



## Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 416-1467

### Minutes

Published Meeting  
January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, 5:30pm  
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board  
Board of Commissioners Hearing Room  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Brian Waltner Calls to order at 5:40pm

#### II. ROLL CALL

1. Brian Waltner
2. Victor Jensen
3. Michael See
4. Sonny Gohrman
5. Jason Kleinhuizen
6. Joseph Shea
7. Bill Taylor

#### III. AGENDA

- a. Approval of January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting agenda

#### IV. MINUTES

- a. Approval of January 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting minutes
- b. Approval of April 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting minutes
- c. Approval of July 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting minutes
- d. Approval of October 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting minutes

#### V. GUEST COMMENTS

**Bill Taylor:** There is a lot of Poison Hemlock on Channel Drive and La Conner Whitney rd. from the roundabout in La Conner heading north for about a mile towards flats road. My Friend I and last year tried to knock them down before they flowered. Are we allowed to go and cut and treat those plants as a volunteer in the county right-of-way? So if there is no problem with us working on the problem are you able to provide some equipment to help us out?

**Joseph:** Yes, we do lend out equipment to volunteers state agencies and private landowners. We have Sprayers, Stem injectors, EZ-Ject lances, and Up Rooters. The landowner must purchase their own chemicals to use. If the population in in the Right-of-way then the County

#### Chair

- Brian Waltner

#### Board members:

- Jim Carstens
- Victor Jensen

#### Extension representative:

- Don McMoran (WSU)  
Agriculture & Natural  
Resources Extension  
Faculty County  
Extension Director

#### Coordinator:

- Joseph Shea (Skagit  
County)

#### Guests:

Bill Taylor

Sonny Gohrman

Jason Kleinhuizen

would be responsible for treatment or provide herbicide for the application. This also might just be something I can come and help with and work with you two to control the weeds.

**Bill Taylor:** They plants seem to go to seed every year and have been spreading. There hasn't been any signs of spraying or mowing.

**Joseph:** The best solution would be to spray any patches of Canada thistle. I would only use mowing to prevent the plant from seeding but overall it's not the most effective control method. I will talk with the road vegetation crews to make sure they know what to look out for. Feel Free to give me a call when you start to see plants popping up and I can come help you. We are currently using Vastlan (Tryclapyr) with or without Milestone. Glyphosate and Imazapyr are also good alternatives for spot treatments.

**Victor Jensen:** How long would you have to treat in order to see progress?

**Joseph:** Normally you would have to do multiple treatments to be effective. You can do two treatments a year depending on your rate and it will take at least 2 seasons to start eradicating the seed bank in the soil. Heavy seeding or panting may be necessary to inspire desired vegetation.

#### VI. 2020 Noxious Weed List Public Hearing

Brian Waltner Calls the Public Hearing to order to review and adopt the 2020 noxious weeds list at 5:56pm.

**Brian Waltner:** IS common Teasel one that we should be concerned about?

**Joseph Shea:** I have seen it around the county and have done treatments on franklin Rd and areas in Anacortes but not in huge numbers.

**Brian Waltner:** It may be a good idea to get more education and outreach for Yellow Nutsedge. It is easily spread from field to field with heavy equipment and is a very difficult weed to get rid of.

**Joseph Shea:** Currently Yellow Nutsedge is not designated in our county so we aren't enforcing on it but we can definitely get more information out about the species.

**Sonny Gohrman:** Do we have a species of concern column or a monitor column?

**Joseph Shea:** We do not have a species of concern column but we do have our monitor list from the State Board.

**Joseph Shea:** Are there any of the Class C noxious weeds that you would like to still select for control? Although Canada thistle and Bull thistle do have a negative effect on agricultural lands they are very abundant in the county and may not be reasonable to require control in the county. Italian Arum is another very difficult plant to control and is relatively common in the county. Like Yellow Nutsedge, Arum is very resilient to herbicides due to their root structures and there is no real great way to control it. There is a huge population on Pederson rd. on your way towards the airport. It has completely taken over the hillside near the housing community.

