

Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board
July 19th, 2005 Meeting
7-9 p.m. Poplars Room
Silverdale Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M.

Present: Jane Wentworth, Joyce Komac, John Collins, Joanne Weber, Wendy McClure, Dana Coggon, Toni Probert, Arno Bergstrom, Peg Tillery, Becky Croston, M.J. Tyler

Minutes: Jane began discussion of procedures for meeting minutes. She requested Toni email the draft to the Board and Dana to review, and then submit back to Toni and Dana for final. Toni will then email minutes to weed board members a week before the meeting. The approved minutes will be posted on the website. The agenda will be drafted by the chairperson and Dana and posted on the website by Rhiannon prior to the meeting date. Dana questioned whether the Board should sign the minutes after approval. Dana stated Pierce County Weed Board follows this procedure at their meetings. Jane expressed that signatures are not mandatory as long as the approval by the Board is recorded. In proceeding to move on to approval of the minutes, Jane mentioned a typo in the paragraph about EKOSYSTEM, the verbiage (Last Name) needs to be removed. Correction will be made by Toni. Peg moved to approve the June minutes as corrected, and Joyce seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Announcements & Board Comments: No announcements.

Jane submitted an email she received from Steve McGonigal of the Washington State Weed Board. The Department of Ecology has provided county weed boards with an indemnity form regarding pesticide applicators. Jane suggested the Board might want to consider using the form. Jane and Dana will discuss this further and report back at the August meeting.

Joyce brought information about the Adopt-A-Highway program, which was requested at the June meeting. The informational sheets, along with a video were submitted for review. Questions were raised about what is required of the volunteer group, what areas are available for clean up, what equipment (if any) is provided by the Department of Transportation, have there been any volunteers injured while cleaning up the roadsides? Jane requested Toni make copies of the materials for the board members to review. Discussion about Board participation in the program will resume at the next meeting.

Weed Survey Challenge:

Last month Dana challenged the Board members to return at least 4 weed surveys at the July meeting. Jane, Joyce, Joanne, Becky, & Wendy all returned surveys. Dana thanked the members for their time and effort in locating noxious weeds in their districts of the county. Peg raised a question to Dana about a pasture near her residence, which appears to have tansy ragwort. Dana and Peg will set up a time for Dana to visit the site.

WSU Extension Report:

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Arno reported Dana has moved into her permanent office. Arno presented information on the Fair "Passport". There will be various stations at the fair where the public will visit and after viewing the exhibit will have the passport stamped. When completed, they will return to the extension tent to put their completed form in a container for a price drawing. Peg reported the Master Gardener Foundation's 2006 calendars are now for sale. They are available at various clinic locations, the extension office, and Barnes & Noble bookstore in Silverdale. Proceeds from the sales help support the Master Gardener Foundation.

Bainbridge in Bloom:

Jane and Dana reported the Noxious Weed booth at this event was a great success. All educational handouts were distributed on the first day. The weed display Dana created for the event was donated to the Bainbridge Island Weed Warriors. This event gave the noxious weed program great exposure to the public. Jane and Dana felt the public responded positively to the educational materials available to them. Dana spoke to the amount of time, effort and expense put forth for this event. The "Escaped Ornamentals" small poster which was available for handout, had upfront expense, but in the long run it will be a beneficial sheet that can be reproduced at reduced pricing, now that the template is set up with the print shop. Other materials for public handout are printed in the extension office. These materials are general in nature, so they can be used at any event in the county. For Bainbridge in Bloom, there were some materials "specific" to Bainbridge. Dana suggested for future events, if the materials need to be more specific, the event group could cost share in producing materials. Discussion followed and it was suggested that a minimum amount of materials could be provided for free, and then a nominal charge could be used to recoup production expenses? The board would like printed materials to be available on the extension website. Information could then be given on the location of the information for a customer to print hard copies themselves. There was some discussion on inviting the Weed Warriors of Bainbridge Island to attend the Noxious Weed Advisor classes this fall to provide more continuity between the two groups. Dana asked Jane if she would present information to the weed warriors about the weed advisors classes in the fall. This idea will be pursued further.

