

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

Tuesday, February 15th, 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), and Patricia Robinson.

Others Present:

Eve Dixon, Richard Hefler

▪ **Introductions:**

Richard Hefler lives on Marrowstone Island. He is an arborist who frequently has to deal with weeds, especially Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry, in his work. He is interested in joining the Weed Board and brought along his completed application.

▪ **Discussion and Approval of the 2011 Jefferson County Noxious Weed List**

Eve explained that the State Noxious Weed Control Board has made two small changes to the State Weed List, and these changes have also been made to the County List, as required by law. Yellow archangel and hairy willowherb have both been changed from Class C to Class B, and hairy willowherb is now designated for control in Jefferson County. Eve does not think we have hairy willowherb in the county, so these changes do not affect us much. At the county level, we are proposing to make control of invasive knotweeds mandatory in and within 50 feet of pits and quarries. Pat motioned, Richard seconded and all were in favor of accepting the 2011 Jefferson County Weed List as presented. John Richmond stayed on the phone long enough to give his vote, then had to attend another meeting. Jill Silver had already given her approval via email.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of the November 16th meeting:**

Richard motioned and Pat seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

There was no comment on the Coordinator's Report

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

Jill Silver has presented a slide show on weeds and beneficial native plants to the Master Gardeners' Foundation, worked with local seed purveyors to eliminate foxglove and other invasive plants from their inventories, and has pulled weeds in the North Beach area of Port Townsend.

▪ **Initiating a "Weed Buster" Program, Based on Master Gardeners and Beach Watchers.**

Eve explained that she would like to start such a program, whereby people attend 4-6 training sessions which would be part classroom and part hands-on weed control. After the volunteers are trained, they would be expected to organize community weed pulls in their neighborhoods, to "pay back" the training they received. As well as getting work done, it would be an excellent thing to have trained volunteers who would recognize the less-common weeds and look out for them on trails and in the woods. The Board suggested reaching out to schools—high school biology teachers might be interested, and the alternative schools such as Sunfield and the Swan School. Eve will continue to plan the program.

- **GPS Purchase**

A recreational-grade GPS unit would be very valuable to us. It is possible that a small grant from the State Weed Board may cover the cost. Otherwise Eve would like to purchase one with County funds—the cost would be around \$300.

- **Annual Report and County Road Report**

Eve had sent both of these to the Board previously, and since these documents, which will be given to the County Commissioners, are from the Weed Board, Eve wanted the Board's approval of both, which was given.

- **Budget and Funding:**

Lack of funding is an on-going problem for the Weed Board. Some Title II funding will be available for 2011 but no more money will be available from that source. We have not specifically asked the County Commissioners for an assessment but we have explained to them that our funding is precarious, they have not expressed any ability to help and we know the County's budget gap is deepening. Richard suggested that the State Department of Ecology may be able to help and Eve will investigate. Richard has concerns about GMO crops (RoundUp Ready) becoming invasive weeds and thinks this connection may enable us to get funding from Ecology.

- **Other Business**

Eve had received a letter from Kathy Dickson, a resident on the Hoh River, expressing concern about money and effort being put into controlling blackberries, because blackberries are a good food source for humans and wildlife, and are high in anti-oxidants. Kathy also expressed concern about herbicide use in the Hoh River Valley. Eve will reply, saying that the decision to add blackberries (Himalayan and evergreen) to the Noxious Weed List was made by the State Weed Board, not the County, the County Noxious Weed Control Board has not discussed requiring blackberry control anywhere in the count, and that no county funds have been spent on blackberry control. She will also let Kathy know that herbicide use in the Hoh Valley has been for knotweed control and that minimal amounts have been used.

- **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17th at 5 pm.

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