**Joseph Shea:** Currently Bohemian Knotweed is not designated in Skagit County and probably should be. Giant Knotweed and Japanese knotweed are both designated for control in Skagit County and Bohemian Knotweed is not. This is fairly inconsistent since these plants cross pollinate and hybridize. Not only that but often they are occupying the same treatment site as the other species. Since ourselves and many local entities have put all this time and grant work towards eradication these all should be designated to be consistent and provide support for our other eradication efforts.

Moving Forward we are trying to put more efforts towards our agricultural community. Poison Hemlock and Tansy Ragwort will be a priority due to the increase in populations and the increased public concern.

**Victor Jensen:** Moves to approve the 2020 Washington State Noxious weed List with the selection of Bohemian Knotweed, Poison Hemlock, and Tansy Ragwort as required for control in Skagit County.

**Brian Waltner:** Seconds  
All in favor: 2 aye 0 nay.

## VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS

### a. **Noxious Weed Coordinator Report**

\*See Attached Report\*\*

**Conex Storage:** Partnered with NRD (Natural Resource Division) to buy a Conex to help store more supplies and non-chemical equipment to limit any residues or contamination of our other work tools.

**CWMA :** Michael See and I will be going to SFEG to talk with them about taking over our Cooperative weed management area group. Our focus currently is knotweed but we hope the scope of work will grow in the future. We will need to revise the agreement since it has expired and I will be looking at getting signatures from the different entities involved to join in the new agreement. Since I am the weed coordinator for the county we thought it made more sense if we organized the group.

**WSDA Grants:** Class A grants for up to 5000\$. This would be used for Class A infestations and could be used for the garlic mustard population on South Skagit Highway. The property owners want to assist and supply a crew to work on the site so we are going to apply for this grant to possibly help with the financial burden since this treatment may take multiple years.

**Videos for social media:** We are going to make some short videos for our social media pages and for upcoming events to become more visible and reachable on social media. I know that we have done them in the past for other programs and have seen positive results. We will also make a video for our upcoming class for the country living expo.

**Class Session at the Coordinators Conference:** Cathy Lucero from Clallam County asked myself and Sarah Murt to do a presentation and to lead a group session at our Coordinators Conference in Chelan. Our focus is to introduce the new coordinators and also to go over difficulties or special situations that may take place in our line of work and how to solve them and what support groups and resources you can use.

### **2019 Reports**

**Commissioners:** I have to still put together a presentation for the commissioners for our 2019 season. This annual reporting has been very helpful for showing the commissioners and the public about our work and what benefits we offer to the agricultural community.

The commissioners were very supportive of our program and our budget increase for an additional staff.

**WSDA:** 2019 WSDA reports were completed by Alexandra Simpson for our Spartina and Knotweed Grant work.

**NPDES:** Completed our NPDES annual report for the Department of Ecology.

### **Cooperative efforts**

**Spotted Lanternfly:** We were contacted by WSU to get Tree of Heaven information for our county. Since we had no records we did a survey and found one tree of heaven in Newhalem. We will continue to survey and notify WSU extension if we find any more trees so they can put up traps.

**Horse Camp:** Talked with Skagit County Backcountry horseman at Horse Camp and they would like to work with us on Tansy Ragwort in the Hamilton area.

**LMD:** We have been attending and are in the loop with our LMDS and Jennifer parsons to see if we are able to provide more assistance on noxious weeds that may not be on the LMD priority but we might be able to assist with. Since there is already a lot of work being done it is important to focus on all the plant species to ensure that noxious weeds don't take over the current treatment areas. The most prevalent problems are Purple loosestrife, Yellow Flag Iris, and Knotweed spp.

### **Education and outreach**

**Spill Response:** I attended the Northwest Area Contingency Plan Meeting (NWACP) as well as set up an appointment for Madison Baxter from EPA region 10 to learn more about our spill response plan for our county. This was in response to a spill that I helped with last year and our county wanting to be better prepared in the future. This is also why I obtained my 40hr Hazwoper certification.

**CWMA Annual Meeting:** I will be giving an annual presentation to our group about our work in 2019 as well as announce our new full time position.

**Storming the sound:** Storming the sound is a new event that is an annual event for educators and students to come and hear the new information about the Puget Sound. This is in La Conner and I was invited by Shawna Blue at Skagit Valley College. My presentation is called 19 years of Spartina in Skagit County and our path towards eradication. Overall I go over the ups and downs of control and experimentation.

**Country Living Expo:** I will be giving a class called "Noxious Weeds the Silent Killer"

**Washington State flower and garden show:** The show was at the Seattle Convention center. This is for the Washington state Noxious weed Control Board. Where I help table with other coordinators in the state.

**Information request:** I got an email from Agromanagment Inc. wanting a list of noxious weeds that are actually present in the county instead of a list of noxious weeds in the state. I am unsure how best to create such a list. Just because I haven't found it doesn't

mean it's not in the county. Over time I could create a list of plants that have been found but currently I don't think our data is strong enough. Since our data is small and it's mostly a convince survey it really doesn't give a true representation of the county. Over time we should be able to have a more complete list.

**b. New Full Time Employee**

**Joseph Shea:** We are taking applications currently for our new full time position. This position will take over our knotweed and Spartina programs to give myself more ability to move onto different projects as well as give me more assistance in the winter and spring for treatments, landowner outreach and our education events. We currently have 7 applicants. Brad Clifton and Meghan MacMullen are helping me with reviewing applications and interviews.

**c. Treasurers Report**

**\*\*See Attached Budget Report\*\***

**d. Board Member Nominations**

1. Sonny Gohrman is interested in District 3 and has received approval from WSDA to apply. He will go and get his application complete and return it at our next meeting. He will have to ask if there is no conflict with WSDA the hope long term is that someone will step up in our area to fill in his WSDA position to make sure there is continuity our work on Spartina.
2. Jason Kleinhuisen is a farmer from the greater Concrete area and is interested in District 5. He will also complete his application for the board and return it by our next meeting.
3. Brian Waltner is still interested in being a part of the board but if there is a motivated well qualified person he is not opposed to having a new board member for his district.

**e. Board Member Training Certification**

We will schedule a Board Member training once we have applications in from our new board members. The State Board would like us to have a training yearly.

**f. Brassica Ordinance**

We are waiting to hear back from the Puget Sound Seed Growers Association with regards to the brassica ordinance. We supplied them with a draft revision to SCC 9.56 that addresses the WSDA attorney generals concerns. I have yet to hear back but once I do we will more this forward since the ordinance in its current form is not very usable. The main issues in the document currently is the posting and notification timeline, the pollination range, as well as issues related to timeliness and authority.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Victor Jensen Moves to Adjourn at 6:55

