



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

Minutes

Published Meeting
June 29th 2017, 6:00pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Board of Commissioners Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

I. CALL TO ORDER

6:05pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Jim Hinton
- Jim Carstens
- Victor Jensen
- Brian Waltner
- Joseph Shea
- Don McMoran
- Dan Berentson

III. AGENDA

- a. **Approval of June 29th 2017 Meeting Agenda**
Jim Carstens moves to approve the agenda for June 29th 2017.
Victor Jensen Seconds the motion
Jim Hinton Calls to a Vote
4 Eye 0 Nay Motion passes

IV. MINUTES

- a. **Approval of April 20th 2017 Minutes.**
Jim Carstens moves to approve the minutes for June 29th 2017.
Victor Jensen Seconds the motion
Jim Hinton Calls to a Vote
4 Eye, 0 Nay Motion passes

V. GUEST COMMENTS

VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- a. **Coordinator hiring process**

Dan Berentson – After reviewing the applicants we have selected two individuals for interviews. We believed these applicants were the most qualified so Jim Hinton, Andy Shaw and I interviewed the first candidate Wednesday afternoon and will be interviewing Joseph on Friday afternoon. Once all the scores are compiled we will meet with the board to discuss the applicant's scores and select the final applicant for hiring.

Chair:

- Jim Hinton

Board members:

- Jim Carstens
- Tom Dellinger
- Victor Jensen
- Brian Waltner

Extension representative:

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

Coordinator:

- Joseph Shea (Skagit
County)

Guests:

- Dan Berentson (Skagit
County) Director of
Public Works.

b. 2017-2018 County Noxious Weed list

Jim Hinton- Calls to start the public hearing at 6:15pm for input and suggestions for the purposed Skagit County 2017 Noxious Weed List.

Joseph - Due to previous data collections at Skagit County there has been little information for the state board to designate noxious weeds within Skagit County. After talking with Allison Halpern we discussed that many of the presently selected weeds may be re-classified after more data has been collected within our county. Due to the lack of data we are unable to change the classifications of designated weeds to non-designated.

Jim Carstens- I believe that Japanese Knotweed, Poison Hemlock, Tansey Ragwort should be designated for control.

Jim Hinton- Scotch broom should be designated due to the abundance in rock pits and their ability to spread. This should be an area we focus on.

Joseph Shea- Garlic Mustard has been found near Cape Horn Road and is of high importance to treat.

Dan Berentson- Milfoil is currently treated by a number of lake management districts like Lake Erie, Campbell, Mc-Murry, Big and clear lake.

Joseph Shea – I believe that butterfly bush is fairly wide spread and therefore we shouldn't designate it just because at this time it's not feasible to require people to treat it. Butterfly bush is becoming a larger threat to riparian areas. Also due to our large list of designated weeds it would be wise to determine what we can actually accomplish since much of our designated weeds area fairly widespread. We will need to gather more data to determine what weeds to remove from the designated list.

Jim Carstens- Moves to add Yellow Nutsedge, Japanese Knotweed, Poison Hemlock, Tansey Ragwort, and Scotch Broom to the Skagit County B-Designated List.

Vic Jensen- Seconds the motion.

Jim Hinton Calls to a Vote

4 Yay 0 Nay Motion Passes.

Jim Hinton – Common Tansey and Common Teasel is a problem in the area. Used as Christmas decorations and transported by train and live stock has made it a big problem in the farm-to-market road areas. It is a big impact to crop lands especially hay fields.

Joseph Shea- I have noticed a lot of areas of previous treatment of Tansey and it could be helpful to require treatment to get ahold of some of the larger infestations.

Joseph Shea– Also Field Bindweed seems to be a popular weed that landowners need help treating. It's a vegetative plant so landowners can't treat effectively without chemicals. It becomes a big threat and competes with trees and ground cover.

Jim Hinton – Thistles have been something we deal with when there is a complaint but since it is so far spread we are unable to treat areas of lower priority. Typically the areas treated are near farm lands and crop fields.

Brian Waltner- Moves to add Common Tansey, Common Teasel, Field Bindweed, Bull Thistle, Canada Thistle, and Wild Carrot to the 2017 Skagit County Selected Class C Noxious Weeds List.

Victor Jensen- Seconds the motion

Jim Hinton- Calls to a vote

Yay 4 Nay 0 Motion Passes

c. Board member nominees letter to the County Commissioners

Jim Carstens has received his application and is the process of filling it out and will have that in by July 20th. He will get his signatures and return it to the board. Victor Jensen has

turned in a completed form for appointment to the board. The Board Moves to nominate Victor Jensen for appointment to Weed District 1.

d. Permit and grant status

Joseph Shea- We received a new contract for the 2017-2019 biennium for our Spartina program totaling 80,000. Jim Hinton has signed the document and we are awaiting approval from the County Commissioners.

e. Summer hire process

Joseph Shea- We hired all of our summer hires and they are currently working in the field. Alexandra Simpson - Spartina Coordinator, Masters Student did tideland research in the tidelands of the Columbian. Brian Maupin – Spartina Technician, worked in AK for 12 years in Juno as the noxious weed technician. Christie Turner – Spartina Technician, graduate from Skagit Valley College with a BA and has worked in Spartina and Knotweed through the WCC. William Bethel – Noxious Weed Aid, Western student who is starting his first job in the environmental field and should learn a lot. Then lastly there is Amber Irene Goble- Noxious Weed Aid, graduated from the bachelors program at Skagit Valley College and is very excited about this position and shows a lot of energy towards noxious weeds.

f. Skagit County Noxious Weed Board Policies and Procedures doc.

Joseph Shea- This is a document we talked about at our last meeting and would outline the specific duties of all the board members as well as the coordinator. This would help show responsibility as well as the involvement of the county commissioners with regards to the Noxious Weed Board. This would outline timelines, requirements and duties that could be helpful for new board members as well as the Skagit County Staff and commissioners.

Jim Hinton- I don't see this as being an important issue as the board members know what is required of them.

Jim Carstens-It might be something good that if we have new board members they can look at it. It doesn't have to be a huge document.

Brian Waltner- Even if it's just a small overview that could be helpful.

Jim Carstens- Moves to proceed on efforts necessary to develop a policies and procedures document.

Brian Waltner- Seconds the motion

Jim Hinton- Calls to a vote

Aye 4 nay 0 Motion Passes

g. Weed District Delineation verbiage.

Joseph Shea- Our Current Weed District Map is an older black and white map where roman numerals were drawn on the map with no real designation of boundaries. The new map that Sean Carson helped create has highway 20, highway 9, Cascade Highway, as well as a township line that will separate the different districts and give more district information to the public and board members.

Dan Berentson – We might want to make sure that we have a large enough population to fill the board member seats. If a district has too small of a population it may be hard to find board members in the future.

Joseph Shea- If needed we could look into more census data to develop more equitable districts for future assessments or other population based issues.

Jim Hinton – We will need a bigger map to look at because Jim Carstens may be outside of the purposed district which he represents since he lives on the south side of highway 20. We can revisit this once we have a larger map created at the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Hinton – A comment made by a couple of the boys was to create a warning notice for landowners and have you made or done anything towards that?

Joseph Shea – I have delivered notices but they were not a warning, they were more notices of consultation and assistance since I did not want to give out legal penalty notices as I am only interim at the moment. This was an Initial notice.

Jim Hinton – You need to be in contact of sterling hill, norm nelson, cook road the visor place. Silage stack with equipment is full of Poison Hemlock. This product is being transported to Whatcom County. We may have to shut the pit down. We need to get this brought to their attention.

Jim Hinton – There is also a thistle problem at the residence.

Victor Jensen- These big farmers don't have the time or care about the fence lines and noxious weeds on their lands. Blackberries are taking over the roadsides. Talked with Ron Wessen that the canary grass is blocking the roads as well.

Brian Waltner – In order for those to be worked on you have to complain.

Dan Berentson – In the PSE right of way there are weeds and the person to contact would be Lyn murphy. A couple months ago we had a tree fall into the river and they were very cooperative to get that taken care of.

Victor Jensen – Is there any ordnances with regards to trees near roads and powerlines and by houses? They need to be harvested for safety. Are there right of way restrictions?

Jim Hinton- During our last meeting I know that you're busy but the weed board requested you send us a monthly report on your work.

Joseph Shea – I didn't create a report for last month mainly because we didn't have a meeting and so I compiled all of the information into the meeting for today.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

a) Noxious Weed Coordinator Report – See Attached Report

Jim Hinton – Last year we got hung by the sheriff's office in costs for the survey and we hired a fella in Rockport but we are unable to get a commitment from him.

Joseph Shea- I was hoping to possibly contact some of the dike districts to try and use some of their boats for survey work.

Dan Berentson – Daryl or Dan/ 17/12 dike district to help with the survey. They have nice boats and have been cooperative in the past.

Jim Hinton – Koffel property. Need to create a lien for service to treat it again. Randy was able to get into the property last year but it seems we will have to have another treatment. Water treatment plant (Anacortes) Gerry Koffel property needs to be dealt with. Next to the big nursery. We rented tractors and mowers and the cost was very high. The spray cost when randy did the treatment was much more reasonable.

Joseph Shea- With regards to creating a contract with Dave Loman he was at this time unwilling to create a contract with the county as he does not have time to service the Argo.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Hinton- Calls for a motion to adjourn.

Vic Jensen- Moves to adjourn

Brian Waltner- Seconds the motion

Jim Hinton- Calls to a vote
4 Yay, 0 Nay Motion passes
8:36pm