

Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board  
November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
7:00-9:00 PM

**Board Members attending:** Joyce Komac, Jane Wentworth, Joanne Weber, John Collins-Chairperson, Wendy McClure-Vice Chair.

**Staff Members:** Dana Coggon and Toni Probert

**Public:** Mike Bohnstedt

**The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM**

- I. Introduction & Public Comments:** Mr. Bohnstedt stated he has concerns about thistles on neighboring properties and Tansy ragwort along the roadway near his property. He stated in 2005 he counted 6 thistles on his property, in 2006 he had 37, and 2007 there were 12. Mr. Bohnstedt asked if the surrounding neighbors have received a letter about the thistles. Dana stated that many land owners in his area received a letter this last year. His concern is there is no visible change in the neighbor's field. Dana explained there has not been an opportunity for follow up with property owners due to lack of personnel. Dana stated though thistles are noxious weeds; they are so numerous that it is difficult to maintain control of this noxious weed. Jane suggested Dana keep track of the non responsive landowners, so there is a record. Dana stated that she has tried to keep track of who has responded over the last year, so we will know who did not respond.

Mr. Bohnstedt noted that he stopped in at that Kitsap County North Road Shed and asked someone why the Tansy ragwort was not being controlled on county roads. The individual was not receptive to conversation about noxious weeds. Dana stated she was surprised to hear this, due to the fact that we have worked closely with the road crews in the past. John suggested creating a form for the Road Crews to fill out when noxious weeds are reported, that then would be forwarded on to Dana. Dana could use the same form to report weed sightings to the Road Crews. Dana stated Pierce County has a form they use with WSDOT, she will contact them to receive a copy of their form.

Mike asked if the Weed Board is fining property owners yet. Joanne stated the Board is not to that point yet. Jane added, the Board has the authority via the State Noxious Weed Guidelines, to fine property owners, but we do not have the current capacity to do so. The program in Kitsap County is still relatively new and its main focus is to identify noxious weeds and to do public education outreach. The Board thanked Mike for attending the meeting and for his work in controlling the noxious weeds on his property.

**Action Item: Dana will contact Pierce County Noxious Weed Program to follow up on their form for reporting noxious weeds between county departments. Dana will also personally contact the Road Crews to provide more training and support.**

**II. Approval of September 2007 minutes:**

Corrections: Joyce asked to change "WSDOT does not mow" to "WSDOT doesn't mow for beautification." Jane stated the WSDOT & WADOT should be the same. Joyce stated it is WSDOT. Jane asked under VII. Other Items: to note the funding for 2008 treatments of Hogweed came from the State Noxious Weed Control Board. This will be added to the minutes. Jane will email Dana the rest of her grammatical corrections. The board approved the minutes with Jane's forthcoming grammatical corrections. The final minutes will be sent to Board members.

**III. Announcements & Board Comments:**

Jane announced she assisted with completing a noxious weed management plan with the San Juan Noxious Weed Board over the summer. The project assessed the amount of noxious weeds on public property throughout San Juan County. Jane stated San Juan County has a relatively small amount of noxious weeds compared to Kitsap County, and that there is hope to getting many sites controlled.

#### **IV. Board Business:**

##### **a. Set meeting dates for 2008:**

The Board agreed the first meeting of 2008 will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> and will start at 6:00 PM, due to working on the weed list for 2008. The Board requested to reserve the Poplar Room at the Silverdale Community Center. The remaining Board meetings will be reserved for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. The Board will meet every other month starting in January. If there is a need for additional meetings, the room will be available.

Dana asked the Board to review and email any edits of the newsletter to her. Dana also handed out an event calendar for 2008. Dana recommended each Board member organize a weed pull during the 2008 Weed Awareness Week in their district.

Dana announced her work schedule during spring and summer 2008 will be Tuesday through Saturday. This will accommodate a lot of the events which occur on Saturdays.

Dana stated Indianola has created a program where citizens from the community volunteer time for weed pulls on Land Trust land in exchange for 2 hours of help weed pulling on their property.

**Action Item: Toni will request the reservation from the Kitsap County Fairgrounds.**

##### **b. Nominations:**

Jane motioned to open nominations for President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board for 2008.

Jane nominated Wendy McClure for President. John 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.

Jane nominated Joanne Weber for Vice President. Joyce 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.

Jane nominated Joyce Komac for Secretary. John 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.

Jane motioned to approve the nominated candidates. The Board approved for 2008.

#### **V. Budget:**

##### **a. Current "Bottom Line"**

The current balance for Year to Date (11/26/2007) is \$36,401. Dana stated, barring any unforeseen expenditures, the current balance will stretch until April (when property taxes are collected for 2008). The two largest outgoing payments during the next few months will be to EKO Systems and Cooperative Extension Service.

