

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Meeting Minutes September 13, 2016

Board Members

Fred Smith - Chair
James Johnson
Ken Bauer
Joe Grentz

NW Dept. Staff & Guests

Mike Mackey, NW Coordinator
Julie Sanderson – NW Field Supervisor
Jean Postlethwaite - Recorder
Vickie Gempko - National Park Service

Open Meeting

Fred Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Consent Agenda

Joe Grentz moved and Ken Bauer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14th, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report

1. 2017 Budget - Mike

The 2017 Budget has been submitted to the Auditor and Mike will appear before the Board of Commission October for the Budget Hearing. The budget reflects a zero-based budget approach of \$381,000 in expenses and \$381,000 in revenue. A new line item titled Field Surveyor has been added to allow for a Field Surveyor position. This will be an 8-months position with full benefits and insurance during active employment. The budget also includes funding for 2 Extra Help positions dedicated to the Knotweed Control program. These are currently filled by Terry Lillybridge and Tayna Russell.

Discussion followed. Fred asked about the source of the increase in revenue in the 2017 budget. Mike explained it reflects the increased assessment inadvertently left out of the 2016 budget and carried over to the 2017 budget. It also includes carry over money from grants, money not spent during 2016 that can be carried over. Finally, the budget addresses the need for an additional vehicle.

2. Flowering rush Class A weed (Columbia River) – Julie

Flowering rush has not been found in Chelan County; it's actually on the Douglas County side of the Columbia River. Numerous clumps of Flowering rush were observed in a 300' stretch of around and near the bottom "barrier". This discovery poses a serious threat to Chelan County for several reasons.

- Douglas County has no Noxious Weed Board.
- Ownership of the River bottom and responsibility for noxious weed control on the River is unclear.
- Plants are believed to be growing on aquatic lands in private ownership requiring owners' permission to treat.
- The plant has spread both upstream and downstream, emergent in shallow water and in

- depths to 10'.
- Flowering rush is difficult to control. The plant presents by large rhizomes with cattail-like tops. It propagates by plant parts, turions or bulbs produced along the rhizomes and flowers that produce seed.

Greg Haubrich WA ST Dept. of Agriculture has called a meeting for September 26th in Wenatchee at the Noxious Weed conference room. The purpose is to resolve ownership thus responsibility for noxious weed control in the river in those areas, discuss how the control might be funded, options for a cooperative control effort and proposals for a long term strategy. \$2500 has been contributed by WSU Extension in Douglas County for 2017 EDRR.

3. Monitoring

- Columbia River Milfoil Class B - Julie and Aquatechnix contractor, Terry McNabb conducted two monitoring trips following the Eurasian water milfoil treatment. No new plants were found in the treatment area.
- Hoary alyssum Class B designate – We have one site in the Entiat vicinity about 10 acres
- Wild four o'clock Class A –Several sites have been treated and continue to be monitored in Entiat next to the old Entiat Substation in the ROW and in an orchard along the road. And two new sites have been found in Chelan. These have also been sprayed and continue to be monitored.
- Ravenna grass Class A – This is an 8' tall ornamental grass. In Chelan County we know of 6-7 plants in ROW that have been sprayed. DOT does not spray grasses along their ROWs, only trees and shrubs and other vegetation. We have requested the State Noxious Weed Board to change the classification of this plant to Class B in Chelan County. If it does become a problem it can be added to the County Select list.
- Rush skeleton weed Class B – A few plants have been found and sprayed along DOT ROW. Two plants were found on private land. Those plants and the immediate vicinity will be sprayed with Tordon. It has also been found around the airport at Stehekin and on private property. A permission slip has been signed. Federal dollars are available to fund treatment on private property with a signed Wyden agreement. Vickie Gempko, National Park Service is the responsible agent doing the control work. Vickie added that 2 WCC crews and a later spraying were effective in knocking down this plant together with hand pulling. They also secured additional funding from Holden Recreation for treatment next year. We are working with the Park Service to control Knotweed in Stehekin, having secured signed Permission Forms and Wyden Agreements.
- Common Crupina Class A – funding is in place for the 2017 control efforts.
- Scotch thistle Class B – this is an example of 'rapid response' to discoveries in the Stemilt Basin, Chelan and Squilchuck areas. All plants have been sprayed.

4. Thornsberry Knotweed enforcement - Julie

When landowners don't participate in the spray program and refuse to control the noxious weeds themselves, we proceed with enforcement. The plants have been sprayed, the owner has been billed \$250 and per RCW if no payment is received within the 60 days following receipt of the invoice, a lien will be applied to this property in mid-October. We could have two more cases that may need to be enforced next year, if the owners do not control.

Other Reports

1. Farmers Market & Salmon Fest – We have attended several farmers' markets and will be at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival this Saturday sharing a booth with the Invasive Species Council.
2. Staffing Fall and Winter

During the 'off-season' we have 3 full-time staff, Mike Mackey, Julie Sanderson and Jean Postlethwaite. Tayna Russell returns every 2-3 weeks to keep up with grant program management. In November the WA ST Weed Association Conference will be in Wenatchee and we will announce the open position there as well as through other outlets. The job search will begin early this year.

Board Roundtable

- Public Works Roadside Vegetation Manager Nancy Redlin has extra help and is now able to spraying on ROWs for Kochia and Puncturevine. We continue to spray noxious weeds on other County-owned property and areas not accessible by the Public Works truck and boom.
- Puncturevine – Continues to be a high priority with numerous new cases.
- Developers – Dirk asked about the status of efforts reach developers owning lots known to be infested with noxious weeds. We have worked with the Community Development Department and Item 7 on the dedication (General Notes) which every developer must sign cites RCW 10.140 as it applies to developers'/owners' responsibility for control of noxious weeds. Additionally, every complaint or discovery of noxious weeds on property owned by a developer receives immediate notification about the weed, the RCWs and their responsibility as land owners to control noxious weeds.
- Legislative Committee – A proposed change to RCW 17.10.150 to reinsert the original setback a buffer of 1,000 feet 17.10.150 requiring a setback buffer on large lots. This has not passed yet. An additional change to the language in RCW 17.10.050 regards the requirement for voting members, to "shall be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products". Fred Smith suggested adding "or retired" to the language to include a larger pool of knowledge and experience.
- Mike encouraged the Board Members to attend the WA ST Weed Association Conference. Fred Smith asked to let the Board members know about the Conference dates and times when the information is available.

Meeting Adjourned. Fred Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM. Joe Grentz moved and Ken Bauer seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be December, 2016 at 1:30 pm