



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

Minutes

Published Meeting
April 18th 2019, 5:30pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Board of Commissioners Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Brian Waltner calls the meeting to order at 5:35pm
- II. ROLL CALL
 - Don McMoran
 - Brian Waltner
 - Jim Carstens (call –in)
- III. AGENDA
 - a. Approval of April 18th 2019 meeting agenda
- IV. MINUTES
 - a. Approval of January 17th 2019 meeting minutes
Tabled until July 18th due to lack of Quorum
- V. GUEST COMMENTS
- VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS
 - a. **Board Member Nominations**

Joseph: We had one person named matt that was interested in district 2 but never turned in the application due to a lack of availability. I have given Jim Carstens and Brian Waltner applications to the board to fill out since their terms are now expired and in order to become voting members again they must reapply to the board. We have put out multiple notices in the newspaper and social media platforms and have yet to get any interested citizens.

Don: I think you should present at the Skagit Ag Summit next year in February.

Joseph: Yes, I was wanting to but it fell off my radar.

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)

Guests:

- Michael See (Skagit
County) Division
Manager of Natural
Resource Division

Don: The Country living expo has 1500 people attend. It's more of a homesteader event so the Skagit Ag Summit might be better to connect with commercial producers.

Don: When is the western Washington Ag association meeting?

Brian: I'm not sure, Brandon Roozen does a great job with the association. I just haven't been there in a long time.

Brian: Opening the RCW to allow more people to apply to the boards would be nice and might make it easier to fill the board.

b. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report

****SEE ATTACHED REPORT****

Joseph: Our NPDES permits are approved for the season for our grant programs.

I did order some bio-control agents from Jennifer at WSU extension for two different sites for scotch broom under the twin bridges as well as a site near Marblemount.

I've been working with Brad Clifton quite a bit to get our programs in line with each other. We have built a group and a layer on our handheld devices to see each other's treatments, no spray agreements and chemical sensitive individuals so we know who to contract and if we have permissions to treat any noxious weeds. We are also going to set up annual classes for the roads division to identify and treat noxious weeds. This would help to keep some mowers from spreading weeds inadvertently while clearing brush. This is partially in response to a growing Garlic Mustard patch growing near Cape Horn rd. on the South Skagit Highway. We put up reflective stakes to alert the road mowing crews.

Bill Agosta will be coming to our next meeting on July 18th so we want to try to make sure we have everyone present for that meeting if we can. We have been talking about a regional meeting every year to get our neighboring counties to be more engaged with each other as well as have the board members to meet and exchange with other county board members. We are hoping to have a meeting in November if possible.

Jim: I leave about the 10th of November to go south.

Joseph: Currently we have 7 applicants for the noxious weed aid position and only 2 for technician position. We have yet to have an applicant for the coordinator position. So we reopened the job posting for another two weeks. If we can't find anyone for the position I may just take it over for the season

Jim: And this is someone who is working under you?

Joseph: Yes, this is the crew lead that oversees the crews out in the field and works with WSDA to do the Spartina and Knotweed grant programs. If funding becomes an issue in the winter we can also have them assist other programs.

Cooperative Efforts

Joseph: I will be working with a Boy Scout who is doing an eagle scout project. We will be loaning out weed wrenches so they can pull, cut and spray Scotch Broom off of Martha's bluff in Martha's Cove.

Tim Hollerand mentioned to me again this year that we would like to spray for yellow flag iris and Purple Loosestrife at Swift Creek and Swift Pond. Nate from Sedro Woolley Public Works and the Skagit Steelhead Club assisted in time and chemical to help clean the lake and make it accessible for fishing again. So this year we will go back and see how well our treatments went.

Don: Why isn't the port of Skagit doing that?

Joseph: The property is owned by the City of Sedro Woolley. So that's why Nate was supplying the materials for spray. With our licenses and permits we were just asked to assist with the application before dredging occurred to decrease inadvertently spreading the propagules.

Michael: I know in the past before I was in my current role there was a few meetings where Bill was partnering in some projects before the port of Skagit purchased the property.

