



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

Minutes

Published Meeting
January 17th 2019, 5:30pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Board of Commissioners Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - 5:34 P.M.
- II. ROLL CALL
 - Brian Waltner
 - Don McMoran
 - Joseph Shea
- III. AGENDA
 - a. Approval of January 17th 2019 meeting agenda
Brian: Moves to approve
Call to vote: Aye: 1 Nay: N/A
Motion Passes
- IV. MINUTES
 - a. Approval of October 18th 2018 meeting minutes
Brian: Moves to approve
Call to vote: Aye: 1 Nay: N/A
Motion Passes
- V. GUEST COMMENTS
- VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS
 - a. **2019 Noxious Weed List**
Brian: Calls to start a Public Hearing to consider recommendations or alteration to the 2019 Noxious Weed List at 5:40pm

Brian: In the future we may need to minimize our noxious weed list so we can focus on more selected weeds and concentrate our time.

Joseph: We should keep requiring control of Japanese knotweed and all *spp.* due to its importance to our grant programs. Since we have so many partners and previous

Chair

- Brian Waltner

Secretary

- Jim Carstens

Board members:

- Victor Jensen

Extension representative:

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

Coordinator:

- Joseph Shea (Skagit
County)

treatment sites it is valuable to keep Knotweed selected to ensure complete top down control of knotweed at our Grant project areas.

Joseph: Poison hemlock is very abundant in Skagit County and therefore is very hard to require control. Even though it may be abundant we are putting more efforts and notifications to landowners about treating and controlling large population's especially populations near public areas and livestock and grazing lands.

Joseph: Scotch broom is also still required for control and we have seen a lot more attention being brought to the problem. Seattle City Light has been expanding their efforts in the marble mount area and it would remain beneficial to keep scotch broom as a required weed for control to be able to assist landowners in removing the plants especially near areas where active control is already taking place.

Tansy ragwort should stay as a selected weed in our county since it is such a detrimental weed with serious implications on our livestock industries in the valley.

Common teasel is lightly dispersed through the county and possess a huge problem for vacant, open and agricultural lands. With that being said it would be good to keep requiring control of Common Teasel.

Brian: Common tansy is very abundant and we believe to not be a major focus of our program. Due to its abundance in the valley and its relatively low effect on local producers we don't believe it to be valuable to require control in Skagit County.

Joseph: Canada thistle and bull thistle are very abundant in Skagit County and are very difficult to control. These plants used to have a much larger effect on our agricultural pea farmers and now is much less of an issue. The main issue now arises from rights-of-way and vacant lands spreading seed to other in use agricultural lands.

Brian: moves to keep the same noxious weed list as 2018 with the exclusion of Common Tansy

Call to vote: Aye: 1 Nay N/A

Motion Passes

Brian: moves to adjourn the Public Hearing regarding revisions or alterations to the 2019 noxious weed List.

Call to vote: Aye: 1 Nay: N/A

Motion Passes

6:00pm

b. Board Member Nominations

Joseph: Brian Waltner's position expires on January 27th and will need to re-apply with 10 signatures from registered voters in order to be considered for an additional 4 term. Jim Carstens will also have to Re-apply to the board since his term expired as well. Currently there are no applications for service on the noxious weed control board. Two interested individuals contacted my office asking about the position but I have not received any formal applications as of yet.

Don: Have you posted in the paper at all?

Joseph: I have posted for all the vacant positions at least twice in the newspaper, as well as various times on social media platforms like Facebook on the natural resource division page and the commissioners page. I also talked with Commissioner Dahlstedt and he said we would try to put the word out and see if he could find an interested individual. It may be helpful if Board members themselves did more recruiting to help fill the vacant positions.

c. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report

****Please see attached Report****

Skagit CWMA & Skagit Knotweed

After the 2017 and 2018 Skagit River surveys conducted by Skagit County and with the help of WSDA, Dike District 12, Washington Conservation Corps, Phillips 66, SFEG, Sauk Suattle Tribe, the Upper Skagit Tribe, and Seattle City Light we were able to complete a comprehensive Knotweed inventory on the Skagit River. With this data SFEG and other agencies are leveraging support to expand our work downstream towards Jackman creek from the confluence of the Sauk River. As part of this work SFEG is looking for a Letter of Support for their 5 star grant request to gain funds to expand our knotweed control efforts. To plan for future projects and funding opportunities we have met with Skagit CWMA and determines what hours already being put towards the program can be used as in-kind Contributions for future grant requests. We met multiple times with our CWMA partners to determine who would control specific properties in the new knotweed expansion area. Skagit County committed to controlling Skagit County parcels in the new project area using WSDA grant and general funds.

