

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

Tuesday, February 16th 2010. 5:00 pm, WSU Learning Center, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Linda Davis, Richard Hild, John Richmond (by conference call), Patricia Robinson and Jill Silver

Others Present:

Eve Dixon and John Haas

▪ **Introductions:**

The meeting began at 5:00 with introductions.

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

Jill moved, and Linda seconded, to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Discussion and Approval of Jefferson County 2010 Noxious Weed List**

The board discussed the issue of Scotch broom control in and near pits and quarries. John said that in the course of his work he contacts pits owners about Scotch broom and they do not seem to care about it. He can send some addresses of pit owners. Eve will draft a letter to send out, with control information and a copy of the RCW. The board agreed that manual control should be recommended because water is often present in quarries, making chemical control undesirable.

The board briefly discussed requiring control of knotweed in pits and quarries, because sightings have been reported and many different agencies have already spent a lot of money on knotweed control. However, knotweed control would require herbicide use and we currently do not have documentation to legitimize requiring control. Also, pit owners may wonder what we are going to require control of NEXT. The board agreed not to require knotweed control in pits at this time.

WDNR has jurisdiction over mines but has no program in place for dealing with noxious weeds. Should the State Weed Board write to WDNR? Pits need a permit from WDNR to operate, but the permitting process is very loose; weed control should be a part of the process. Also, after a pit is reclaimed there is no long-term monitoring of plants. Staff shortages are an issue—WDNR has three employees who deal with pits, state-wide. Eve commented that with the weed board's limited resources it will be hard to follow up with pits regarding Scotch broom control. Jill and Richard offered to help with phone calls.

Jill moved, and Linda seconded, to accept the 2010 Jefferson County Noxious Weed List, as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Coordinator's Report**

A question was asked about Timberton Village. Eve explained that it is a community at Port Ludlow which is developing a vegetation management plan and that representatives had asked her to help with plans for noxious weed control.

The board agreed that Eve would not go to the Coordinators' Conference in March, because her time could be better used working locally.

- **Volunteer for work on the Dosewallips!**

A student from the Evergreen State College has volunteered to spend a considerable amount of time controlling butterfly bush on the Dosewallips River. Jill is coordinating this and will probably get help from young people doing community service, and will work with Hilton Turnbull who has much experience with butterfly bush on the Dungeness. Pat asked about using adults doing community service—Jill thought the work may be too hard as it involves a lot of scrambling around.

- **Poison hemlock at Fort Worden?**

Eve is concerned about the proliferation of poison hemlock at Fort Worden. She has talked to the head ranger about spraying it. He is willing, but has limited staff. Eve asked the board if she should offer to help. The board agreed that she should, as long as park staff help as well.

- **Board Member Reports**

Linda is working with other local farmers to develop a collaborative farm school which will offer an internship for students from WSU, Evergreen and other colleges. The 18-week course will include a segment on weeds (noxious and otherwise). Linda would like to organize a tour, showing how weeds can run amok and make pastures ungrazeable. She will talk to other farmers and set a date for the tour, after our next meeting (May 18th).

- **Budget and Funding.**

Eve gave an update on funding. The Weed Board has approximately \$14,000 from the Jefferson County General Fund. The Title II funding from the Forest Service, which has supported Jefferson County's program for several years, may be available for 2010 but it is not certain. More knotweed funding may also be available but much less than in the past.

Jill is working on a grant from EPA for a Jefferson County Watershed Stewardship and Resource Center. If given, the funding will include some money for the Noxious Weed Control Board.

- **Other Business**

Linda asked if we have yet made weed wrenches available in the south county. Patricia said there is a locked shed at the Coyle Community Center and she took 2 weed wrenches for use in the south county. There is a website for local people and she will announce there that weed wrenches are available.

- **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

Tuesday, May 18th at 5 pm

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