Schold Farm Update:

Dana reported there was a work party last month with about 10-15 people from Department of Community Development (DCD). Canada thistle was pulled and bagged. Dana noted that she feels it is too late in the season to use any herbicides to keep the weeds from going to seed. DCD took the bagged weeds to the dump at a cost of \$30.00. The Weed Board received a Memorandum for Record from Scott and Peggy Hall (See attached July board packet). The memorandum explained the recent history of the Schold Farm and the Hall's volunteer efforts on the property over the last few years. The Hall's have requested the board inform the county of the serious concerns and the efforts they have put forth to retain the agriculture environment of this property. Discussion followed with a decision for Dana to send a letter to the Hall's, DCD, and the county commissioners. This letter will explain what efforts have been taken this year to control the noxious weeds on the property. The letter will also address the need for increased efforts in the upcoming years.

Long Lake Funding:

On Monday, July 11th, Dana talked with Jim Bolger of The Department of Community Development. He informed Dana of a grant received by the county for \$750,000.00 to help control the aquatic weed problem in Long Lake. He would like to see the Noxious Weed Control Program (Dana) handle the contract management and oversee this project. A version of the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan was handed out to the board. The full version (100 pages) is available for review at the extension office. Dana would like to set up a meeting with the Citizens for Improvement of Long Lake and the weed board for Wednesday, August 3rd, 2005. Joyce stated we could use the Department of Transportation office for the meeting, located in Port Orchard. The board would like to review the plan and found out more information in regards to how much responsibility we would have as the overseer of this project. Jane would like more information on the M-1 Treatment proposed for the lake. Dana will email the information to Jane. More discussion will follow after the August 3rd meeting.

Policy Discussions-Action items:

Dana asked the Board how they would like her to follow-up on landowner complaints and violations notices. Discussion followed. The board needs to decide on a policy and procedure to follow for public contact. We are not yet at a point where we should be sending out "Notices of Violation". The initial plan for the noxious weed control program is to identify locations of weeds in the county, educate the public about noxious weeds, and how to control them. A Question was asked about the type of follow-up done once the weed surveys are returned to the extension office. Dana noted that the information is put in an excel database. She reviews it, and does a drive by of the weed location, and then contacts the property owner by sending an informational postcard notifying the property owner of the noxious weeds identified on their property. If it is County property, Dana contacts the appropriate County department. We will continue to use weed surveys in the coming years. This year will give us the beginnings of a baseline for the County. If a property owner calls the Extension office looking for help with identifying weeds on their property, Dana sets-up an appointment to meet with the property owner. Dana may remove some weeds from the property, but also informs the property owner how to control the weeds for the future. Dana asked if the letters she has been sending to property owners should be a "set" form. The board offered comments. John expressed concern with Dana performing "work" on private property, due to liability to the Board and the County. The Board recommended that Dana could "help" the property owner remove a noxious weed, educate the owner on control methods and turn the responsibility back to the property owner.

Program Coordinator Report:

Field report:

Total number of contacts for the month July, Emails 12, phones 20, educational materials sent-11.

Road miles traveled: 95 miles.

Site Inspections: 7

Dana attended the Pierce County Weed Board meeting on July 13th. She addressed issues surrounding their complaint against Kitsap County.

The new contract with Paladin for the EKOSYSTEM was handed out to the board. Dana attended a County Commissioners meeting. She continues to update the Commissioners on the noxious weed Program. Dana is working with the Master Gardener Foundation to help out with future printing and distributing of educational materials. Dana is working on the display for the Kitsap County Fair. The theme of the display will be "Weeds on the Move". She will have various noxious weed educational handouts for fair goers.

Board Compensation:
Dana reported there is a small amount of money for reimbursement to Weed Board members for mileage and other expenses related to the Weed Board.

Jefferson County's request for support:

Jane will draft a letter from the Weed Board, to be sent to the Jefferson County Commissioners in response to a request for support of a weed assessment in Jefferson County. She will email copies to the board members before sending it out.

Other items: This item was tabled until the August meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M. Minutes respectfully submitted by Toni Probert, Program Assistant.