

# Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board Meeting

## June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Joyce Komac, Wendy McClure, Joanne Weber, Dana Coggon, Toni Probert  
Frank Allen: WSDOT, Mark Wargo: WSDOT, Carol Dargatz: Jefferson Co, Weed Coordinator, Peggy Hall, Scott Hall, Ray Willard: WSDOT.

**Minutes:** The May meeting minutes were reviewed prior to the meeting. Joyce moved to approve the minutes, and Joanne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes were approved.

**WSU Extension Report:** Dana announced the new Director of the WSU Kitsap County Extension office is Arno Bergstrom. Congrats! Toni Probert has been hired as the Program Assistant to the Noxious Weed Control program. Toni will remain the first contact office support person for the Kitsap County Extension, along with reservations for the extension office.

**Public Comments:** Scott and Peggy Hall of the Legacy Farm Project, presented their concerns over the maintaining of weeds on the Schold's Farm in Silverdale. They have been mowing the county owned property to control the weeds on their own time. They are concerned the county has not been maintaining the property. There are areas of this property which are under mitigation that inhibits mowing and reduce weed control. The Hall's would like to see the property to be maintained as agricultural or natural. A story will be printed in the Kitsap Sun newspaper on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> reported by Angela Smith, about the Schold Farm. All aspects of the current use will be reported. The Hall's will hold a meeting open to the public Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Silverdale Community Center, in the Evergreen Room. The Hall's want the public to be aware of what is/ or is not happening on this property. Dana sent an email to Department of Community Development saying the Weed Board stance of the Schold's Farm is to have the noxious weeds controlled. Dana handed out information on a "Weed Pull" which will take place at the Schold Farm on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

**DOT Presentation of Vegetation Management Plan:** Ray Willard of the DOT reported on a management plan the state of Washington has been working on this past year. It is now in a "Draft" stage. Ray represents the Olympic Region, Area 2 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. The DOT is looking at other possible methods of weed and vegetation control along state highway routes, from past years of herbicide usage. The draft plan lays out the DOT's policy on management of vegetation growth. The current management of vegetation is sequential. First-pavement edges-herbicides (checking on other alternatives that are not as toxic), second-shoulder areas are mowed, and third-weed management of noxious and nuisance. The goal of the DOT is to have mapped all state highways to identify problem areas and to receive input from each county's weed coordinator/weed board on where the infestations are and suggestions on how the DOT could best manage this areas. Ray would like this information in a month or two. Dana stated it would probably take a couple of months. Dana will make maps of the different weed district areas for Kitsap County. She will do a ride along with each Weed Board member, through their area. Once all the information is compiled we will send it to Ray. It was suggested the Weed Board possibly look into the "Adopt a Highway" program. Joyce said she would find out about this and report back at the July meeting.

### **Program Coordinator Report:**

The budget is basically the same as last month. Dana suggested reporting every two months, as there is not much activity currently. The attending board members thought it would be OK, but need to let the absent board members know. Joanne requested a hard copy be kept on record, if someone would need to refer back to it in the future. Dana will have budget copies on record in the extension office for review.

**EKOSYSTEM:** Tracy Bosen (Last name?) from Ekosystems presented a training on the Ekosystem software to Jane Wentworth, Arno Bergstrom, Toni Probert, and Dana Coggon on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the software program we will use to maintain a data base for our records for noxious weeds. Dana is requesting a new contract from Paladin with updated cost figures for the purchase. The I-Pac and handheld computer is not quite ready from Paladin.

### **Meetings Dana attended:**

Commissioner's meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Dana's attendance was to introduce herself to the commissioners. She suggested to the commissioners that it would be advantageous for them to set an example of weed control on county property. The Noxious Weed Control Coordinator and Board would like to work together with the Kitsap Department of Community Development (DCD) to formulate a plan for weed control on the Schold Farm property. Commissioners suggested a follow up meeting between the DCD and the Weed Control Coordinator and Board.

