

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

**Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the DNR Conference Room, 411 Tillicum Lane, Forks**

**Board Members Present:**

John Richmond, Pat Robinson and Jill Silver.

**Others Present:**

Eve Dixon, Lois Richmond and Larry Robinson

▪ **Introductions:**

John and Pat were introduced, having not met before.

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

Jill proposed and John seconded to approve the meeting minutes as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

Jill had made some additions to the Coordinator's Report and emailed them to Eve before the meeting. The additions contained more detail about the materials that the Weed Board will supply to the Watershed Stewardship Resource Center.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

**Pat** reported that Olympic (Pope) Resources have sprayed Scotch broom on their property in the Thorndyke area.

**John** reported that he has talked about weeds at grange meetings and that purple loosestrife is becoming a problem. Eve was shocked to hear that purple loosestrife has been seen in the west end and asked John to send her a sample. (Jill commented that Dan Campbell has found it at Lake Quinault). John also commented that people in the west end are losing the battle against tansy ragwort, it being a particularly bad year. One person has tried using an organic herbicide.

**Jill** reported that she has been pulling tansy ragwort on the Hoh River, while doing knotweed work out there. She also commented that Jim Poffel, who runs the EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) through the Natural Resources Conservation Program, might have funding for a project to work on six "landscape-changing weeds": Scotch broom, tansy ragwort, reed canarygrass, knotweed and European blackberries (where they are not wanted). Alex Huelsdonk, who has worked on the Hoh River project, is interested in developing a goat team for weed control. Jill also reported that earlier in the year, in her capacity as District 1 rep, she had worked on the poison hemlock infestation at the Blue Heron School—the worst poison hemlock patch in Port Townsend. The largest patches on school property went untreated. John Haas of Resource renewal in Quilcene gave a bid for cutting, stacking and covering with plastic. The bid was \$6,000— which is more than the school or weed board has available. Jill stressed that next year the school board HAS to do something. Five non-native bird species regularly eat poison hemlock seeds on that site and potentially spread them. Jill also worked on yellow archangel sites in Port Townsend, and sprayed giant knotweed on the Clearwater Road

There was some discussion about the best strategy for getting rid of Scotch broom. Larry commented that at Fort Flagler they have tried burning the stems, which can work, and that cutting it late in the year, when dry, can be effective. Jill commented that cutting may be better than pulling because less soil is disturbed and consequently fewer seeds germinate. Many quarries still have Scotch broom and we need to do a better job following up with them next year.

▪ **Changing Meeting Dates:**

Scheduling meetings has been problematic because people have many conflicts. We will in future meet on the third Thursday of February, May, August and November each year. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm at WSU in Port Hadlock.

▪ **Budget and Funding:**

The Weed Board continues to be under-funded, but some of Eve's time will be reimbursed by Jefferson County Public Works (Road Department), the Quinault Indian Nation, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group and the Watershed Stewardship Resource Center. Jill asked if we could afford to buy sandwich boards to let people know what we are doing and why when we are pulling weeds.

▪ **New WSU Director:**

Eve said that the Jefferson WSU has hired a new director to replace Katherine Baril who retired at the end of last year. She is coming from Maryland, but grew up in the northwest. She will start on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

▪ **Other Business:**

John mentioned that a company called LightSquared, a wireless broadband provider, may be causing problems for GPS users and that there is much concern in the surveying industry.

Jill said that weed disposal is becoming an issue and we need to think about designating a site in the county for this purpose.

▪ **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 17th.

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