

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

Tuesday, May 19th 2009. 5:00 pm, WSU Learning Center, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Linda Davis, Richard Hild, John Richmond and Jill Silver

Others Present:

Esko Cate, Kathy Dickson and Eve Dixon

▪ **Introductions:**

The meeting began at 5:12 with introductions. Also, Eve announced that Kathy Ackerman has resigned from the board. Linda will be at the Brinnon-Quilcene Garden Club Plant Sale this weekend and will try to find a replacement.

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

Jill had made some minor changes. Richard moved to accept the minutes as amended. Jill seconded. All approved. We discussed white sweetclover. Eve will send information about the plant to John and Eve and Jill will work together on a letter to WDFW, who facilitated the planting of white sweetclover at Chimacum beach. We should let them know it is a Weed of Concern in Jefferson County.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

Esko commented that we should emphasize the Adopt-A-Weed-Patch program more. He said that he had that same day worked with pupils from the Jefferson Community School, pulling poison hemlock on the hillside above Tyler Street. He also called the City to get the plants picked up. Jill said that the reservoir in Port Townsend is still a bad poison hemlock site—she will email John Merchant at PT public works about it.

Linda asked Esko how he got Henery's Hardware to Adopt-A-Weed-Patch. Esko said he approached Mathew Henery over a year ago. Mathew wanted to do the weed pull early in the year, before his employees were too busy to be spared. Michael Henery, who owns the Garden Center, agreed to pull the hemlock patch near Washington Mutual bank, but wants to wait until the end of June.

Jill asked if we could have a list of groups so we can track who is doing what and initiate an awards program, even if it was just giving each group a Certificate of Appreciation. Also, it would be good to expand our program in a correlated way. Eve will prepare a list.

Esko has talked with Scott Wilson at the PT Leader and he is willing to publicize our program. Linda commented that we need to ask people directly—flyers are not so effective. We should talk to a couple of businesses each month. Also, on our website we could highlight people who have worked on weed removal. Linda also commented that she had worked with a group of home-schooled students, teaching them about weeds that affect farming, and that they pulled Scotch broom near the WSU office. We could use them again but they cannot work on roadsides. Froggy Bottoms would be a good spot.

Jill has worked with students from the High School and their focus is Sather Park.

Eve has been working with a volunteer who is doing community service hours in order to pay off fines. Linda suggested talking to the local judges to see if this could happen more frequently. Linda will talk to Jill Landes, Jill will talk to Mr Verser.

Eve had brought samples of poison hemlock, wild chervil and bur chervil—all very similar plants. She commented that wild chervil is becoming a serious problem on county roads.

▪ **Other Business:**

Kathy Dickson had sent a letter to the Board and since she was present she read the main points—reasons not to make control of blackberries mandatory in any part of the county. The Board has no plans to make control mandatory. A few comments were that goats and sheep love to eat them and could be a good form of bio-control. John commented that blackberries do slow water velocity which is generally a good thing for salmon habitat. Linda asked if blackberries eventually get shaded out. Jill thinks not and commented that Himalayan blackberry is more of a problem than evergreen blackberry. Because of the way that branch tips can form roots they can leap frog through a forest.

Jill, Richard, John and Kathy all left at 6:15 to attend another meeting.

Those remaining (Linda, Esko and Eve) discussed poison hemlock on Beaver Valley Road, weed pulls in general, and a few names were suggested for the list of volunteer groups that Eve will prepare.

▪ **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, August 18th, at 5 pm.

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