

Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

<u>Minutes</u>

Published Meeting
October 15th 2020, 5:30pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Online Via Microsoft Teams

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL

Sonny Gohrman Jason Kleinhuizen Joseph Shea Christie Turner Logan McKay Michael See

III. AGENDA

a. Approval of October 15th 2020 meeting agenda
 Jason moves to approve
 Sonny seconded

IV. MINUTES

 a. Approval of July 16th 2020 meeting Minutes Sonny moves to approve Jason seconded

V. GUEST COMMENTS

Logan: Is currently working on getting signatures for his board member application, which has proven difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He doesn't have an agricultural background and therefore may not make it on the board. He intends to continue attending the board meetings regardless, to stay up to date.

Joseph: Yes, 4 out of 5 of our board members have to be engaged in "primary production", though it could be said that landscaping is within the agricultural scope of things. Noxious weed work overlaps both ideas and both sides have valuable input. Another thing is, board members are not easy to come by, especially enthusiastic ones that do have a resemblance to the agricultural/natural resources background.

Chair:

Board members:

- Victor Jensen
- Sonny Gohrman
- Jason Kleinhuizen

Extension representative:

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

Coordinator:

Joseph Shea (Skagit County)

Technician:

Christie Turner

Guests:

- Logan McKay
- Cheryl Cunningham

Sonny: Landscaping may be stretching "primary production" but he doesn't completely oppose it.

Joseph: Even if Logan's application doesn't go through now, he will hold it in our records.

VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS

a. Elect a new Chair

Joseph: Hopefully in 2021, once virtual meetings is gone, maybe we will have Jason be our new chair.

b. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report

See Attached Report

c. Treasurers Report

See Attached Report

d. Board Member Nominations

Joseph: No current nominations at this time. I will be posting a public notice about the current vacancy in District 1.

e. Board Member Training Certification

Joseph: Went through the training with Logan and Jason. I will be printing out certificates for you. Sonny still needs to complete his training.

f. Brassica Ordinance

Joseph: Reached out to Brandon and had a good conversation about moving forward, but is still waiting to hear back from him. It doesn't seem appropriate to leave it on the table, action may need to be taken to move it forward if they don't respond soon.

Sonny: Believes this needs to be followed through but is cautious about pursuing actions not entirely related to noxious weeds.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Budget

Joseph: Asks for comments on the budget to be submitted before November when he meets with the commissioners.

b. 2021 Meeting Dates

The 3rd Thursday of January, April, July, and October at 5:30pm:

January 21st, 2021

April 15th, 2021

July 15th, 2021

October 21st, 2021

c. 2021 Noxious Weed List Suggestions for State Board

Joseph: Suggested changes made to the state noxious weed list take into effect in January 2021. Changes to the county list should be addressed at this time if you have them.

d. Inter-local with Sedro Woolley Japanese Knotweed Joseph: Nathan from Sedro-Woolley Public Works is struggling with Japanese knotweed within city limits. We have an inter-local agreement with roads, but we may need to look into creating an agreement with the city of Sedro-Woolley. Inter-local agreements aid in hiring and work force needs.

Sonny: Cautions the movement of state money away from the riparian zones.

Joseph: We are not using our WSDA grant fund for knotweed work outside of the riparian area.

e. Inter-local with Anacortes Heart Lake Purple Loosestrife
Joseph: Similar inter-local agreements with Anacortes are being considered for the
purple loosestrife infestation at Heart Lake. Does anyone approve or deny the motion to
pursue inter-local agreements between Sedro-Woolley and Anacortes?

Sonny moves to approve Jason seconded

f. Exploration of Noxious Weed Assessment

Joseph: Wants to raise public awareness and gain community input on the proposal of a noxious weed assessment. Department of Transportation doesn't have to pay taxes on state lands, meaning an assessment may not be the best option in the short term.

Sonny: Gaining commissioner's approval may be very helpful.

Joseph: Having members of the board approve this plan before pursuing is important. Quorum is a concern, meeting with our lawyer about what can be done when there are vacancies, and the board is under quorum.

Sonny: Would like to know more on the metrics, how many parcels are taxable and how many are not.