Brian Waltner seconds



## Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

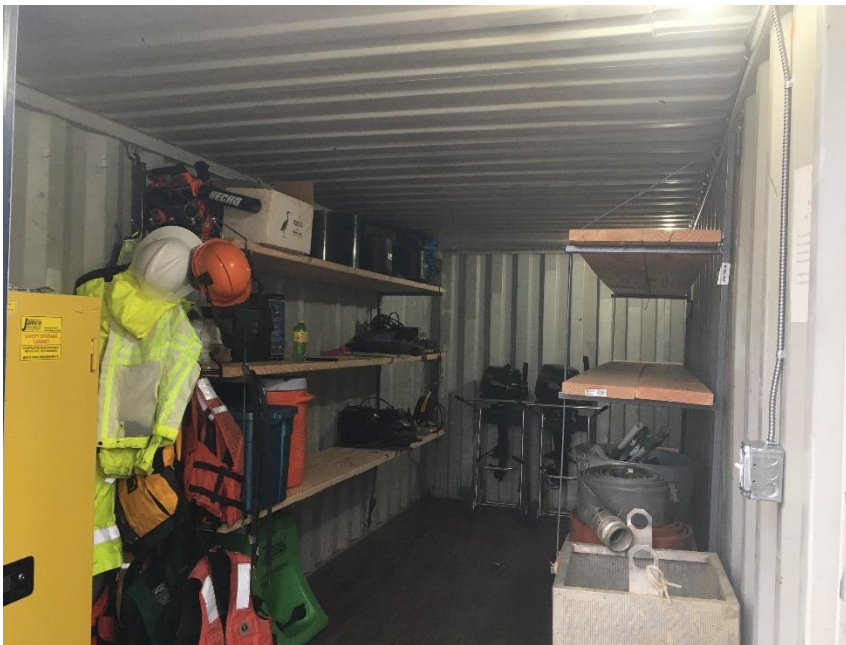
### Coordinators report

January 16, 2020

#### General

- **Conex Box Storage**

I have talked with Emily Derenne for some time about the lack of storage space in the Burlington shop. Our spray shack was being overwhelmed with non-spray equipment and with growing concerns about chemical use it was best to move our non-chemical equipment to a different storage space. Since a Conex box costs roughly \$2500.00 I looked to Emily to see if she would want to split the costs. Through her program we were able to split the cost in half. Over the last month I have been getting electricity installed and constructed shelves and helped organize everything in its new home and prepared everything for winter.



- **CWMA Responsibility**

We will be meeting with SFEG to discuss the possibility of the Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board taking over our Skagit CWMA for Knotweed. The hope is to keep the focus as knotweed while also expanding our current work. In the future depending on our Partners we may expand our work to additional riparian noxious weed species as they will have similar effect to restoration sites and overall success of restorations or eradications. With our new full time position I believe we will have the capacity to facilitate this responsibility.

- **Grant Writing**

I received a notice that the WSDA-USFS is offering a grant for noxious weeds. 2020 WSDA- USFS Grant Request for Proposals January 8<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. I will put together a request for funds to assist with the garlic mustard removal in Day Creek.

- **Hiring**

I worked closely with Donnie LaPlante and Brooke Youngquist to put together the job description for our new full time position. I talked with a variety of different counties and got some input on the job and its compensation rates. We will be posting our position from 1/6/2020-3/6/2020. Our initial review will be on 2/6/2020 and if we don't have a good pool of candidates we will keep it open till 3/6/2020. This employee will take our Knotweed and Spartina programs and make them their own. We currently have 7 applicants. Brad Clifton our road side sprayer and Meghan MacMullen our administrative assistant will help with hiring

- **Noxious Weed Videos for Social Media for Country living expo and scheduled releases.**

I am working with Karen DuBose to put together some short clips about noxious weeds that can go up on our webpage as well as social media. We are also creating a short video for some of our upcoming events to help get the word out.

- **Coordinators Conference Class Session “Breaking the ice with a new Noxious Weed Board”**

I was approached by Cathy Lucero from Clallam County about leading a class session at the 2020 Noxious Weed Coordinators conference. She would like to have me put a work session together about the trials and tribulations of being a new coordinator and how we have been working to improve what we can offer in Skagit County. This was in response to a need to have more formal interactions and trainings for new coordinators to ensure they have a working cohort that they can lean on for knowledge and guidance for new coordinators or coordinators dealing with a difficult situation.

- **2019 Noxious Weed Presentation to the County Commissioners.**

I am currently putting together a year end summary for 2020 to give to our commissioners as well as talk about our plans in 2020 with our new employee. During this presentation I will also talk about Alexandra Simpsons report for 2019 grant work.

- **2019 Yearly Reports for WSDA**

I worked with Alexandra to help her produce her report for the work completed in 2019. This resulted in a report for Spartina, Knotweed on the Samish, Knotweed on Grandy Creek and Knotweed on the Skagit River. Reports are available per request.

- **2019 NPDES report for Washington Department of Ecology**

I consolidated all of our spray records and put together our 2019 Spray report for our NPDES permit. Reports were due December 31<sup>st</sup>.