Presentations to Board of County Commissioners

I presented in front of the BCC two different times to outline vacant board member positions, advertise for the open board member positions and to give our annual report for the commissioners a yearly report on our grant programs and our program as a whole.

Washington State Noxious Weed Conference

Myself and the crew attended the Washington State Weed Conference and participated in the state board meeting. At that meeting we discussed suggested revisions to the State noxious weed list as well as talked about improving local boards. There were many classes and networking opportunities where we were able to talk about our programs and heard various other success stories about species we have yet to deal with.

Coordinator Association

The Coordinators conference is scheduled for March 13th – 15th

Backcountry Horseback Club

I was asked by Gerry from Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board to see if I could fill in for her for a presentation to a local trail riding group. I did the presentation at the grange in Smokey Point.

Administrative Change

There will be a slight change to where our program is housed at Skagit County Public Works. Dan and the Director of the Natural Resource Division have been talking about putting our program under their Division. The idea being that more administrative assistance and partnerships may take place with us in the same division. Also Since many of the programs already overlap with the Natural Resource division. Overall we believe that this change will bring more dedicated support to our program and our board.

Closing a lien

After talking with the previous coordinator it has come to my attention that we may need to address an enforcement that took place before I was a coordinator. From what I can gather the property owner has passed away and I am trying to figure out what would be the next steps to close this item so it's not lost and unresolved in the future.

CWMA data collection and sharing group.

Sean Carson has been assisting me with creating a working group on ARC GIS online where we can see and share our partners work to make sure that we aren't missing or doubling any of our work. This also helps get more noxious weed data to have more accurate noxious weed listings based off of its actual distribution.

Class A Funding

The Washington State board is requesting proposals for projects to control Class A weeds. This may be used for our Garlic Mustard issues in day creek or our Giant hogweed population in Sedro Woolley. Up to 5000.00

Brian: If it takes too much time and takes away from you projects it may not be worth the effort. So if you have time and want to make a proposal you can but it's good to focus on your projects.

d. Treasurers Report

Currently we have \$125,905 in our general fund. This includes an additional 10k for part time salaries not accounting for a new position. Once our office is set we can look at an amendment or we can revise our 2020 budget request to account for another position or more working hours. Our spartina budget is 0\$ so we will not be charging anything else until our new grant is activated after June 30th. Our knotweed grant has 6k left. To account for this we will be starting our crews in May to assist with landowner agreements and planning along with early treatments to ensure these funds are used by June 30th. Additionally I will be purchasing a set of Waders as that was a complaint from my crew last year.

e. New Full Time Position Proposal

After going over our timeline and what is required for a budget revision it is more likely that a new positions will be included in our 2020 Budget request.

f. District Delineation Revision

After Consulting with Stephen Fallquist we decided not to make additional revisions to the SCC6.56 specifically to change some of the district boundaries. For future alterations a census would need to be taken to ensure equitable divisions between districts. Fallquist

was open to changing the clause about term limits but more information would be needed to change our delineations of district boundaries.

g. Board Member Training Certification

New requirement to ensure that all board members are trained and are knowledgeable of RCW and WAC. Mary Fee is looking for certification and documentation of trainings. Mary fee was selected to be the new Executive secretary. As part of her job coming into the position it was expressed that county weed boards need to document trainings on OPMA and to make sure that all board members are refreshed every 4 years and trained once selected for service on the board. There was a push to have more one-on-one time with the Executive Secretary to assist county boards with memberships, meeting procedures and understanding of RCW and WAC. They also want to make state weed board meetings more accessible for county weed boards.

Joseph: Would you like me to schedule a training day to go over presentations and videos regarding OPMA?

Brian: Yeah that would be a good idea.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Brian: Moves to Adjourn

Call to Vote: Aye: 1 Nay: N/A

Motion Passes

6:47 P.M.



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

January 2019 report

Cooperative Efforts

- Letter of Support for SFEG NFWF grant.
- Letter of Support for In-Kind Contribution Skagit River Survey

Education and outreach

1. **Education and outreach**
2. Flood Awareness Week Sector F Field observer October 15th -19th
3. Washington State Noxious Weed Conference November 7th – 9th
4. State Weed board meeting November 7th
5. BCHW Cascade Horse Riding Club November 13th
6. SFEG CWMA Knotweed meeting December 12th
7. Skagit County Commissioners presentation on board positions December 17th
8. Stand Alone County Commissioners January 7th
9. Skagit CWMA Meeting January 14th

