

**Chelan County**  
**Noxious Weed Control Board**  
Meeting Minutes June 14, 2016

**Board Members**

Dirk Veleke – Vice Chair  
James Johnson  
Ken Bauer  
Joe Grentz

**NW Dept. Staff & Guests**

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

**Open Meeting**

Vice- Chair Dirk Veleke called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**Consent Agenda**

Joe moved and Ken seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting as mailed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Coordinator Report**

1. Letter from legislative committee on RCW 17.10 clarification:  
Wes McCart (?), Representative of Washington Association of Counties is acting Chair of a WSNW Board Committee re clarification of NW 17.10. The purpose is to discuss how RCW 17.10 may be updated to reflect current practices of the State's County Weed Boards, consider changing the job title of weed coordinators, clarify the definition of the role of weed boards, the process by which County Weed Board members are selected and community involvement. These are preliminary discussions.  
  
Discussion followed during which the Board requested Mike send to each member a copy of the letter form Alison Halpern, WSNWB Executive Secretary which provided more details.
2. Contract with Cascadia Conservation Dist./ WSU MOU:  
We signed a \$13,000 contract with Cascadia Conservation District for insect collection and a \$10,000 MOU with WSU Extension to allow Dale Whaley. This is a 2 year bio-control program ending June 30, 2017 and will provide insects above and beyond what we normally receive for other bio-control insect releases. The remaining \$3,000 will be used to purchase additional insects for release in areas infested with Dalmation toadflax, Diffuse knapweed and St. John's wort. Additionally the PUD is releasing insects for aquatic plants along the Columbia and other areas where needed.
3. New Hire: Ky Sjolander:  
Ky Sjolander has been hired as a seasonal summer employee. He replaces Kelley Carlson and will be spraying weed infestations where directed, conducting regular inspections in Wenatchee as described in the next section. He recently helped Mike and Julie on a Musk thistle survey in the

Colockum area on nearly 4 sections the County recently acquired. .

4. Field Work:

The County has been divided into geographic areas for the purpose of survey, site visits and case management. Each staff member including Mike has been assigned an area and is responsible for all activity in that area. Mike's area is Entiat north to the County line and west to Stehekin. Mike continues to monitor the Chelan neighborhoods for Wild Four o'clocks and chemically treat any new plants. To date he has discovered just 2 plants; they were sprayed. He did find an infestation of Wild four o'clock in a 200-yard stretch along the Entiat River Road. D Julie manages the area west of Wenatchee from Monitor to Leavenworth, Stevens Pass, Lake Wenatchee and Plain. Ky's area includes Sunnyslope, Wenatchee, Wenatchee Heights, Malaga and Three Lakes vicinities. Both Ky and Jean will be working together in the greater Wenatchee area on the Puncturevine Control effort.

Discussion followed. Dirk asked about the relative man-hours on the ground and Mike provided further clarification of the above. Dirk also described another infestation of Wild four o'clock up the Entiat River on a power-line road. Dirk will show Julie and/or Mike on a map at a later date.

5. Enforcement Notice:

New owners of an empty lot have been unresponsive to uncooperative. The lot is infested with Scotch thistle and is fully grown and in bloom. Julie notified the owner in writing of our intention to control the weed at the owner's expense if he does not take immediate action. She asked for the Board's approval to take any necessary action. Dirk moved and Ken seconded the motion to allow the Department staff to chemically treat and remove the plants if necessary at the owner's expense.

6. Medussahead, in Chelan County:

Medussahead, a winter annual grass proven to be worse than Cheat grass has been found in Chelan County. Julie received a citizen report of the plants growing in the April Lane neighborhood. A subsequent survey of properties resulted in 3 properties on which the plant was thriving. Julie will notify about 40 property owners in the immediate vicinity of our intention to survey the area for Medussahead and explain the plant is new to the area, the threat it presents and information about its control.

## **Other Reports**

1. Benefits of Insect Bio-Control:

Mike presented a dramatic set of before and after pictures taken in the Swaukane Canyon clearly presenting the difference insects made in the area on an extensive infestation of Dalmation toadflax. Insects were released there in 2012 and the pictures taken in 2016 presented a striking absence of the weed. A total of 7,000 insects have been released this year with more to come targeting a number of species. They have been supplied by Dale Whaley, WSU Regional Extension Specialist and Jennifer Andruss, WSU Integrated Weed Control Project Coordinator.

2. Knotweed Control Program:

Site monitoring is beginning 2 weeks earlier than last year and preparations are underway to mail about 200 Permission Forms to property owners with Knotweed still actively being managed. Each signed form authorizes continued site monitoring and treatment as needed for 5 years expiring in 2021.

## **Board Roundtable**

The following topics were discussed:

- Process of managing an extensive case load
- Insect kill after last year's fire storm
- Musk thistle found near a Stemilt orchard on Amigo Rd.
- How to increase awareness leading to treatment of weeds along irrigation ditches
- WA State Parks Department, Andrew Fielding in Wenatchee office and his connection to money for treatment necessary in State Parks

**Meeting Adjourned.** Vice Chair Dirk Veleke adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

The next meeting will be **September 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm**