

**KITSAP COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED BOARD
MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 18TH, 2006
7-9 POPLARS ROOM
SILVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER**

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

Present: Jane Wentworth, Wendy McClure, Joanne Weber, Joyce Komac, Dana Coggon, and Toni Probert, Laura Knight, Bernie Hernzi, Len Beil, Steve, Kip Barnart, T.R. Strong (**Noxious Weed Advisor students**), Peggy Hall (Weed Advisor)

I. Introductions: Jane thanked the Noxious Weed Advisor students for attending the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of the March 2006 minutes: Due to the cancellation of the April meeting, . Joyce made a motion to approve the March minutes, Joanne seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. Announcements & Board Comments:

Jane announced she has been invited to speak at a Master Gardener meeting in Mt. Vernon on May 23rd. Jane had stated at the March meeting, she would contact Arno Bergstrom, WSU Kitsap County Extension Director, to ask about how the weed assessment formula is configured for property owners. The estimated budget for the Noxious Weed Control Program was less than anticipated due to some property exemptions. The assessment was for \$1.00 per property, unless it is acreage. The only time a property owner would be exempt is if the property owner is not assessed the Surface Stormwater Water Management fee. Dana stated she had spoken with the woman in the county assessor's office about some parcels that are not being assessed properly last year.

Dana announced that Len Beil and the Weed Warriors from Bainbridge Island have been working hard to remove Gorse from the Johnson Farm, and Scotch Broom and Ivy from various locations on Bainbridge Island. The Board thanked Len for all his and the Weed Warriors efforts.

IV. There was no Extension Report

V. Letters and Notices 2006:

Dana presented 2 draft noxious weed notice letters and asked the Board to review, and then get back to her by next Friday, May 26th. She drafted the letters after researching other county noxious weed notification letters. Jane stated she and Dana had spoken previously about starting the process of sending out official notifications and letters to property owners. Last year, a few "friendly" type format letters were sent to property owners. Discussion followed about the legal process of sending letters to property owners that have noxious weeds on their property. Jane stated some counties have a process of sending 3 letters, if need be. The first-when weeds have been observed on said property, a letter is send with information about the noxious weed, control and or eradication information with a time line of control. If no response, a second letter is sent in an official capacity with a timeline for control and noting that follow-up action may be taken by the County Weed Control Program. If no action is taken, a notice of violation is sent giving the property owner one more chance to control the weeds.. Dana will check with the County Legal Department about the legality of the notices the Noxious Weed Control Program would send to property owners. Dana will bring the reviewed letters to the June meeting for final approval by the Board.

Len Beil wanted to know if information about contractors in the Kitsap area could be included in the letter to the property owner. Jane felt the Board should have more discussion about additional information that could be included in the letter. Len also thought it would be good "PR" for the Noxious Weed Control Program to have an article in the area newspapers. . Dana stated she has spoken to the various newspaper groups hoping to see more information published.

VI. Budget:

Dana presented the Board with a copy of the budget. The budget for 2006 is on target for the first quarter. She stated the leftover monies from 2005, were rollover to the line item: office supplies for 2006. Dana again reminded the Board, if they are driving to do noxious weed surveys, meetings, etc., they may claim mileage. Dana will supply the Board with mileage forms at the June meeting.

VII. Annual Report Presentation to the County Commissioners:

Dana reported she called the County Commissioner's office to send a date to present the 2005 Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program Annual Report. She has not heard back yet. She sent an electronic copy of the report to Cris Gears, Kitsap County Administrator for review. Jane would like Dana to send the report to various agencies before July. Joyce would like an extra copy for the Department of Transportation.

VIII. Project updates:

- a. Johnson Farm-Len Beil worked to remove the Gorse plants as a result of a letter Jane had sent to Brianne Cohen, Bainbridge Island Planner notifying the city of the Gorse and the need to remove it.
- b. Anderson Landing: The Parks Department, Community Development and Solid Waste are working on a grant to control the knotweed. Treatments will begin this summer. Parks will be the lead entity for the project.
- c. Long Lake: First bill has been paid and treatments in the lake will begin this summer.
- d. Schold Farm: Community Development has sprayed the thistles on the property adjacent to Mr. Peterson's property. Discussion followed with Jane asking Dana to contact DCD by phone with a follow-up letter requesting the management plan for the noxious weeds on the Schold Farm.
- e. Master Weed Advisor Training: Training has begun. Advisor trainees are in attendance of this meeting as part of the requirement of the course.

IX. Program Coordinator Report:

- a. Parks Director: Last month, Dana reported she had met with the Parks Director about establishing the "Bag-a-Bully" program. Since the Director has since resigned, this program is currently on hold.
- b. Events Attended: Long Lake meetings, Department of Ecology Grant writing meeting, 3-Earthday Events, Silverdale Rotary meeting, Suquamish Garden Club, County Road Crews meeting about County and Tribal lands adjacent to each other and how to handle to noxious weed control. The Tribal agency does not use herbicides. Dana will write to the tribe to set a possible meeting. Meeting at Driftwood Keys Homeowner's Association, Stillwaters Symposium, and Master Gardener Foundation Plant Sale. Dana stated there were a few noxious weeds for sale, which she removed with no disagreement from the Master Gardeners. Jane thought it would be wise to send a letter to the foundation about reviewing the plants for sale for noxious weeds in the future before they open the sale to the public.
- c. Surveys: Joyce and Joanne have finished their surveys with Dana.
- d. Educational materials have been sent to property owners.

X. Other items:

Jane announced that Dana had requested to adjust her work schedule to 4 ten hour days.. She would take Mondays or Fridays off. Joanne moved to approve the work schedule adjustment, Wendy seconded the motion. The new work schedule will start in June.

Joanne asked if we purchased the weed wrench, Dana stated yes.

Jane opened discussion on targeting the knotweed problem in Kitsap County. One of the Board's goals for 2006 is trying to control the knotweed. Jane noted that possible funding for removal could come from grants. Laura: Kitsap County Public Works, Storm Water, SSWM has grants for wetlands. Since noxious weeds impact streams and wetlands, this could possibly be a source for us. Dana will look into grants the Noxious Weed Control Program could apply for.

Jane stated she would like to see if the Weed Warriors of Bainbridge Island might offer their services to private property owners.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, June 15th, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Silverdale Community Center-Poplar Room.

Respectfully submitted by:

Toni Probert, Program Assistant