Jim: What road is this on?

Don: Fruitdale Road.

Joseph: I asked Tim Hollerand and Dan Berentson about billing and everything and they said to bill my time to Public Works.

Jim: So none of that is tribal property?

Joseph: No, this is before the tribes' property starts. The project all together only took an hour or an hour and a half to complete with two technicians.

We will be treating the Padilla Bay Dike again this year. Since we were able to treat last year we wanted to make sure we were consistent so once again we used Dike District 12s' Chemical and will be working with Mike McCutchin to coordinate spraying.

Michael: What the problem weed there?

Joseph: It is Poison hemlock, it's actually one of the few sites where I received a lot of emails and calls from people who were thankful for us treating the hemlock on the trail.

Jason Ontjes from San Juan County touched bases with me and wanted to make sure that we were going to revisit the Port of Skagit Poison Hemlock issue at the Anacortes ferry terminal. There are two properties; one the port of Skagit, and Anacortes Parks where there is a large population near walking trails and the ferry waiting zone. Jason is concerned about transport to the islands as well as kids and pedestrians walking and playing in the vegetation. Last year two people from San Juan Noxious Weed Control Board and two people from the Port of Skagit assisted myself in pulling and bagging plant

materials in the trail system. We are going to plan a pulling and spraying efforts again this year.

The Country living expo was an excellent event. Joan Devries does a great job setting everything up and I would love to come and talk again next year.

I also went to the Skagit and Washington State home and garden shows and was able to reach out to a lot of people. Wendy DesCamp has multiple county coordinators help table the state home and garden show and actually was able to reach out to many Skagit County residents.

Dr. Tim Miller is retiring and his retirement party is coming up. Tim Miller has been a huge help at the state board and is a great resource when it comes to chemical trials and plant biology.

Don: He will still be continuing post doc for Stephen stefeld. So there will still be some access to a specialist in the valley.

Joseph: Skagit County training May 17th for IPC EDRR (early detection and rapid response). This training is to get volunteers to record noxious weeds data on popular trails and more secluded areas. This information then is transferred directly to us so we can investigate and coordinate control of the populations.

There seems to be an increase in poison hemlock so that is something I would like to put more effort towards. There is a large population near Smilik Beach that I would like to work on. Also a lot in the Burlington, Mount Vernon and bow lowlands.

I've been asked to do a Presentation for Azusa farms date TBD.

Sent 20 letters to the garlic mustard property owners near Cape Horn rd. We have been treating the roadway but we now have found larger populations hidden within the forested areas. We have been able to get in contact with six of the 20 landowners to survey but we are still waiting to hear back from the property that has the majority of the plants. The state board has been giving out funds for Class A removal projects and I believe this would be a great project for the funding opportunity since it crosses multiple properties. This is something that I would like to focus my time on since it is a Class A population.

I will be putting together a letter to send to the WSDOT about the thistles in the overpasses. They seem to be getting worse and I wanted to make sure they mow the populations.

Gordon rd. Policeman's Helmet, Japanese Knotweed and Yellow Archangel. This is a property I worked with 2 years ago and now they are building and are wanting to get more work done eradicating their population of Knotweed and Policeman's helmet.

We are now sharing plant collection data on an online group in ARG GIS online with our Skagit CWMA group. Also the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group was asking if I would want to take over as the CWMA organizer and was asking if we would want to keep the program focused on knotweed or if I would want to expand the work. We hope the

increased data sharing and coordination will make our programs more successful. We will also be expanding our Upper Skagit Knotweed work past the confluence of the Sauk River to the mouth of Jackman Creek towards Concrete. We will be committing our time to control knotweed on roughly 100-120 acres of Skagit County land to ensure a complete top down approach since SFEG will be treating many of the other properties downstream of the property. The overall goal is to connect the Skagit River treatments to Grandy Creek where our program has been so successful.

c. Treasurers Report

Joseph: Our Knotweed grant has roughly 6000.00 dollars in it and we should be able to close it out in June when our crew starts. Our Spartina grant is already closed out. We do already have an idea of how much we will be getting for the 2019-2021 biennium and we expect to get a reduction in about 10,000\$. So that would be 30,000\$ for 2019-2020 and 40,000\$for 2020-2021. For knotweed I would expect something around 20,000\$

Don: You got to start writing some grants.