##### **b. Assessment Increase 2009**

Dana stated the Board will need to recommend to the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners an increase in the noxious weed assessment. At the current rate of \$1.00 per parcel, the program coordinator will only be able to do education outreach and some site surveys come 2008. Dana stated more noxious weeds were identified in 2007 than in 2006. More letters were sent to landowners for control but due to lack of funding and personnel, not all sites had follow up inspections. There is not enough time and funds to do an adequate job of following existing sites and control efforts.

Dana asked the Board for their priorities for 2008: more site surveys, follow-up, and/or education outreach? Jane stated the informational letters should still be sent and try to keep track of the landowners who are not responding. Discussion arose about the program's ability to carry out the state guidelines for noxious weed control. John stated with the existing resources, the program is doing the best that it can. It is hard for one staff member to cover the whole Kitsap County area and a part time office staff member. Jane stated the Board needs to relook at the guidelines and possibly amend them.

Dana recommended each Board member contact their County Commissioner and set an appointment to discuss the needs of our program and discuss the need for an assessment increase. Jane asked Dana to have a draft of the year end report ready so the Board can review before the end of the year. After the report is final, Jane suggested the Board members hand the report to the Commissioners when they meet with them.

**Action Item: Dana will gather together the information from other counties' assessments she compiled a few months back, and report to the Board members before meeting with the County Commissioners. Dana will also email a draft of the year end report to the board members by the end of December.**

**c. Long Lake**

There is money left over for treatment of the lake in 2008.

**d. Chico Creek Grant**

The \$50,000.00 grant request from Kitsap County Department of Community Development was not granted, they will reapply for 2009 funds. Dana announced there will be a Chico Creek Day on December 5<sup>th</sup>. She will email the information to the Board.

**VI. Site Updates:**

- a. **Long Lake:** The alum treatment has been completed. The lily pads have been treated on county property but not on private property.
- b. **Bainbridge Island:** The herbicide control on Bainbridge Island produced good results on the knotweed. There is \$20,000.00 left from the \$75,000.00 which will be used for education. The City of Bainbridge wants to run the program again in 2008. John asked if Dana was compensated for the work she did on Bainbridge with the Conservation District. Dana replied, no. Joanne asked if some type of cross billing can be done between county departments.

**Action Item: Dana will check on how she would bill the Conservation District for her time.**

**VII. State Weed List Update:**

Dana handed out copies of the State Weed List for 2008. There are three new Class A weeds: Ricefield bulrush (*Schoenoplectus mucronatus*), European hawkweed (*Hieracium sabaudum*), and variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). Three Class C weeds have been changed to Class B's, making Poison-hemlock a state designate for Kitsap County. For a complete listing of the changes and additions for 2008 you can contact the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board at 360-902-2053 or [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)

Dana asked the Board to set a date for our weed list public hearing.

**Action Item: Dana will email the Board with a revised Noxious Weed list by the end of December.**

**VIII. Coordinator's report**

- a. **EKO Update:** Dana and Toni will be meeting with Paladin soon. Dana stated she will discuss why we have not received the handheld unit they promised. Also, we are finding out the program is not capable of producing some of the reports we need. Dana announced she and Toni attended a GIS Day put on by Kitsap County. Kitsap County now has a program called KMAP. It has a lot of features we could use for mailings and finding locations but does not allow us to do any data keeping or mapping. Dana is going to be discussing with EKO how the two programs can interface together.
- b. **E3:** Dana and Toni attended the E3 conference on November 23<sup>rd</sup> (E3 stands for Education-Environment-Economy). Washington State is gathering information from all the counties in the state which are having e3 conferences. The purpose is to bring together citizens from these 3 arenas and discuss the future of Washington States environment and how it will affect everyone.

Dana expressed her surprise of how many people she spoke with who are concerned about noxious weeds in Kitsap County.

- c. **Events:** Dana was the Keynote speaker at Kitsap Salmon Tours, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Dana reported a large number of individuals spoke with her after the event about noxious weeds. Dana attended the Hood Canal Education Council meeting held in Seabeck.
- d. **Letters:** Dana presented a draft of the first Noxious Weed Newsletter to the Board. She will be doing a newsletter quarterly. Dana asked the Board to review and email any edits of the newsletter to her. Dana also handed out an event calendar for 2008.
  - i. End of the year in review: Dana is working on the year end report.

**IX. Other Items:**

John suggested advertising in the United Way Calendar for volunteers to help at events.

Dana stated she will be working on a “Community Environmental Calendar”, which would be posted on the WSU website.

Wendy announced the Washington Native Plant Society Calendars were available for purchase.

Wendy also received a newsletter from the Volunteers for Outdoor Washington. There was an article about weeds. She recommended submitting articles to various local groups who have newsletters.

**Action Item: Dana will research organizations that produce newsletters.**

John recommended posting the calendar and newsletters at the public libraries.

**Action Item: Dana will contact the library system to find out the protocol for posting information at the libraries.**

Dana stated she would like to hold some type of recognition for her motivated volunteers. An example could be a Gift Certificate she would present to the individual volunteer or to an organization like the Great Peninsula Conservancy.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Toni Probert

Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

Program Assistant