Joseph: Will look into the metrics of the parcels, and getting more information on quorum, and adding new board members.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Joseph adjourns meeting

Adjourn 7:07pm



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

Coordinators report

October 15, 2020

General

- 1. CWMA
 - a. CWMA MOU Renewal
 - b. CWMA data collaboration
- 2. Equipment loan
 - a. 4 different landowners using the Up rooter
 - b. 1 landowner using EZ-Ject lance
 - c. 1 landowner used a backpack sprayer.
- 3. Enforcements
 - a. 26 landowner Notices of violation (NOV's) sent.
- 4. Education and Outreach
 - a. 38 landowner consultations/treatments
 - b. Skagit Publishing Kimberly Knotweed Program
 - c. Livestock advisory coming up
- 5. Community interaction
 - a. Emails
 - i. 197 sent
 - ii. 595 emails
 - b. Phone
 - i. 175 incoming + (phone records only go to 9/24 on cell)
 - ii. 47 outgoing + (phone records only go to 9/24 on cell)
 - iii. 27 missed calls + (phone records only go to 9/24 on cell)
 - iv. 48 Voicemails
- 6. Purchasing
 - a. X2 Up-Rooters 408.47
 - b. Short EZ-Ject Lance 535.81 and 1200 shells of diamond back shells (249.56).

Cooperative projects

Swinomish Tribal Community

Due to Covid-19 logistical issues the Swinomish tribal community was unable to complete their normal yearly surveys for Spartina. Since we were in operation and had a full crew I reached out to see if we could help. Over 4 days we surveyed and treated the Swinomish Spit islands, Swinomish Channel to the West, Turners cove and the southern portions of the Channel. All together we found large populations of Spartina in Turners Cove as well as the western portion of the Swinomish channel with the majority of the plants being located at the old log storage are near LaConner. These sites should be a good resource for training new staff as they have an abundance of plants to identify. Seems that the Swinomish Channel needs more extensive surveys and treatment as there is a large population seeding the Channel.

Swinomish Channel Sprit islands



Swinomish Channel



Swinomish Turner Cove



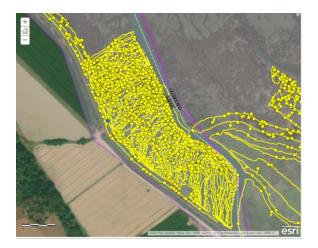
Swinomish Lumber Yard





WDFW Spartina Prices/Emericks N. Camano

On 10/2/20 we assisted Daniel Zimmerman with one of their high volume areas near Camano Island. Daniel met us and drove us to the site where we spend roughly 6 hours surveying. In total we surveyed 26 acres and found 845 plants with a total of 11 gallons of product used. Snohomish County Continues to be a larger concern for seed production as most of the Spartina population is near and around the Camano Bridge. More extensive work is necessary in these areas. WDFW normally assist us with talking fields but due to initial Covid-19 concerns we just did the area by ourselves earlier in the season.





Snohomish County Spartina work in Stanwood

From 9/29/20 to 10/1/2020 we assisted Snohomish County and three bears LLC a contractor for Snohomish County to finish some of their areas. WSDA was initially not going to do Marsh master surveys due to social distancing guidelines but we later decided that we can maintain our guidelines with proper PPE to complete the site. Since our crews have been working the whole season we were caught up with our sites and available for Cooperative efforts in Snohomish County. Unfortunately we were unable to complete the whole area of South Skagit but we did get a large portion completed. Christie and Karin assisted Frank and Sean with foot surveys and treatments in the upland areas of the marsh. While Monica and I assisted with Marsh Master Surveys and treatments with Chad Phillips and Brad from WSDA. We then switched duties daily. On Thursday we all cooperatively worked within the T&C project area surveying all together we surveyed roughly 330 acres

South Skagit Bay / Duck Shack





T&C Dike





Purple loosestrife in Heart Lake

Steve Phillips and Brian Tottenham from Anacortes public works contacted me asking for some assistance with purple loosestrife on Heart Lake. I went and did a brief survey and found that the red locations have a large population of purple loosestrife that should be addressed. I will be reaching out to WSDA to see if there is funding for such work and if not I will reach out to Anacortes to see if they would like to create an inter-local agreement to help treat the pond. Since the population has already gone to seed treatment will have to wait till next season. Anacortes did offer to collect seeds this season



but I figured it would be easier to do all flower/ seed collection on the same day as our treatment. Since we have all our licenses and can easily get a NPDES permit for the work it would greatly help Anacortes in their efforts to maintain the lake.

Purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris in Northern state pond

For the last 3 years we have been helping the Port of Skagit, Skagit County Public Works and the Steelhead club to maintain the derby lake at the Northern State campus. The property was dredged in 2018 and 2019 and seems to have been dredged again in 2020. The overall abundance of Purple Loosestrife has plummeted but there is still a high abundance of Yellow Flag Iris. We were unable to do a chemical treatment this year due to timing scheduling and weather but we plan on continuing our efforts. We collected seeds from 5 or 6 different plants in 2020.

2019 2020





2018 2020





2018 2019





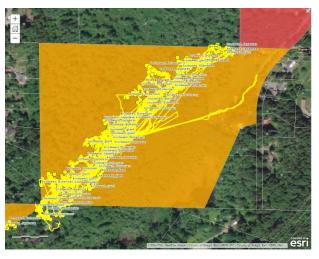
Triple creek lane Knotweed

This year I was notified by Emily Derenne that there was a property on Triple Creek Lane near one of her livestock bridge projects that had a lot of Knotweed. I then went and met will all the neighbors and surveyed the surrounding area. Since this is a large property in the Nookachamps watershed both Emily and I thought it would be a great place for restoration work. We reached out to Ruth and she gave us permission to treat the Knotweed and Blackberry that was taking over the property in hope that Emily and SFEG will be able to come back and do some revegetation. Since this project will be a future tree planting site we will be using Emily's fund to continue our treatments over our 3 year agreement period.



Auriemma property

This was another very large property that was new this year. With the help of the letters Christie sent out we were able to get ahold of Lou Auriemma and got permissions to treat their property for Knotweed. This is a property we haven't been able to access for some time and connects out upstream Knotweed treatment with





our downstream treatments. Overall we treated over 11 acres using 240 gallons over 4 days. This site is heavily infested and required making trails and access point's in order to treat the whole property. We have walked through the site with Emily and she is in the process of working on a revegetation plan. We will need to treat this property at least one more season before we start thinking about revegetation just due to the

amount of product used as well as the overall size of the project.



Lake Handcock

On 9/1/2020 and 9/2/2020 we assisted Island County and their contractor Pat Cole to do Lake Handcock. We have been assisting with this site for many years because of its size and limited access due to it being a military property as well as a historic bombing range. Over the two days we were able to complete the whole property and found a large abundance of Spartina. We hope to keep assisting on this property as we have seen a great improvement all together and with the staffing at Island County it makes it very hard to complete in a short time frame allowed by the US Navy.





Mix master sand bar Howard Miller Steelhead Park

We worked for 6 days on Mix Master Sand Bar and were able to treat Scotch Broom, Butterfly Bush, Old Man's Beard, English Ivy and Japanese Knotweed. Our previous treated areas look very promising and this year we were able to fully survey the island and see the full extent of knotweed on the Island. With this property we also extended our surveys to Howard Miller Steelhead Park. All together there were a couple dispersed patches within the park that we got permissions to treat. Since this is an organically maintained park we mainly stem injected the plants to localize the control as well as backpack sprayed a few larger patches that were hard to reach. We did have some trouble this year entering the site as there is a gate roughly a mile down the railroad grade that was locked. We reached





out to the landowner that removed our lock and got to an agreement about our access and we will be working with them over the winter to improve the gate and access point to make sure 4x4s are not able to get onto the property. The landowner was concerned about access to the site as many people drive around the gate with 4x4 and have been making trails within our project area. Since this is also a popular walking path extra signage for our treatments has been needed. Earth Corps helped us on various days when they were unable to do Spartina due to weather or tides. They were a very fun group to work with and all of the enjoyed the work. We hope to work with them again in the future. Overall we spent 1 day at Howard Miller with the Skagit County Crew. 3 days with Earth Corps employees and 2 days with the Skagit County Crew to complete the site. Emily Derenne is hopefully going to be able to come to the site and do some revegetation in the large areas we treated this fall/ spring but there will need to be ongoing Blackberry maintenance as I can see it overtaking the site if left unmanaged.