- **2019 Washington Conservation Corps Report.**

Since we used WCC crew members for our work all summer Mikki McNaughton is requesting we complete a report about all the work completed with their employees. This helps them get metrics to help track the work being completed as well as helps them show their programs benefit our natural resources in the area.

### Cooperative Efforts

1. Spotted lantern Fly WSU Tree of Heaven Survey. We surveyed the eastern regions of the county and only found one tree of heaven in Nehalem. We will continue to keep searching for trap locations to assist WSU with monitoring for the introduction of the spotted lantern Fly.
2. Potential Partnership with the Backcountry Horsemen to focus on Tansy Ragwort in the Hamilton area.
3. Jennifer Parsons has been sampling in many of our lakes in the area. We hope to integrate our Lake Management Districts, Noxious Weed Control Board, Department of ecology, and the City of Anacortes to better organize and share information on lakes like big lake and Heart Lake.

### Education and outreach

1. Samish Edgewater Garden club General Noxious weed class October 24<sup>th</sup>
2. Washington State Weed Conference November 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
3. Washington State Noxious Weed Coordinators Association Meeting November 7<sup>th</sup>
4. WSU Pasture Weeds and how to get rid of them class. Joan Devries. November 20<sup>th</sup>
5. Brassica Ordinance meeting with Western Washington Ag as well as Puget Sound Seed Growers Association. November 20<sup>th</sup>
6. Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit December 10<sup>th</sup>
7. EPA region 10 Spill Response meeting January 22<sup>nd</sup>
8. SFEG CWMA transfer discussion January 27<sup>th</sup>
9. Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) meeting January 29<sup>th</sup>
10. Storming the Sound “19 years of Spartina control in Skagit County” January 30<sup>th</sup>
11. Natural Resource Division spill response meeting November 22<sup>nd</sup>
12. Publications for Christianson Nursery TBD
13. WSU Country living Expo February 25<sup>th</sup>
14. Washington State Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>



15. Washington Weed Coordinators Conference March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

**Landowner Calls and Consultations**

Jim Kirkland Called about Japanese knotweed control along a river. October 21<sup>st</sup>

Andy Kuntz shiny geranium in Grass. November 5<sup>th</sup>

Steve Savoy December 6<sup>th</sup>

Amber from Nature Conservancy Requesting checking out weed wrenches November 6<sup>th</sup>

Adam Pfleeger from Chelan County Noxious Weeds emailed asking for our Python script for our noxious weeds data collection. November 13<sup>th</sup>

Debbie Danielson from Western Washington Ag Association emailed requesting my presence at the Puget Sound Seed Growers meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Taryne Vanhulle from WSDOT emailed me regarding Spurge Laurel growing just outside of the ROW near the new sharp corner round about. November 21<sup>st</sup>

Lisa Hainey from the Upper Skagit Tribe emailed me about a possible collaboration with Jon-Paul Shannahan the Natural Resource Manager for the tribe to do more noxious weed outreach. November 27<sup>th</sup>

Cheryl Cunningham from Marblemount emailed me regarding Scotch Broom Concerns. She would like to know what Seattle City Light is currently doing to control Scotch broom in the transmission ways. I connected her to Rory Denovan. December 4<sup>th</sup>

Lisa Brain from Agrimanagment, Inc. emailed me looking for the current 2019 Noxious Weed List. Specifically she was looking for a list of noxious weeds present in Skagit County. Since we have only just begun to record noxious weed distributions electronically a lot of that information is hard to find. We have maps with noxious weed populations and weed lists but not a combination of the two. I am creating a noxious weed list that only includes present species. The only concern is that just because we haven't seen them doesn't mean they aren't present in the county. December 16<sup>th</sup>

**2019-2021 Grant Budgets**

**\*\* See most recent Grant**

**General Fund Budget**

**\*\*See attached budget monitoring report\*\***

**Purchasing (2019)**

• Conex Box 20'	\$1300.00
• Storage racks	\$576.00
• Lumber	\$137.24
• Installation Labor costs	\$683.33
• Newspaper postings	\$398.12
• Locks for Conex	\$198.84
• Skagit home and Garden show registration	\$150.00