

**Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 17th 2009. 5:00 pm, WSU Learning Center, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Katherine Ackerman, Linda Davis, Richard Hild, John Richmond and Jill Silver

Others Present:

Matt Berberich, Esko Cate, Eve Dixon, John Haas, John Merchant, Lois Richmond and Roger Short

▪ **Introductions:**

The meeting began at 5:10 pm with introductions. The Weed Board members were all glad to see several members of the public present at our meeting.

▪ **2009 Jefferson County Noxious Weed List discussion:**

Eve gave a short presentation, illustrating some plants recently added to the State Weed List and some whose status has been changed. She gave an overview of the listing process and stressed that the County Weed List is largely based on the State Weed List. County Weed Boards can, however, select certain plants for which the State does not require control, and make control mandatory in their own county.

The draft Jefferson County Noxious Weed List, which had been sent out previously, had as county-selected weeds:

Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Control required in and without 50 feet of gravel pits or stockpiles of rock or soil products that may be transported off site
butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Control required county-wide
poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Control required in Port Townsend (the State Weed Board already requires control in the rest of Jefferson County, so control is in fact required county-wide, but not by the County Weed Board)
ragwort, tansy	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Control required county-wide

There was some discussion about the fact that butterfly bush is not on the Washington State Quarantine List and is still sold in nurseries. A suggestion was made that we should write to our state legislators about this. There was also some discussion about blackberry control, since both Himalayan and evergreen blackberries have been added to the State Weed List as Class C weeds. John Merchant (who works for the City of Port Townsend) commented that people do get upset when they see blackberries being cut down, because they like the berries. Jill mentioned that she is very concerned about cherry laurel and spurge laurel, shrubs which are invading woodlands on the Olympic Peninsula.

Linda proposed, and Jill seconded, to accept the draft weed list as presented. All were in favor.

There were additional suggestions. Al Latham, of the Jefferson Conservation District, had requested that we add bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*) as a Weed of Concern, as he finds it taking over stream channels. At least one other county (King County) has a Weed of Concern List, for educational purposes only—plants on that list are **not** “noxious weeds”. Jill proposed and Linda seconded that we add bittersweet nightshade as a Weed of Concern. All were in favor.

Jill mentioned that teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) is becoming a serious problem and it is not on either the State or County Weed List. Therefore she proposed, and Linda seconded, adding it as a Weed of Concern. All were in favor.

Matt Berberich spoke about white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), an invasive plant which is particularly bad at the mouth of Chimacum Creek where it was planted by WDFW. Eve mentioned that she had seen it invading riparian areas on the Dungeness River. Jill proposed, and Richard seconded, to add white sweetclover as a Weed of Concern.

There was some discussion about writing to WDFW asking them to deal with the white sweetclover, since they planted it. Richard proposed, and Jill seconded, that the Weed Board should do this. Eve and Matt will work together to draft a letter, keeping it as positive as possible.

Next there was some discussion about disposal of noxious weeds after they are pulled, and Jill suggested that any project proposal should include disposal costs. John commented that burning is sometimes possible, but that if burning is not allowed in a certain area then plants cannot be taken out of that area and burned somewhere else. (Burning is **NEVER** an option for poison hemlock because it releases toxins into the air. Nor is composting at home because toxins remain in the compost.) Jill suggested starting a noxious weed compost facility—one that would get hot enough to kill seeds. John Merchant confirmed that the City of Port Townsend composting facility will take small amounts of poison hemlock that people have pulled in their own yards, because the facility is large enough to absorb small amounts, and that it's hot enough to kill weed seeds. However, he said that when the city has a large amount to dispose of they take it to the transfer station and dispose of it as trash, not compost.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of the November meeting:**

Richard proposed, and Jill seconded, to accept the minutes of the November Board Meeting, as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Coordinator's Report**

Jill asked Eve to read the main points of her report, which she did. There were no comments or questions, except that the board expressed appreciation of the work accomplished.

▪ **Board Members' Reports**

Linda has a presentation arranged at the Tri-Area Garden Club on March 10th. She mentioned that plants samples are always good to take to such events and wondered if we should grow our own weeds as samples. Maybe some of the more unusual ones such as sulfur cinquefoil or purple loosestrife would be good to grow in pots. John Haas (of Resource Renewal in Quilcene) said he'd tried to do that very thing at his greenhouse, but no one wanted to use the plants.

Jill has a weed pull scheduled at Fort Worden this weekend with the High School science class she has been working with. They have already worked in Sather Park and have "adopted" Sather Park. This led to discussion of our "Adopt-A-Weed-Patch" program and the fact that The Leader has not yet published our article.

▪ **Budget**

The Weed Board has been allocated \$14,000 from the Jefferson County General Fund. Eve is working half-time in January and February and will be on the Clallam County pay-roll March through June (they have enough money for this). For several years Clallam and Jefferson Counties have received grants from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (for knotweed control) and from the US Forest Service (for work both on and off FS lands). These grants have facilitated much of our work and we do

not know if either will be forthcoming this year. Jill said that whenever any of the board give presentations we should mention our lack of funding.

Eve asked if the Board would like her to go to the Washington State Weed Coordinators' Conference in Ellensburg, March 19th and 20th. The Board agreed that she should go.

- **Other Business**

Eve passed around maps of the Board Members' districts. John Richmond expressed concern that his district includes voting districts 108, 109, 110 and 206, all in east Jefferson County, because he signed up to represent the West End. The Board agreed that (unofficially) other Board Members would represent those voting districts.

Eve passed around copies of the "Adopt-A-Weed-Patch" poster and brochure that she, Jill and Esko have been working on. The Board will help to distribute and Richard would like the poster emailed to him so he can print it. John Merchant said that the City of Port Townsend can pick up weeds after weed pulls and that they will pick up 3 bags of garden waste every 2 weeks from residences. John also thanked the Weed Board for their help in controlling weeds in the City of Port Townsend and the Weed Board expressed their appreciation for the City's cooperation.

A question was asked about landowner contacts and it was agreed that it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

- **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, May 19th, at 5 pm.

- **Meeting Adjourned 7:00 pm**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Eve Dixon, Noxious Weed Control Coordinator.