

**Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
October 18, 2005**

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Dana Coggon, Jane Wentworth, Joyce Komac, Joanne Weber, Wendy McClure, Peg Tillery and Arno Bergstrom.

II. The minutes of the September Weed Board meeting were corrected and approved.

III. Announcements:

Dana gave a presentation on noxious weeds during a workshop for the Shoreline Regional Coordinating Council which includes Kitsap, Mason, and Jefferson Counties and Nearshore Hood Canal.

Jane reported that Sally Maron, of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, attended a recent Weed Warrior meeting to ask to clarify the future vision of this group. She and others believed the original concept was for the group to be more actively involved in actual weed removal. Brian Stahl of the Kitsap Conservation District had reported that the Bainbridge Island Urban Forestry Commission is developing a new position for hire and suggested that one of the new job responsibilities could be volunteer coordinator for the Weed Warriors. Jane asked the Board if they were in favor of her sending a letter to the Forestry Commission suggesting the Board's support of this position. The Board agreed.

IV. WSU Extension Report

Arno met with Arleigh, the finance Manager, to expedite the contract with EcoSystem and the reallocation of funds in the budget.

Arno is receiving good reports on Dana's work.

V. Site Updates

Long Lake: An MOU has been signed by the Commissioners and is off to Ecology; a contract for work is underway and will be presented at the Nov. 7th Commissioner's meeting.

Anderson Landing: Dana met with Commissioner Lent and various volunteers Oct. 1 about work to be done; Dana met with the Kitsap County Road Crew on site to evaluate work to be done; the Road Crew recommended herbicide treatment for next year, experimental treatments and possible restoration at the upper site; mowing was done;

Anna Smith Park: Dana will be working with Stream Team and Jim Trainer on ivy management options on the site including no spraying, and varying wood chip and cardboard mulch thicknesses. Monitoring and maintenance are critical.

Schold Farm: DCD has 60 days to follow up on the letter of complaint from the Schold Farm; The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board and Coordinator need to determine what to do if DCD does not send us a management plan for the weed infestations; It was decided to wait and send the letter again in March 2006 and then, if no work was done, send a notice of violation.

VI. Year End Review

The Board was given a copy of the Draft Goals 2005 & 2006 which is to be presented to Board of County Commissioners. The 2005 goals and what has been done to date are:

- *Establish working relationships with county agencies—includes almost every county agency; the need to strengthen these relationships was stressed.

- *Conduct trainings for various groups—The Weed Board has been involved in 12 trainings/presentations in the last 6 months.

- *Provide educational assistance to constituents—200+ calls to office in last 6 months; weed information provided at various community events; education on IPM

- *Create IPM strategies for weeds of local concern—4 IPM plans have been created or modified for use specifically in Kitsap County.

- *Recruit and train Weed Advisors—Training scheduled for May 2006; Parks & Recreation people could take class as part of ongoing education/training.

*Host an annual county weed tour and workshop—a county-wide training session is planned for January and a tour will be held during summer 2006.

*Establish an inventory of noxious weeds—The survey is ongoing with all main roads within Kitsap County having been driven a minimum of one time.

Joanne recounted that a constituent challenged the authority of the KCNWB to come on private property and suggested a need to strengthen communication with the sheriff. Jane explained that the NWB needs to have “just cause” to enter property. Dana stressed prior steps to entering and owner contact. Arno said that if there was a conflict with the RCW then there was a need to take it up with the state. Peg said the Kitsap Alliance of Property owners (KAPO) would help sponsor a noxious weed workshop.

Dana commented on the draft Noxious Weed Control Public Education Plan and said more realistic figures needed to be chosen for the Annual Objectives. Peg reminded the Board about exposure to groups such as at the Kitsap County Fair. Dana suggested that individual Board members let her know about our contacts. Arno said the numbers were good to show folks what they were getting for their money.

Board members can send names to Dana as possible candidates for Weed Advisor training. Jane and Peg suggested short-course weed outreach programs.

Dana will add photos and polish up the Commissioner’s report.

Inventory: Volunteers need more direction to conduct the weed survey. Only one volunteer followed through. “Payback time” from Weed Advisors needs to be stressed. There was discussion about incentives for doing surveys next year. Other counties hold “Weed Awareness Weeks” when groups go out together. EcoSystem would show additions to the survey. Dana expressed interest in doing an aerial survey for knotweed.

Board members were asked what each saw as a priority for the KCNWCB.

Joyce saw education as the number one priority in such venues as the County Fair.

