

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

Board Members

Dirk Veleke, Board Chair
Fred Smith
Joe Grentz
James Johnson

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, NW Control, Coordinator
Julie Sanderson, Field Supervisor
Jean Postlethwaite, Office Assistant

Open Meeting – Board Chair Dirk Veleke called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Training – Open Government, Cathy Mulhall

In 2014 the State legislature revised the (PRA) Public Records Act described in RCW 42.56 and the (OPM) Open Public Meetings Act described in RCW 42.30. The legislature requires training for State and Local agencies and the Legislature to a limited extent. In doing so it also required these governing bodies be trained in the requirements for maintaining open public meetings and managing public meetings. Cathy Mulhall presented a video training highlighting the Open Public Meeting Act. In 2014 the OMA was amended require all agendas be posted on line 24 hours before the meeting. Elected or appointed members of Boards and other governing bodies are required to complete this training.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve minutes for the December 16, 2014 Board meeting. Fred moved and Joe seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Education update - Julie Sanderson.
 - The following presentations have been in 2015:
Master Gardeners Weed Class
Chelan County Weed Board Recertification Class Weedy Grasses presentation
Kiwanis Club Spring Weed Chores and Noxious Weed Awareness
Cascadia Conservation District's Native Planting 101 Weed Management presentation
Okanogan County Weed Board Recertification Class
 - Spring Reminder Letters were sent to government agencies and large land owners to thank them for their cooperation and to remind them to be looking for early spring noxious weeds. General reminder Letters were sent to private property owners controlling Whitetop. Letters were also sent to 13 Irrigation Districts; 6 have replied. Julie will follow-up with those who have not responded. Another general reminder letter will be mailed the first week of April to property owners controlling various late spring-early summer noxious weeds. And the final mailing for the year will be in June to property owners controlling Puncturevine. Biocontrol will activities will continue in coordination with Dale Whaley.

Discussion followed.

Dirk: There's a biocontrol agent now available for Russian knapweed.

Mike: *J. ivannikovi* an insect which USDA has recently approved for control of Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), has been available as a biocontrol agent for the weed.

2. Grant Opportunities – Mike

- There are few new grants. We applied for funding from WA ST Department of Agriculture to continue the Knotweed Control Project 2 more years. The funds have not been awarded; we anticipate receiving about \$45,000.
- We received \$5,000 from WA ST Department of Agriculture which will provide \$3,000 for boat tickets for an extra Crupina crew to work on private property. And it includes \$2,000 for Wild four o'clock continued monitor and spray activity.
- The aquatic inventory of Columbia River and Lake Chelan will be completed by June 15, 2015.

Board Members Roundtable

Dirk: Hypothetically, what do you do if you found a new Class A weed in the County?

Mike: We would treat it immediately. A good example is the Class A Flowering rush. Jennifer Parsons alerted Mike about the location of Flowering Rush in the waters of the Columbia River, located in Douglas County across from Entiat Park.

Joe: Is there a foreseeable end to the Crupina Control project?

Julie: The footprint on private land is being reduced due to our continued aggressive control activity. It's difficult to control; it's an annual, it grows in rugged, steep terrain, it produces lots of seeds that animals eat and poop it out readily.

Dirk: Chelan Butte Road has about 5 miles of road sides that are full of weeds. Burch Mountain Rd. lower also needs to be treated.

Mike: I've talked with Nancy Redlin about noxious weeds in those areas. Her truck won't travel that terrain but she has a contractor that may be able to do the work.

Dirk: Has the Colockum been surveyed for Musk thistle?

Mike: It was surveyed and treated before the fire. A flood followed and then another fire. Mike contacted the Game Department and offered to survey and spray again for weeds, if our costs were reimbursed. No action was taken.

Fred: Can Kittitas County Coordinator, Mark Eycler and Chelan County NW Board write a joint letter to the State Game Department?

Mike: I will speak with Mark at the Weed Coordinators Conference.

Meeting Adjourned

Joe moved and Fred seconded the motion to close the meeting.

Board Chair, Dirk Veleke adjourned the meeting at 3:16 pm.

The next meeting will be **June 9, 2015 at 6:30pm**