

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes Sept. 10, 2013

Board Members

Ken Bauer
Fred Smith
Joe Grentz
James Johnson
Dirk Veleke

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, Coordinator
Jean Postlethwaite
Kelley Carlson
Tayna Russell

Open Meeting - Ken opened the meeting at 6:35 pm

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve minutes for the previous Board Meeting was made by Dirk Veleke and seconded by Joe Grentz, The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Susan Hinkle, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney – Discussed RCW 17.10 issues relative to (1) entering private property without a warrant and (2) the type of documentation required to request a judge issue a warrant. The current Board policy requiring the board be polled prior to requesting a warrant be issued is illegal. The Board is required to call a special meeting. Her comments are summarized below:

- Enforcement actions are allowed pursuant to RCW 17.10. Each step in the process involves a required amount of time and attention to detail in terms of the method of communication, waiting periods and required response depending on the class of weed and circumstance. For a right-of-entry to be issued, the Noxious Weed Board must have already contacted with the owner and received a signed consent form describing the purpose for entry, what weed(s) are the object of the inspection and the search area.
- The consent form also allows the owner to withdraw consent for entry at any moment. Without consent to request a warrant, you must document a history of noncompliance, describe the program to the court, the class of weeds covered and the violation of RCW present on the property. If you can see the weeds from the road or a neighbor gives permission to view them from the adjacent property with verbal consent a warrant is not required. Without the neighbor's consent you need a warrant. For purposes of documentation, it's always better to get a signed consent form. Susan creates a Court pleading and asks the Court for a warrant to inspect and take specimens and take any control or eradication necessary.
- The court determines the action to be taken and may restrict the scope of activity. The court may also want to know what relationship exists between the Weed Board and the Weed Agent, ie what policy, communication and direction has been issued. The Open Public Meetings Act in the State of WA requires scheduled meetings and agenda.

2. Move to 410 Washington St.

Furniture will arrive on the 18th and we will be moving as soon as it is in place.

[The address originally provided by the US Post Service was corrected to 412 Washington St. after the move and initial notifications were mailed. The building actually has 2 address assigned to it, 410 and 412.]

3. Kenny Evans process

Kenny Evans is a Manson resident with a history of noncompliance with weed control requests. Manson Growers granted access to the Noxious Weed Control Dept. and after sending certified letters, Mr. Evans was served with a warrant.

4. Noxious Weed 2014 Budget Draft

Increases in cost of living, retirement and health insurance necessitated the Office Assistant position be reduced to 32 hours a week. Grant funds are declining and most budget categories are significantly lower than 2013. \$70,000 in Contractual Services are in anticipation of grant dollars; if those funds are not in the budget they can't be spent. \$349,877 budget is more than last year's budget primarily due the \$70,000. Revenue income beginning balance includes Title II, WA St Ecology \$70,000, Knotweed \$45,000 and perhaps \$5,000. The Assessment for 2014 is \$212,000 Assessment of which we typically receive \$185,000 after exemptions, delinquents etc.

5. Case files and Follow-up

We have more than 1,752 cases.

6. WSWA meeting in Wenatchee

Spanish sessions will be held in Wenatchee at the WA ST Noxious Weed Association Conference in 2014 and 2015.

7. Other Reports

- Knotweed Control by Tayna Russell. We have 30 sites left to inspect or treat. Field work started in June, a month earlier than the previous year, and 21 new sites were found. Patch sizes are smaller with fewer stems and 2012 treatments on some sites weren't as effective as we had hoped possibly due to the early frost last year. All we have left for 2014 is the updating of final site visits and writing the final report.
- Biological Control by Dale Whaley. He released 1800 insects on knapweed, 75 releases on 29 different sites. Next year the focus will be on Purple loosestrife, galls for Canada thistle, Yellow star thistle and Diffuse knapweed.

8. Board Members' Roundtable

Discussion focused on the Musk thistle inventory and plans now that the area has burned and flooded twice.

Joe Grentz moved and Dirk Veleke seconded the motion to adjourn.

Ken Bauer, Chair closed the meeting at 3:00pm

Next meeting date: March 11 at 1:30pm