Joseph: I know. A lot of the major grants I find have a lot more requirements then just noxious weeds so that's why I think it would be great to work more with the Natural Resource Division so it more of a partnership where I can control the noxious weeds and they could spend time revegetating.

Michael See: I think that's why having Joseph in the Natural resource Division would be so helpful so we can touch bases on our projects and possible see ways to combine our efforts

Jim: So where do these funds come from?

Joseph Shea: These are all WSDA grants. For our General Fund we are at 125,000 and we are on track for the end of the year. We have about 80% left but we normally have most of our expenditures in the summer.

We purchased 6 set of waders for a total of \$900.00 out of our WSDA knotweed grant and are looking at replacing the Argo in the future. It still runs and drives but isn't the best for what we currently use it for.

Jim: So you are looking at replacing the Argo or getting something different

Joseph Shea: Well anything will work but for how much it would cost to start replacing some of the major parts is would be cheaper to get a get new gator or something similar.

Jim: So you wouldn't want to get a new Argo?

Joseph: No, it used to be very useful in the Spartina program but now with the marsh masters, and airboats being supplied to us and with the deteriorating steering system it is more useful as a water nurse tank than an actual sprayer unit. The marsh master may have a bigger footprint but it accomplishes the same job that the Argo did and is much more reliable.

d. New Full Time Position Proposal

Joseph Shea: So for 2020 I would like to officially put in for an additional position. I have already discussed this before with the commissioners about the need for another full time position.

Jim Carstens: Did they seem receptive to that?

Joseph Shea: Yes, they seemed receptive to the increase. They all seemed interested in helping improve our program and I made it pretty clear that additional full time staff would be a great benefit. It would be a 30-40% increase in the overall budget with benefits included.

Joseph: We may want to meet again before our next meeting to talk about the new full time position before July to make sure we have time to talk about everything before the budgets are due.

Brian: well you can just send some of that information a week or so before the meetings so we have time to review everything.

e. Board Member Training Certification

Joseph: It would be great to have everyone attend a training once we get some new board members to go over the RCW, and all relevant OPMA and PRA procedures. If we could pick a date and do a training that would help me a lot since now the State Board would like all new and old board members to have annual refreshers.

Brian: How long is this training?

Joseph: it would only take two hours or so. I would like to have someone from outside our board to do the training so I can also participate.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Division Change

Joseph: Now I am within the natural resource division and my daily supervisor is Michael See. I have been attending the Lake management district meetings since they work on eradicating noxious weeds and algae's on our local lakes. I will help in hosting some community meetings with Tracy Alker and the contractor to heighten awareness about noxious weeds and give general and chemical recommendations for riparian property owners in the area. Also the hope is to assist Tracy with information about the NPDES and to make sure that our organization and contractors are following the current regulations set in place.

b. Brassica Ordinance

Joseph: Some of the species included in the brassica ordinance are listed noxious weeds and therefore are not to be grown or distributed. There is a lot of overlap between our program and the proposed ordinance. Therefore Michael See and I worked with Stephen Fallquist to route the ordinance to schedule a public hearing. Public hearing is on May 7th at 1:30. Next week this will be on the consent agenda to have a call for public hearing to get everything publicized for the hearing.

Brian: So the language is finalized and now it's moving forward.

Joseph: Skagit County did not want the responsibility to enforce against private noncommercial brassica growers.

Brian: Who would prosecute?

Don McMoran: The Growers would be the ones responsible to file suit against any non-commercial seed growers. They would have the opportunity to be reimbursed for their crop as compensation for its removal.

Brian: Where has this been a problem in the past?

Don: In 2017 in Sedro Woolley there was a disagreement between a private and commercial grower which I had to help moderate

Brian: Well that shows it can happen but it's extremely rare.

Don: The seed growers normally keep their eye out for any pollinating Brassica near their crop but a population was not spotted until it was flowering. The landowner then was very frustrated and refused to abide by RCW because it only applies to commercial growers. Due to this exchange the commercial growers realized they needed some protection at the county level to ensure that crop fields are protected and pollinator buffers are observed by private and commercial growers. This way there is a tool in the toolbox to address these issues in a timely manner.

Joseph: My one concern with the current listed species is that the listed noxious weeds should not be grown and we would not reimburse a landowner for them losing their noxious weed crop. This could bring confusion and there might be a need to add an item excluding noxious weeds from the draft listed brassica species.

Don: Well the draft specifically mentions that you'll be reimbursed for the value of the crop. There is no value to a noxious weed economically so therefore you wouldn't have to reimburse the landowner for a noxious weed crop.

Joseph: It would be a good idea if we had someone from the seed growers association present for the public hearing.

Michael: It would be best to have interested parties to be present for the May 7th meeting. For the resolution to call for a public hearing Joseph and I would attend to answer any questions the commissioners may have.

c. 2019-2021 WSDA Biennium Budget Request

Joseph: I requested for 109,000 for the knotweed program but realistically I see an award of 15,000-20,000. I would like to work with Emily Derenne to possibly partner on some of our sites. The hope is to have revegetation plans for our treatment sites to make our program more robust and successful.

Don: So where does WSDA get the funding for the Knotweed Program?

Joseph: I'm not 100% sure but I know that a majority of the funding for our Spartina program comes from shellfish sales and taxes from state land harvesting. I'd assume that the Knotweed funds come from fees to harvest on other state lands. Jon Still is the manager for the Knotweed programs and has been providing additional services like airboats for transportation and work crews to assist out CWMA with our expanding Knotweed control program.

Don: It seems like you need to see where this funding is coming from and see if you can get on the inside and apply for more funding.

Joseph: I just am not sure if there is an abundance of funding. The knotweed grant has 100s of people applying and therefore less is awarded per request unlike our Spartina funding which is only given out to a few county weed boards so the competition is fairly low and therefore more can be awarded to each requestor. There is potential for a biocontrol agent for knotweed that is supposed to be approved in the near future.

Don: Michael is there any clean water funds that could be used for Knotweed control?

Michael: For clean water there would have to be a clean water benefit in order to be used. This could be justified if there was some kind of riparian vegetation project. Fencing out livestock. And revegetation.

Joseph: We have been able to assist Emily with some of their larger planting sites where we are able to charge our time to their grants. Unfortunately I don't think that they would be able to commit to revegetating all of the properties that we spray. Since we don't have funds for revegetation it would be great to partner more.

d. 2020 Skagit County Budget

Joseph: The 2020 budget will be due in the first week of July and I know last year we weren't able to have much of a discussion about the budget before I had to submit it but we did put in for an increase. We did roughly 15,000\$ increase with 10,000\$ more in part time labor and the rest in services and supplies in 2019. So for 2020 I would like to officially put in for an additional position. I have already discussed this before with the commissioners about the need for another full time position.

Jim Carstens: Did they seem receptive to that?

Joseph Shea: Yes, they seemed receptive to the increase. They all seemed interested in helping improve our program and I made it pretty clear that additional full time staff would

be a great benefit. It would be a 30-40% increase in the overall budget with benefits included.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Due to lack of Quorum there was no motion to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 6:47pm



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

April 18, 2019

General

1. 2019 NPDES permit applied and received March 20th
2. Brassica Ordinance Public Hearing May 7th
3. WSDA Knotweed Solicitation April 30th
4. Bio Control Agents Jennifer Andreas. Ordered two sites worth of Bio Control for Scotch Broom. March 5th
5. Skagit County Roads and Noxious Weed Data Collection and reporting improvements. Sharable Data Layers and Spray and no spray agreements.
6. Planning an annual class for roadside managers on vegetation management TBD
7. William Agosta State Weed Board Region 2 Representative will attend our July meeting
8. Regional Meeting for November (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, San Juan, and Clallum) In Mount Vernon.

Hiring

1. 7 Applicants for Noxious Weed Aid
2. 2 Applicants for Noxious Weed Control technician
3. 0 Applicants for Coordinator Position

Cooperative Efforts

1. Swinomish Tribe, Boy scouts of America Scotch Broom removal project on Martha's Cove TBD
2. Swift Creek and Swift Pond Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Flag Iris Treatment, Skagit Steelhead Club, Sedro Woolley Public Works, Skagit County Parks. TBD
3. Padilla Bay Dike, Skagit County Parks, Dike District 12. April 23rd
4. Poison Hemlock at the port of Skagit. April 29th
5. Lake management districts community involvement and education. Big Lake Community Event

Education and outreach

1. Country Living Expo Cattleman's Winter school January 26th
2. KSVR SVC radio interview February 1st
3. Ag Growers recertification meeting SVC February 20th
4. Washington State Home and Garden show Washington Convention center February 23rd
5. Washington State Weed Coordinators Association Conference 13th – 15th March
6. State weed board meeting March 13th
7. Skagit County Home and Garden Show 22nd – 24th March
8. Lake Management District 4 25th March
9. Lake Management District 3 27th March
10. Lake Management District 1 9th April
11. Mount Vernon Science night April 25th
12. WCC training May 15th
13. Tim Miller retirement May 21st
14. May 7th Brassica Ord
15. EDRR IPC training Whatcom County May 11th
16. EDRR IPC training Skagit County Padilla bay research center May 17th
17. Azuza Nursery Presentation TBD
18. Yellow Archangel Maddox creek and Section St April 4th
19. Poison Hemlock on Similk Beach Oyster Farm April 2nd
20. DNR Questions about Cleaning and disposal of Chemical Containers April 9th

Landowner Notifications

- 20 Letters sent to Day creek area for Garlic Mustard population
- Poison Hemlock on Channel Drive ROW April 23rd
- Poison Hemlock on Fir Island Polson Rd April 23rd
- Letter to DOT TBD
- Gordon Road, Concrete Policeman's Helmet, Japanese Knotweed and Yellow Archangel Population. TBD

CWMA

- Data Collection group CWMA
 - Data sharing within group. Sean Carson Skagit County GIS (SFEG, Skagit Land Trust, US Forest service, DNR, Seattle City Light, Sauk Suattle Tribe, Swinomish, Upper Skagit Tribe, WSDA, DOE)
- Extending Knotweed Treatment downstream of Sauk River.
 - Skagit County Parcel (Howard Miller Steelhead Park)

Landowner Calls and Consultations

- Guemes Island Poison Hemlock April 1st 5236 Guemes island rd.
- Poison Hemlock Samish island road 10749 April 2nd

- Garlic Mustard in River Courts Edge 42819 River edge court April 11th
- False Brome 20535 Dike Rd Feb 26th
- Poison Hemlock Channel Drive
- Poison Hemlock on Dry Slough and Tellesbo Ln
- Scotch Broom Rockport WA 59001 St. rt. 20 April 22nd
- 212 Hawthorn Ln Knotweed May 5th
- 17719 W Big Lake BLVD June 3rd
- Emily Derenne 8869 Ershig rd. June 18th
- Chemical and program recommendations for Scotch broom Highway 9 Transmission Right of way April 15th
- Subcontractor Referrals Skookum Contract Services April 10th
 - 34 missed calls 16 Spam
 - 39 outgoing calls
 - 26 incoming calls 9 Spam
 - 19 Voicemails

2017-2019 Grant Budgets (Expires June 30th)

- Spartina (80,000.00) \$0.0
- Knotweed (27,000.00) \$6,678.57

2019-2021 Grant Budgets (Starts July 1st)

- Spartina (\$70,000.00) 2019-2020 (\$30,000) 2020-2021 (\$40,000)
- Knotweed (Unknown)

General Fund Budget

- General Fund (125,017.00)
- Total 2019 (177,017.00)

Purchasing

Waders x6	\$934.76
New Argo/Gator/ Spray ATV	\$.....