

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

Thursday, November 17th, 5:00-7:00 pm, WSU Office, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Richard Hefley, Patricia Robinson and Jill Silver.

Others Present:

Eve Dixon

▪ **Introductions:**

None were needed.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of the September 22nd:**

Jill proposed and Richard seconded, to approve the minutes as presented.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

There were no comments on the Coordinator's Report.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

Jill said she has had a success story with composting tansy ragwort —plants left in plastic bags or covered with tarps turned to mush, but she's uncertain if the toxic alkaloids remain in the compost. She has been working on knotweed on the Queets River, and Sam's, Salmon Rivers and Matheny Creek, the Clearwater, the Quinault, and the Hoh Rivers; and has been pulling many other weeds as well as working on knotweed, and sending reports in to the Forest Service, since they own much of the land. She has also sprayed some knotweed on Highway 101 for WSDOT, the Clearwater Road for Jefferson County Roads, and talked to a lot of people in the west end about knotweed. Having knotweed brochures in Spanish has been useful.

Jill said that we need sandwich boards to make people aware of what we are doing and why when we are pulling weeds. There is a company on Hwy 19 that makes them. Eve will investigate. Having help with the graphics for the board was discussed – perhaps from WSU's staff.

Jill wondered if the report of purple loosestrife in Forks by John Richmond was corroborated, and she wondered if it is moved by boats and if fragments can sprout. Dan Campbell of the NPS invasive management team found a plant in a Lake Quinault log jam. Because there are so many other invasive species, she is advocating that the Olympic Knotweed Working Group become the Olympic Weed Working Group and that people working on knotweed should not just walk past other weeds.

Some discussion ensued regarding propagation and spread of poison hemlock. Jill had thought the seeds were being spread by birds but researchers that were questioned replied that because poison hemlock seeds are not fleshy, this is unlikely. She remains unsure, because it is possible that some seeds can pass through without damage. The same researchers suggested animals may spread them, but this also seems unlikely because they are not sticky. Richard commented that he has seen pine siskins feeding on poison hemlock.

Scotch broom was discussed—it slows tree growth and sequesters soil nitrogen. Pat mentioned a gravel pit owned by Pope on Thorndyke Road, which has Scotch broom. Richard asked about Scotch broom control on bluffs—cutting at the base and painting the cut stump if necessary was thought to be a better method than pulling, on potentially unstable bluffs. Salal and sword fern are good plants to hold soil together. Both Richard and Jill mentioned finding English laurel spreading widely in forest areas. Jill said that nothing grows under it (even knotweed or blackberry), it's evergreen, nothing eats the leaves, and the leaves don't break down. Alison Halpern, with the State Weed Board, would like to know about problem weeds and Jill encouraged everyone to send reports to her at

Alison Halpern
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WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
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▪ **Richard Hild Resignation:**

Richard Hild has resigned from the board because of lack of time. Eve will ask him to write a letter of resignation to the Commissioners, and will advertise for a new board member. Jill suggested sending him a card of appreciation from the board.

▪ **Budget and Funding:**

While there are a number of new small sources, funding remains a serious problem for the Weed Board. The board will continue to get around \$13,000 from the County's General Fund in 2011. Additionally, County Roads have agreed to give the Weed Board \$4,000 per year for the next 5 years, and the Quinault Indian Nation is paying the Weed Board \$3,000 for 3 years (2011, 2012 and 2013) to solicit landowner agreements for knotweed control in the Queets-Clearwater watershed. Other funding may come from the Watershed Stewardship Resource Center. Also, grant funding from US Forest Service and WA State Dept of Ag (for knotweed control) will probably still be available.

▪ **Other Business**

Jill has three presentations scheduled—for Master Gardeners, Sound Waters (through Island County), and at the Quimper Grange. The board discussed other opportunities for outreach. Richard will contact the Marrowstone Island Garden Club to arrange a presentation.

▪ **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th at 5 pm.

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