Commissioner's meeting June 13<sup>th</sup>. Dana presented materials on noxious weeds to the commissioners. The commissioners received a poster with noxious weeds, a flip-book with the "dirty dozen" noxious weeds for Kitsap County, postcards which will be sent to residences where noxious weeds have been spotted. These postcards ask the resident to contact our office for information on control of the weeds.

DCD meeting June 16<sup>th</sup>: Dana, DCD, the Hall's, a prosecuting attorney, and church members of the property adjoining the Schold Farm discussed future plans of the property. It was suggested the county needs to relook at how they are controlling the weeds on the property.

Kitsap Environmental Education Project (KEEP) Meeting. Dana attended along with Kitsap Education, Hood Canal Watershed Issues Committee.

### **Field Report:**

Dana requested the board to provide guidance on reporting to them about her contacts with the public. Would they like this information brought to the board meetings, sent via email-if so how often, weekly, bi-monthly? She has daily contact logs of phone calls, meetings with various agencies, examining public and private property. She is keeping a log of contacts, along with copies of letters sent and educational materials which are distributed. Discussion will continue at the July meeting.

Anderson Landing: Dana has been to the property pulling knotweed and laying a tarp out to dry the weeds on. The knotweed needs to be cut back a minimum of 3X in the season. She will be sending an email to Kitsap County Parks & Recreation to see what the county has in mind for control of weeds. Dana will give them support with education of eradicating the weed problem. Val from StreamTeam has been in contact with Dana about volunteers to help with research and weed removal. She stated volunteers could be used by the Noxious Weed Program to help with work at Anderson Landing. Would the board be interested in utilizing these volunteers? It was agreed upon for Dana to pursue this, so we can get started on Anderson Landing.

### **Education Materials:**

Dana passed out the posters she made for the Bainbridge in Bloom, "Washington Least Wanted" and postcards. Also, weed surveys have been revised. Toni has made pads of 20 surveys with an example on the back showing the required information to be filled in. These were passed out to the people in attendance. Dana put out a challenge for the board members, to return with a minimum of 4 surveys by next month.

### **Other business:**

Joanne had concerns about the DCD having correct email addresses for the Weed Board members. Dana will make a point of double sending any emails she receives which would be pertinent to the board.

Carol Dargatz-Jefferson County Weed Coordinator reported their county commissioners are not supportive of levying an assessment to fund the weed program. She is allocated to work 5.5 hours a week on weeds. This is not enough time to spend on noxious weeds. She has sent postcards to property owners identifying noxious weeds. Surveys have been done in the Port Townsend area but they are limited by the budget to do further

surveys. Dana suggested the Weed Board may want to attend the next Jefferson County Commissioner's meeting to give support for approving an assessment, or Dana stated she could draft a letter to the commissioners outlining our program and showing the benefit of an assessment. This will be discussed and decided on at the July meeting.

Joanne informed the board she had received a call from a person upset about some noxious weed educational material from supposedly the WSU Kitsap County Extension Noxious Weed Control Board, received in the mail about "sheet mulch". Dana stated she did not send any information to a constituent about sheet mulch. Dana also stated she would go back over her notes to make sure. Joanne will contact the person, get a copy of what they received and report back on this matter.

A board member requested that the board receive the agenda along with the minutes 2 weeks prior to the next meeting. Toni will be taking minutes at meetings and will give the minutes to Dana when typed. Peggy Hall requested she be on the email list to receive the agenda and minutes also. It was agreed to send them to her also. We will also post the agenda on the website for the extension.

### **Up Coming Events:**

Bainbridge in Bloom: July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Dana will be attending and supplying educational materials and advise on controlling noxious weeds.

Kitsap County Fair: August 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Dana would like the weed advisors and weed board members to take volunteer shift times in the Kitsap County Extension Tent. We will be introducing a new program this year at the fair. This will be in the form of a passport the public will receive at the extension tent. This is still in the working stage format. Dana will bring more information when the passport is finished.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M. Minutes respectfully submitted by Toni Probert, Program Assistant**