

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

Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010, 5:00-7:00 pm, WSU Office, Port Hadlock

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Hild, John Richmond (by conference call, for part of the meeting only), Patricia Robinson and Jill Silver

**Others Present:**

Eve Dixon

▪ **Introductions:**

No introductions were necessary

▪ **Approval of Minutes of the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

Jill pointed out a typo in the fifth bulleted item—"he" should be changed to "her". Also, Jill wanted to add more detail about the toxicity of foxglove. Children have died from drinking the water from vases that contained foxgloves and because she has been finding stream and gravel bars covered with foxglove she has concerns about its effects on water quality and will do more research. Richard proposed and Jill seconded to accept the minutes as amended.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

The Board asked if there had been any response from our letter to the Commissioners. There has not been and Jill said she would follow up with them.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

**Pat** has organized 3 Scotch broom pulling events on the Coyle Peninsula. Six people showed up and Pat fed them—this greatly encourages volunteers. Pulls have taken place at the Community Center and on private driveways. More will be arranged now the ground is softer and plants come out more easily. Pat will notify other Board Members and they may help. Jill mentioned that she has been cutting older Scotch broom plants, rather than pulling, because cutting disturbs the soil less and therefore does not cause seeds in the ground to germinate. Pat also mentioned that there is a tansy ragwort problem on the Coyle Peninsula. Eve will investigate and write to the landowners concerned. Pat also mentioned possible yellow archangel behind the Valley Tavern in Port Hadlock and Eve will investigate.

**Richard** has been working hard getting rid of weeds on his farm. Both he and a neighbor have found that applying lime (which makes the soil less acid) has got rid of Scotch broom and thistles. There was a brief discussion about Scotch broom allergies and the way it affects people who have pace-makers.

**Jill** has had a busy summer and fall, mainly working on knotweed in the west end, but also pulling tansy ragwort, yellow archangel and Scotch broom at North Beach. She will organize a yellow archangel pull when appropriate. She wrote a letter of support for Fort Worden, when they applied for a NAWCA grant from USFWS. She worked on knotweed control on 68,000 acres in the Quinault watershed and 30 miles of the Hoh River. For the Hoh River work she hired a local crew which worked out very well and she didn't have to find housing for them. More herbicide was used

this year than usual because a large stand of knotweed (500 ft<sup>2</sup>) was found up river from the original infestation and 6 gallons of spray mix were used. The crew will now go further up river to look for knotweed. It is not known how the knotweed got there, but the river eddies and can sometimes carry material upstream. Jill reported that on one site, Brandeberry, where there were 4,000 stems of knotweed a few years ago, only 2 were found this year. The town of Neilton had a LOT of knotweed, most of it over head height. Jill did a lot of education, not just on knotweed but on foxglove and tansy ragwort as well, and pulled these plants when passing by doing knotweed work. Jill also reported that she had asked the Hoh River Trust and Pacific Salmon Coalition to hire a camp crew to pull Scotch broom on the river bars on the Hoh.

▪ **Letter from State Weed Board:**

Eve passed around the letter she had received from the State Weed Board, saying that they are not adding any of our requested weeds (spotted jewelweed, bittersweet nightshade or teasel) to the 2011 Washington State Weed List. They did however agree to add spotted jewelweed to the Monitor List, with Eve as its sponsor. Most of the board were not familiar with spotted jewelweed and Eve described it as something between policeman's helmet and knotweed. She said she has seen carpets of seedlings on the Little Quilcene River and has been told it is very bad on the Union and Dewatto Rivers, in Mason County. The board members expressed disappointment at the State Weed Board's decision.

▪ **Budget and Funding:**

Eve told the board that Title II funding from the Forest Service will continue through to the end of 2011 and maybe into 2012. This funding pays for a crew to control weeds on Forest Service lands in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It also partially pays for the Jefferson Coordinator and has been instrumental in keeping our program afloat. It was expected to sunset in 2008 but was re-authorized; that is unlikely to happen again so we need to look for other funds (see earlier discussion about letter to the County Commissioners—this was to ask for more from the General Fund). Jill mentioned that the weed board should be getting some funding from the Watershed Stewardship Resource Center because it was written into the grant. Eve will follow up.

▪ **Planning and Prioritizing for 2011**

Eve told the board that because time has been limited in 2010, she has focused on trying to get large landowners, especially county and state agencies, to control weeds, rather than going after those with very small parcels. The board agreed that this is a good strategy. Eve also said that County Roads are still one of the worst offenders. Out of 502 weed sites in our database, 59 belong to DOT, 68 belong to the City of Port Townsend, and 80 belong to County Roads. The City of Port Townsend does a good job of mowing and is responsive to weed board requests. DOT does an excellent job, but County Roads do not and they are often unresponsive to communication from the weed board. We got permission last year to spot spray certain weeds on county roads and Eve sprayed some of the wild chervil, meadow knapweed and knotweed earlier this year. However, some of the sites are too big for one person to do without a truck to carry large amounts of water, and County Roads are not fulfilling their obligations in regard to weed control. It was suggested that DOT might help, since they are equipped to spray. Eve will arrange a meeting with County Roads and make this suggestion. Other comments made were—prepare a report for the Commissioners, telling them how our spraying on county roads has worked, but describing the problems. Also, we should ask DOT for a report of their weed control activities, so we know which sites have been controlled. Jill mentioned the gravel pit in Discovery Bay, on the north side of the highway, which has Scotch broom. Eve had been unsure of the location, but will investigate.

- **Other Business**

Jill commented that when Alison Halpern, from the State Weed Board, had recently shown a map of Scotch broom sites in the state, none were shown for Jefferson County. Since nearly every road in the county has Scotch broom we should get some data to Alison.

Jill also would like to see more education regarding butterfly bush. Both she and Eve will spend some time over the winter visiting people who have it and asking if they would remove it. Eve will print copies of the flier put out by WSU. A question was asked about the volunteer who was working on butterfly bush on the Dosewallips. Eve has contacted her to ask how the project is going but has heard nothing. Eve will contact the ranger at Dosewallips State Park and get an update.

- **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

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