Joanne thought it important to broadcast the top six weeds as a focus for control and to contact groups and individuals with specific information on each of the six.

Wendy wanted to see the survey brought up to date.

Peg said education and updating the survey were the most important with outreach opportunities through nurseries.

Arno would like to see options and alternatives to weed management provided; also, education about and awareness of shoreline issues including restoration.

Dana would like to heighten awareness of the invasive potential of plants. (Peg added especially of groundcovers).

Jane would like to see more approaches on prevention and control.

Jane recapped that good work was done this past year and we need to continue with our three projects, Anderson Landing, the Schold Farm and Long Lake, while remembering our need to educate the public and complete the survey. It would be an accomplishment to be able to achieve the control of a weed.

VII. 2006 County Weed List

Last year the Board adopted the WA State Weed List since the survey is not complete and we are not sure what we have. People need to know what the specific weeds are for Kitsap County. Perhaps a separate sheet/insert with photos of our “Dirty Dozen” could be included in the state weed list. If the Dirty Dozen are highlighted, we should focus on where each weed will have the most negative impact but we need more survey data to do this. Perhaps, we could do tansy without the survey. Thurston County focused on knotweed along transportation corridors. Tansy ragwort is designated in the WAC. Jane expressed concern that if the focus is on the most

negatively impacted areas, folks may not see the need to control it elsewhere. How heavily do we enforce control? If a weed is on the noxious weed list, the effort should be made to control it. For example, if tansy is in a pasture, the requirement to control it should be stressed. We need to focus on priority weeds and maintain the importance of weeds on the list as well as the dirty dozen.

A response is necessary if a complaint about a weed on the list is received. However, the time, energy and effort required must be determined to ensure the cost is commensurate with the gain. Joanne likes the simplicity of county selects on the list.

Jane suggested staying with the state list and designates. It would be helpful to see other county's weed lists; perhaps just have "A" weeds and underlined weeds. Fewer weed listings on a brochure would allow for more education information.

Dana suggested an insert with photos to put in the weed lists and will bring a prototype to the next meeting.

VIII Budget

*We have a two-year budget, and Toni's salary is allocated in the 2006 budget. To date \$7,931.62 has been spent out of the \$30,000. We have more money to spend this year because Dana and Toni did not start in January as originally planned.

*\$15,000 is needed for the EcoSystem contract. \$10,000 will come out of the (WSU) \$30,000 and \$5,000 out of the line item for coordinator funding. This will show up in the budget information at the next board meeting.

*Purchasing a tent in the \$200-\$300 range for weed displays at events is being considered. Arno suggested investing in a good tent which may cost more. He is willing to loan one of his tents to the Board through the end of the biennium. He reminded everyone since we are on an assessment, we do not have to spend down at year's end.

*Jane would like to see the comparison between what we have and our current spending pattern.

IX Program Coordinator Field Report Sept. 28 to Oct. 18

Presentations and Events:

Meetings: With Commissioner Lent and County Road Crew at Anderson Landing;
With Jim Trainer at Ana Smith Park about old-growth ivy and upcoming Presentation;
Created & provided materials for Manchester event.

Presentations: Oct. 12 Kitsap community schools presentation with Jim Trainer
Oct. 17 Shoreline stewardship training

Events: Oct. 9 Bainbridge Island Harvest Festival
Reviewed Kitsap County CAO
Learned contract process for Long Lake MOU and EcoSystems (many hours)

Total number of contacts for month of August: 10 e-mails; 8 phone calls; 4 requests for educational materials; and 2 site inspections

X Other Items

The Montana Center for BioControl was contacted about purchasing biological controls for tansy. The cost would be \$50 per container and each container holds about 150 bugs. Dana commented that they are not a good source since it has been reported that they use unethical means for obtaining their insects. She may look to Oregon for a source.

Nominations for chair will be taken at the next meeting.

Salmon Tours are being conducted in November by the Kitsap PUD on Jan. 19.

There will be a weed conference in Yakima in November and those wanting to go should register now.

Olympic National Forest has printed an invasive weed booklet. Copies will be obtained for the Board.

Rent a Ruminant, a business on Vashon Island using small herds of goats, has had contracts with King County Weed Board to clear weeds from public property. This is an idea the Board may pursue.

Knotweed is prized by beekeepers for providing a desired honey. This may be a problem where knotweed control is needed and attempted.

The next Weed Control Board meeting will be November 15, 2005 at the Eagles Nest, Kitsap County Fairgrounds.

The last meeting of the year will be December 20, 2005 at the A-Frame, Silverdale Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy McClure