

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

**Tuesday, August 18th 2009, 5:00-7:00 pm
Forks Community Center, 91 Maple Avenue, Forks**

Board Members Present:

Richard Hild, John Richmond and Jill Silver

Others Present:

Eve Dixon

▪ **Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15. Introductions were unnecessary.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of May 19th**

Jill proposed and Richard seconded to approve the minutes of the May 19th meeting, as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Coordinator's Report**

Eve passed around copies of her report for the Board Members to read. Jill made the suggestion that when Eve updates the web site each month with the Weed of the Month, she also adds a Volunteer of the Month. The Jefferson County Fair was discussed. All agreed that it is a very good opportunity for us to reach out to the public and that we did a good job this year in regard to having the booth staffed at all times. A big thank you to the Board Members and other volunteers who made this possible.

▪ **Two Grant Possibilities**

Jill has submitted a pre-proposal for grant funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative. She is attempting to get funding for a volunteer coordinator position to work in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties, for two years. This person would work with both of the County Weed Boards and would focus on Early Detection/Rapid Response, trying to control small infestations before they become large. Landowner education would also be a focus.

The Weed Board is a partner in another grant application, sponsored by North Olympic Salmon Coalition. The grant, if awarded, will fund a WCC crew for one year, to work on riparian projects in East Jefferson County. These projects will include removal of invasive plants and other habitat restoration. The crew will be prepared to use herbicides and the crew leader will be licensed. They will only work in riparian areas but will still be of some assistance to the Weed Board. The knotweed work that we already do and have funding for represents our match.

▪ **Weeds on County Roads**

Eve expressed concern about the proliferation of weeds on county roads and showed pictures of two areas where weed populations have escalated in the past two years. County road crews are not very responsive to requests, but a bigger problem is that they cannot use herbicides and when they mow they often spread weeds because seeds or plant parts can be taken to other sites on the mower.

The Board discussed asking Eve to write to the County Commissioners asking for permission to spot-spray certain weeds on certain roads, making it clear that we do not want to roll back the 19 or

20 year old policy of not spraying on county roads. We just want to get rid of certain invasive weeds that cannot be adequately controlled by mowing. Jill suggested that we let them know that there is a dire need for a complete response before the problem gets any worse.

Jill proposed and Richard seconded that Eve should write such a letter. All were in favor. A copy of the letter should be sent to Frank Gifford (head of Public Works), Katherine Baril (Jefferson County Extension) and Al Latham (Jefferson Conservation District—he has already expressed support). The letter should include pictures and maps and we may even prepare a short PowerPoint presentation for the Commissioners.

▪ **Projects in West or South Jefferson?**

The Board re-visited the idea of a volunteer weed pull in either the west or south portions of the county, both of which tend to get overlooked. Tansy ragwort is a big problem in the west end, especially on the Hoh River. Jill pulls all the tansy ragwort that she sees on the upper portion of the river. The Board could not think of a site suitable for a volunteer project.

Removal of butterfly bush at the mouth of the Dosewallips was suggested, possibly in September. The question of liability protection for volunteers and board members was raised. This is a question that should be addressed to Philip Morley, the County Administrator.

▪ **Budget**

Eve up-dated the Board on our budget and funding situation. We received \$14,069.00 from the Jefferson County general fund this year. Our expenses are primarily wages and travel. Because Eve's wages have been partially paid from Title II funding (from the US Forest Service, via Clallam County), there is enough left in the budget for wages and travel until the end of September and a few more hours for the rest of the year. We received considerably less Title II funding than we had anticipated, but careful budgeting has enabled both Clallam and Jefferson Weed Boards to offer the services they normally do and still perform the Forest Service work adequately.

Funding from WSDA has facilitated knotweed work in Jefferson County in many watersheds. This funding is applied for jointly by Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Eve worked with Laurie Meyer (WSU accountant) to submit a funding request to the County for 2010. We asked for the same amount as this year but given the current economic situation we cannot be sure of getting it.

▪ **Other Business**

Richard suggested that we could prepare a short video and show it on YouTube, to raise awareness of noxious weeds, their impacts and ways to control them. Eve did talk a little with Pam Roberts earlier this year about that type of publicity. Pam works for 4-H and has experience with movie production. Eve will follow up as time allows.

▪ **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, November 17th, at 5 pm.

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