

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, 2022
412 Washington St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Board Members Present

Mary Hill
Kirk Laird
Joe Grentz
Dirk Veleke

Board Members Absent

Jim Johnson

Others Present

Adam Pfleeger, CCNWCB Field Supervisor
Julie Sanderson, CCNWCB Coordinator
Tayna Russell, CCNWCB Office Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair Joe Grentz.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft minutes for the March 8th regular meeting. *Kirk Laird motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Dirk Veleke seconded. The motion carried.*

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Budget report

Julie Sanderson gave an update on the budget. Discussion followed.

2. Grant updates

Julie then briefed the board on recent grant project activities and funding. Julie also gave an update on progress with WSDOT assessments. Discussion followed.

3. Field season progress

Adam Pfleeger gave a quick update on field season activities. Staff did a hardware store herbicide inventory to get a better idea of what products local stores carry so we can tell landowners what's available.

General noxious weed reminder letters were mailed out in early April and puncturevine reminder letters were mailed in early June. Reminder letters include a control plan form for owners to fill out and return to us. We're already receiving lots of calls from landowners this season, mostly in response to letters they received from us, wanting help identifying the weed, where it's located and how to control it.

Something new for landowners this year is an option to fill out their control plan through a link on our website. Many landowners are taking advantage of the convenience of this new form.

Next week contractors are coming to do a 3rd round of herbicide treatments on the garden loosestrife in Fish Lake, using the remaining grant funding we received from the Department of Ecology. Follow-up monitoring visits have shown that past treatments have greatly reduced the size of the population.

The flowering rush sites located in the Rocky Reach pool will also get another treatment this summer, with more funding coming from RCO. Discussion followed.

4. Tree-of-Heaven project

WSDA awarded grant funding to numerous WA counties this year, including Chelan County, to survey for Tree-of-Heaven. Surveyor, Megan Whitmore, started survey work in early May and has made good progress. The focus is on agriculture, the railroad corridor, and public recreation areas. So far, the majority of what has been found through the survey has been in south Wenatchee. Tree-of-Heaven survey work will continue throughout the summer. The main concern with this tree is that it is the preferred host for the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. If this invasive insect shows up in our area, it has the potential to do catastrophic damage to local agriculture, including grapes, apples, and pear crops.

5. Education and outreach

Julie gave an update on recent education and outreach activities. Farmers' Markets are in full swing and staff will be attending a total of 10 markets this season. Julie has also been a presenter at 2 recent weed ID classes put on by Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and Cascadia Conservation District.

BOARD MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

The board had a brief discussion about volunteer groups who do weed control in public areas, among other things.

Dirk Veleke announced he will be resigning from the Weed Board in July. He gave a recommendation for his replacement. *Julie will follow up with this contact.*

ADJOURN MEETING

Dirk motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kirk seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Follow-Up Items:

- *Julie will follow up with the person Dirk Veleke recommended as his replacement on the Board.*