the building next door across the alley and will move our staff this summer. Costs for furniture and furnishings are to be covered by the County.

14. Douglas County Weed Control

Alison Halpren, Ex. Dir. emailed Jim Dietro Okanogan County Commissioner requesting he act as liaison to encourage the Douglas County Commission to replace the current Noxious Weed Task Force with a Coordinator and Weed Board. Any subsequent action is the responsibility of the State Dept. of Agriculture, the State Noxious Weed Board and the State Attorney.

Other Reports

Board Members Roundtable

1. Dirk asked about Musk thistle in the Colockum. Julie will schedule a survey of the area with Marc Eylar, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Coordinator. Dirk also asked if the County will spray Chelan Butte Rd.; the roadside is invested with knapweed and should be treated with Tordon using a truck.

2. Joe asked about the status of the discussion of treating some C-class weeds on ROWs. Internal policy suggested by Dirk that even though we aren't going to treat Dalmation toadflax except on the ROW and in the case of complaints. With respect to weeds on the State B list but not designated in Chelan County, we can make that determination as to where and how to control. Mike will draft a policy and present it to the board at the next meeting.

Joe also referred to the noxious weeds on the Rex King property adjacent to his. Past control efforts or lack of prove the need for field verification before a case is closed. New farm safety programs such as Global Gap require any visitor to agricultural property sign in at the office of or with the land owner and request permission before entering the property.

A phone call or email requesting permission to access the property may be adequate in most cases, property rights and protocol need to be respected in any enforcement action. Mike will draft a written policy and present it to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Next meeting date: September 10, 2013 at 6:30pm

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