Padilla bay research center

We have worked with Rodger Fuller for a couple years now with regard to Spartina in Padilla Bay. They have been working on many properties in Padilla bay but unfortunately this year they were unable to treat/ do extensive surveys due to Covid-19. Since they didn't buy chemical they were unable to treat the plant they found about a mile north of the Padilla Bay Research Center. Our crew was unable to get in contact with Rodger fuller but they recently went out to the site and found the population and treated them. We are hoping to improve our communication with Rodger in the future as well as improve our overall Padilla Bay Surveys. Since they do not use collector or Iform it is very hard to see what has been done as well as it's hard to determine the quality of the survey. We are going to have our crew present with Rodger Fuller in the future to ensure control of the plants in a timely manner. Also this will allow our crew to track data to be mapped and logged with WSDA to better show the efforts in our county.





Cape Horn Community

Over the last two years I have got an increase in the overall landowner calls I have received in the Cape Horn Community, I had a meeting with two landowners earlier this year and I recently went to a community meeting to talk about our Knotweed program on the Skagit River. I would need an agreement form all the landowners on the river's edge in order to start my work on the island. Many landowners seemed receptive and wanted the control work. The community manager already reached out for chemical recommendations and they will be starting to control their own weeds until I am able to treat all the riparian properties under our NPDES permit. We are currently about 2 miles upstream and plan on working with landowners over the winter to connect the communities to our expanded CWMA area and line up for treatments in 2021.





Ika island WSDA Cooperative work

Sonny from WSDA was able to drive us out to Ika Island and do our annual treatment of the Island. We didn't find any Spartina in the large flats area between the channels and I believe that is due to a change in flow in the area and the overall vegetation has changed due to the highly fresh water. We did however find Spartina within the cove of the Island. They have drastically decreased over the last 5 years. Christie Turner was able to ride with sonny and survey part of the Swinomish Channel and the surrounding islands while we had access to the airboat.



Garlic Mustard on South Skagit Highway

There isnt any huge updates for this project other than we did receive a treatment agreement with Goodyear Nelson properties to do our Knotweed/Garlic Mustard treatments. This agreement came a little late into the season so we were unable to treat the orange properties. Now that we have an agreement we will explore funding sources and see if we can get this project moving. If we are unable to secure funds I have already talked with the regional Goodyear Nelson land manager and said they will need to provide a crew to do the work. I said I would be happy to supervise or oversee the work under my liscense as long as they were able to supply a crew and chemical for the work. Otherwise the landowner will have to preform and document the treatment by themselves inorder to comply with noxious weed laws regarding Class A weeds.

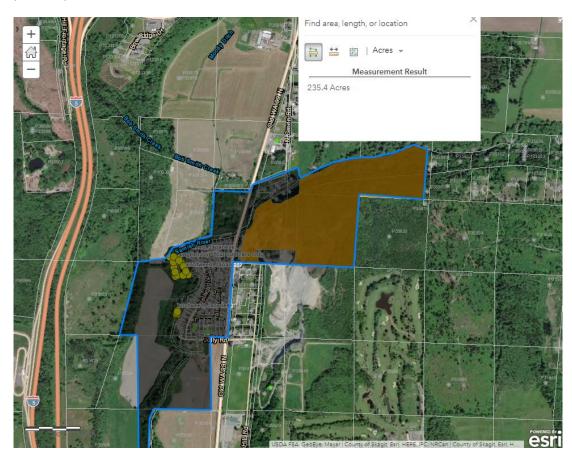




Samish River (Steelhead Ln Community/WDFW/Miles Sand and Gravel/Upper Skagit Indian Tribe)

This is a recent installment but we have reached out to Miles Sand and Gravel, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Upper Skagit Tribe and the Steelhead Ln Community and have received permission to treat the area from the Old 99 Hatchery to the Steelhead In Community. I am working with the Steelhead community HOA president and we will be sending flyers and door hangers to all the

property owners to schedule appointments and get treatment agreements. This area has always been a concern but now with the new hatchery being constructed it is important that the knotweed isn't going to negatively affect the project. Although we are still further upstream with regard to top down approach this is a huge area that provided excellent habitat as well as incentivizes more control and participation upstream.



