

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes March 8, 2016

Board Members

Fred Smith - Board Chair
James Johnson
Dirk Veleke – Vice Chair
Joe Greutz

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, NW Coordinator
Julie Sanderson – NW Field Supervisor
Jean Postlethwaite - Recorder
Nancy Redlin – Chelan Co. Public Works
Vegetation Management

Open Meeting – Board Chair Fred Smith called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

Consent Agenda

Dirk moved and Fred seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. Weed Certification Workshop – Julie

The Weed Certification Workshop was very well attended with a large and diverse group. A total of 63 attendees registered in the morning and 53 returned for the afternoon. Dale Whaley of WSU Extension stepped in with an impromptu talk on Sprayer Calibration after a last minute cancellation. For the first time we included a presentation on using goats for weed control. [We also have 2 vendors on our vendor list who will consult with property owners regarding use of goats.] Mike will contact the Colville Confederated Tribes about using goats to control Himalayan Blackberry.

Dirk asked if Bruce Olson's presentation provided any new information. Julie replied there are some changes to the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) but if applicators read labels responsibly there should be no problem. Icicle Irrigation wanted to attend but had already committed to the WSU Extension 2-day Weed Management Workshop.

2. Educational events in 2016

Julie has given 3 presentations to date to the Chelan County Master Gardeners with a 3-hour presentation for beginning students on noxious weed identification and a 2-hour Roundtable for advanced Master Gardeners. Julie also partnered with Cascadia Conservation District with a presentation for the session Native Planting 101. We attended the annual Outdoor Sportsman Show at the Town Toyota Center Saturday February 27. The WA ST Coordinators' meeting starts Wed. March 8 in Chelan. Mike will be talking with Todd Brownlee DNR Aquatics Manager about developing a plan to systematically survey the upper Columbia for Flowering rush discovered during last year's survey for Eurasian watermilfoil.

Looking ahead to April we'll be attending Earth Day Festivals in Chelan and in Leavenworth. Then we have a busy summer interspersed with community farmers markets--4 Saturdays in Wenatchee at the Pybus Public Market and 4 Thursday evenings at Lyons Park in Leavenworth for the Thursday Market.

3. Crupina funding – Mike
\$3,200 dollars remain from last year's Title II funds. An additional \$25,000 will be made available for crews in 2016 and will be disbursed through the Chelan Ranger District on the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest. Discussion followed.
4. Fire rehab following the 2015 fires – Mike
Mike met with Chelan County Natural Resources Department to discuss Weed control in the area of the catastrophic 2015 fires. Chelan County PUD let a contract to WSU Douglas County Cooperative Extension agent Dale Whaley for \$10,000 for 2016 and 2017 to release insects onto large tracts of PUD Wildlife land affected by last year's fires. Noxious weeds to be targeted include Diffuse knapweed and Dalmation toadflax. Release points will be each side of the Columbia river. Discussion followed.
5. Musk thistle – Julie
Julie met with Pete Hagen and John Lopushinski to coordinate survey results and control efforts in the Colockum. The County now owns 3 sections formerly owned by a private land Timber Company. We plan to spend more time this field season in the Colockum and if necessary, we will hire someone to spray the Musk thistle. Discussion followed.
6. Summer staffing – We announced a position for a summer seasonal this week and hope to have the position filled in mid to late April. Tayna will return sometime in May and Terry will return in late May-June.

Other Reports

Board Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned. Board Chair, Fred Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

The next meeting will be June 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm