



## Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

### Minutes

Published Meeting  
July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, 5:30pm  
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board  
Online Via Microsoft Teams

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 929-229-5406](tel:+19292295406),417616446# United States, New York City

Phone Conference ID: 417 616 446#

Chair: Jason Kleinhuizen

Board members:

- Jim Sullivan
- Sonny Gohrman

Extension representative:

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

Coordinator:

- Joseph Shea

Technician:

- Christie Turner

Guests:

- I. CALL TO ORDER  
Jason Class to order 5:34pm
- II. ROLL CALL
  - Sonny Gohrman
  - Don McMoran
  - Jason Kleinhuizen
  - Christie Turner
  - Joseph Shea
- III. AGENDA
  - a. Approval of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting agenda  
Tabled for October meeting
- IV. MINUTES
  - a. Approval of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting Minutes  
Tabled until October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting
- V. GUEST COMMENTS
- VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS
  - a. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report  
\*\*See Attached Report\*\*

### New Grants

Our new contact from WSDA for spartina totaling 80,000 for biennium have been routed and awaiting signature from commissioners. We also expect to see an additional 5,000.

In our Knotweed grant totaling 25,000 per biennium. We should receive the agreement within the month.

### **PDR**

We received a PDR requesting "I would like to request any and all records meeting notes, agendas, emails, reports on the type of chemical sprayed on county roads and the reasoning and environmental impact of such spraying. It should include authorizations and when and why this spraying started, knowing initial start dates frequency and type of chemical and any environmental studies done during the entire timeframe of this would be great ". We have asked for more clarification on the PDR. Skagit County Roads Division is helping with this report and we should have everything compiled soon.

### **New Landowner Agreements**

We were able to secure 5-7 new landowners there on the Steelhead community near Old Highway 99. I talked with the representatives for the Upper Skagit Tribe and got an agreement to treat properties on the Samish river directly adjacent to the private lands that I just got permission to treat. This would add roughly 80 new acres to our treatment areas. We will also see what other funding sources may be available for these properties.

### **Mid-Season Hiring**

With the current lack of crew, we reposted the noxious weed aid position to see if we can get new applicants but it's not looking great.

### **Enforcements**

This year we sent out 28 enforcements for poison hemlock. Only 3 properties did not control their weeds. Pretty good correspondence with these landowners. Some mentionable areas are the cook road intersection at old 99, as well as various BNSF lands going towards Anacortes, areas near Padilla Bay dike as well as the shell station at farm to market road.

### **WSVMA**

We were able to attend the Washington state vegetation management association WSVMA meeting in Ellensburg. The conference is now all planned and will be a hybrid event. Roughly 250-300 attendees

### **Weed Free Gravel**

Had to postpone the weed free gravel till this winter when I have more time. We would like to see more accredited weed free gravel for our local pits as well as our projects. If we can certify rock pits in the county the hope is that we will limit the vector sources for weeds on roadside.

### **Garlic Mustard South Skagit Highway**

We finished all our treatments for 2021. Goodyear Nelson hired a crew and did meet us on site to do treatments. We also did all the surrounding properties and believe we have a good idea of the full extent of the infestation. Although it is spreading... We are still working with Pete Hurd from DNR with their adjacent properties and all the small landowners are aware and maintaining their properties. The Noxious Weed Technician found a new population of garlic mustard in Sedro Woolley near riverfront park and the wrecking yard. We also have giant hogweed on the site. There are abundant squatters on

the property. We have treated everything along the roads and within the individual properties. Our thought is that someone dragged a car from a different area that was riddled with seed. Very possible that the vehicles and mobile homes could have spread this plant because it was not present last year. We currently have 3 sites in Skagit County that I'm aware of. One on R avenue in Anacortes, one near the Smilik golf course and one near Riverfront Park in Sedro Woolley. One of those one site has ben eradicated.

### **Britt Slough**

We have been helping the natural resource division with Britt Slough. Karina needed help with the treatment of knotweed and Italian arum on Britt Slough. We had one landowner disagreement unfortunately. I accidentally treated a part of a property that was outside of the maintenance easement. We did however work through the problem with the landowner.

### **Big Lake Drainage RCG**

We received a call from a landowner having drainage and reed canary grass issues on farm in big lake. there are some unmanaged lands owned by Skagit land trust that may be causing some drainage issues and blockages making a AG field unusable. I have organized a site visit with the Skagit CD, Skagit Fisheries as well as Skagit County to see what may be done to improve the situation.

### **Budget**

We ended the grant period with \$782.00 in Knotweed grant and 5,688.00 in our Spartina grant. The large return was a product of not being able to hire as many people and not as many cooperative efforts. However, we have new project areas, and we are trying to get our 3-year null surveys, so we expect to use more of those funds in the future. Once we have more areas classified as eradicated then we will be able to survey those areas every couple years vs every year.

### **Storm Water Prevention Plan**

We are currently working on stormwater prevention plan with NRD. It includes our storage and use of chemicals on Skagit County property, an example was that all chemicals should be mixed and cleaned in a covered protected area. I had to explain that we often mix our chemicals in the field and only really store our chemicals at our facility.

### **2022 Budget Request**

We are going to keep the same budget as 2021 since we have increased our budget in 2021 last year for the Noxious Weed Technician Position. Eventually 3 staff would be best for our program so we could have a inspector, coordinator, and grant program manager. We do however need to replace our boat. Due to wear and tear, weight limits, and demand we will need to replace our boat. We expect to use it for 3 weeks of time but also expect it to be used more once we have the equipment. We will work with WSDA to see if there is any funding available to help with this purchase.

### **New Board Member Nomination**

We will need to get Kevin's application for the board and we will have to have the commissioners appoint another board member since we don't have quorum. We have also called Randy Good and he said he already is involved in too much stuff and wouldn't have the time. We made multiple calls to local farmers and have not found a board

member. Lucas was interested but I have not heard back from him in a while. We can reach out to him again. Additionally, RCW 17.10 has been updated and we can have 3 out of 5 members be engaged in agriculture. Kevin would be a great board member with his experience.

b. Treasurers Report

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

We spent \$189,803.00 out of general fund.

c. Brassica Ordinance

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

This item is complete; they passed the revised code. Additionally, we did deal with the black leg but other than that we are done with brassica issues. The black leg issue in Skagit County has changed gears and there are some new properties that they found it. We have not been very engaged with that since we finished our controlled burn. We will have to re-look at the dike because after the burn happened it was very clean but then there was a whole new set of regrowth that occurred.

d. Inter-local with Sedro Woolley Japanese Knotweed

- i. After some digging, we found out that we already have an interlocal with Sedro Woolley and we got our reimbursable number created and have completed the treatments for Sedro Woolley. It took us roughly one day to complete all the sites. Roughly 7 or 8 sites that were fairly small. They are very happy with the treatment so we will continue to help them with those sites.

e. Inter-local with Anacortes Heart Lake Purple Loosestrife

- i. We reached out to the parks people and they might have funds to hire a contractor to do the work. They just might need some more consulting and help with permitting. Its blooming now so the sooner the better for their work.

f. Exploration of Noxious Weed Assessment

- i. We have not move forward with the assessment mainly due to the circumstances of the season and a lack of free time over the summer. Generally we have been falling behind. So we tabled until early winter.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn sonny Gohrman 6:40 pm

Jason seconds