WDFW/Miles Sand and Gravel



Knotweed in Steelhead Ln Community Park



GL787 NOXIOUS WEEDS JC/GL REPORT 20 Report Format 008

CUR: July 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020 Transaction status 1 YTD: January 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020 Rounding to Whole Dollars

---- Quarter ----- Year to Date ------ Annual ------Actual Committed Actual Committed Budget Variance % Var Per Date Description Trn ---- Subsystem Identification ---- JC Reference Batch Sheet Status Amount Fnd 001 GENERAL FUND Dpt 0024 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL Div 000 Obj 510 SALARIES AND WAGES Det 1100 SALARIES AND WAGES 1 524001100 828 1.8 Det 1200 PART TIME SALARIES 174 1 52400001200 NWEED PART TIME SALA 3,067 3,067-1 52400011200 NWEED PART TIME SALA 8,044 10,295 44,315 34,020 76.8 1 52400051200 NWEED PART TIME SALA 8,115 10,897 9,827 1,070- 10.9-Det 1300 OVERTIME 1 52400001300 NWEED OVERTIME 133 1 52400011300 NWEED OVERTIME NWEED OVERTIME 1 52400051300 65 300 223 74.4

Obj 520 PERSONNEL BENEFITS
Det 2100 SOCIAL SECURITY

1 52400002100 NWEED SOCIAL SECURIT 1,061

3,402 2,077 61.1 775 524- 67.6-1 52400012100 NWEED SOCIAL SECURIT 1,103 1.325 1 52400052100 NWEED SOCIAL SECURIT 1,242 1,299 524- 67.6-Det 2200 RETIREMENT NWEED RETIREMENT 1,621
NWEED RETIREMENT 889 5,686 6,078 392 6.5 1,053 11 1,042-9,470.9-1 52400002200 1 52400012200 1 52400052200 NWEED RETIREMENT 700 765 765-Det 2300 LABOR AND INDUSTRIES 1 52400002300 NWEED LABOR AND INDU 635 2,325 256 2,069- 808.320/10/14-08:26

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NOXIOUS WEEDS JC/GL REPORT 20 Report Format 008

> CUR: July 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020 YTD: January 01, 2020 through September 30, 2020 Transaction status 1 Rounding to Whole Dollars

27

360

27-

1,500 1,140 76.0

---- Quarter ----- Year to Date ------ Annual ------Actual Committed Actual Committed Budget Variance % Var

Trn ---- Subsystem Identification ---- JC Reference Batch Sheet Status Amount Per Date Description

Fnd 001 GENERAL FUND
Dpt 0024 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL Div 000 Obj 540 SERVICES AND PASS THRU PMTS
Det 4110 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 1 52400004110 NWEED PROFESSIONAL S 1 5Det 4210 TELEPHONE

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07 07/06/20 VERIZONWIREL ACCT 764748833-00 A/P 519612 26072 VERIZON WIRELESS - 660108
08 08/03/20 VERIZONWIREL ACCT 764748833-00 A/P 520938 26072 VERIZON WIRELESS - 660108
09 09/02/20 VERIZONWIREL ACCT 764748833-00 A/P 521902 26072 VERIZON WIRELESS - 660108 133351 1 PRF 412.36 133677 1 PRF 416.44 134026 1 APP 384.94

1 52400004210 NWEED TELEPHONE 1,214 2,607 750 1,857- 247.6-1 52400014210 NWEED TELEPHONE 2,750 2,750 100.0

Det 4220 POSTAGE 1 52400004220 NWEED POSTAGE

Det 4310 TRAVEL 1 52400004310 NWEED TRAVEL 1,525 826 54.1 699

Det 4410 ADVERTISING 1 52400004410 NWEED ADVERTISING

Det 4510 RENTALS 1 52400004510 NWEED RENTALS 4,200 4,200 100.0 Det 4511 INTERFUND EQUIPMENT RENTAL

NWEED INTERFUND EQUI 2,091 1 52400004511 6.273 1,281- 25.7-4.992 1 52400014511 NWEED INTERFUND EQUI 1,389 1,389 100.0 Det 4810 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

1 52400004810 NWEED REPAIRS AND MA 1,500 1,500 100.0



Det 5501 INTERFUND PMTS FOR SERVICE

1 52400005501 NWEED INTERFUND PMTS

Report Final Totals

Fnd 001 GENERAL FUND

1,500 1,500 100.0

177,017 32,890 18.6

177.017

65,362

144.127

144,127

Skagit County - (FY20 PROD Dataset)