

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

Thursday, February 16th, 5:00-7:00 pm, WSU Office, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Richard Hefley, Patricia Robinson and Jill Silver, John Richmond (by phone), and Laura Lewis (WSU Director and *ex-officio* board member).

Others Present:

Eve Dixon, John Haas, John Merchant and Dean Shinn

▪ **Introductions:**

Laura Lewis is the new WSU Director and as such is an *ex-officio* Weed Board member. John Haas owns Resource Renewal, a business conducting noxious weed control work. John Merchant works for the City of Port Townsend, and Dean Shinn lives in Cape George and may be interested in serving as Board Member for District 2 (replacing Richard Hild).

▪ **Approval of Minutes of the November 17th:**

Jill proposed and Pat seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **2012 Jefferson County Weed List**

Eve passed around Written Findings for the three weeds which the State Weed Board has added to the list. Oriental clematis (*Clematis orientalis*) has been added as a Class A weed. Jill thinks we may have some in the county. Eve said we do have old-man's-beard (*Clematis vitalba*), which is a Class C. Eve will learn the difference and check for *Clematis orientalis*. The other two state-listed additions, Japanese eel-grass (*Zostera japonica*) and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) DO occur in Jefferson County, but they are listed as Class C (control not required but encouraged). Eve requested that the Weed Board require control of common hawkweed (*Hieracium lachenalii*). The first patch in Jefferson County was found (and treated) last year on Anderson Lake Road and it is important to prevent further spread.

Jill proposed and Pat seconded, to adopt the Jefferson County 2012 Noxious Weed List, as presented. All were in favor.

▪ **Agreement and Contract with County Roads, and Work Plan**

County Roads has agreed to pay the Weed Board \$4,000 a year for the next 5 years, to support weed control on county roads. Eve had already sent out the contract for approval by the Board, and Jill (Board Chair) signed it. Eve had also prepared a tentative work schedule, showing how the \$4,000 will be spent. Jill suggested amending it to include time for reporting. Some of the \$4,000 this year will be used to contract with DOT for a one-time spraying of wild chervil on county roads, mostly in the Eaglemount area, but also including Leland Valley, Boulton and Larson Lake Roads. DOT has a reciprocal agreement with the County for work on roads. Jill requested that Eve take GIS points and write a description of all the infestations that are not already identified by DOT and the County Road Department, and have Doug Noltemeier at Public Works create a map for DOT to facilitate efficient planning for the one day effort. There should be a highly visible flag at the beginning and end of the infestation for the spray rig to use. Eve will continue to communicate with DOT and to do landowner outreach – which needs to be completed soon. John Richmond asked if

we should consider getting a private contractor to do the work. John Haas, who is a private contractor, said that one would charge a lot more than DOT is charging. Eve will find out whether a competitive bid is required.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

There were no comments on the Coordinator's Report.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

Jill has been actively involved with poison hemlock at Blue Heron, yellow archangel in North Beach, and also presented on invasive plants as part of the Master Gardeners' Yard and Garden series, and to Sound Waters 2012 (on Whidbey Island). The latter event had 45 different presenters. Jill has put a LOT of time into preparing presentations for these groups.

Jill is concerned about three sites with yellow archangel growing on trails in North Beach and spreading into the woods where it's really difficult to pull. The City of Port Townsend is supporting a proposal to spray, but public outreach will be necessary to allay local concerns about herbicide use. On the first Monday in March Jill is presenting to the North Beach community and will talk about it. Eve suggested putting up large signs on the sites, giving the date(s) we will be spraying, and asking people to call or email if they have concerns. Dean suggested a public service announcement on KPTZ. John Haas said he uses 2% triclopyr and 0.75% imazapyr for yellow archangel. He also mentioned that there is a patch of yellow archangel on Potlatch Street (off Jacob Miller Road).

Pat said there is an unusual-looking vine growing on trees on the Coyle Peninsula. She will bring a sample of it in to the office. Also, there is still Scotch broom at the pit at mile marker 4 on Thorndyke Road.

Eve said that she has discovered that all the board members' terms either have expired or will shortly, and the Commissioners' office insists that they re-apply, which involves getting 10 or more signatures from people living in their voting precinct. She passed around the forms, and will email John's to him.

▪ **Search for New Board Member:**

Richard Hild resigned recently. Eve has advertised in the paper for a new board member to replace him, and invited Dean Shinn to the meeting, because he lives in District 2, which Richard represented, and has expressed concern about noxious weeds.

▪ **Quarries:**

Scotch broom is still bad in many quarries in the area. Eve has made some contacts and will work to get better control in quarries in 2012.

▪ **ListServe and Monthly Newsletter:**

Eve has created a ListServe, through WSU, and will send out a monthly newsletter. The February one has been sent, but is still awaiting approval.

▪ **Sandwich Boards:**

Eve has priced sturdy sandwich boards with lettering at around \$250 each. John Merchant said his budget can cover the cost of four, which is a big contribution. The board expressed appreciation for

the support, and John replied that the City appreciates all that the weed board staff and volunteers are doing to assist them.

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 2012. Additionally, County Roads will provide \$4,000 per year for the next 5 years, and the Quinault Indian Nation is providing \$3,000 for 3 years (2011, 2012 and 2013) to solicit landowner agreements for knotweed control in the Queets-Clearwater watershed. Other funding will come from the Watershed Stewardship Resource Center to develop best management practices and presentations on weed control in native buffers on streams, wetlands, and shorelines. Also, grant funding from US Forest Service and WA State Dept of Ag (for knotweed control) may still be available, but is uncertain.

▪ **Other Business**

Poison hemlock at Blue Heron School continues to be a problem. Eve, Jill and Lisa Crosby (a concerned parent) met with Gene Laes (school superintendent) a few weeks ago. He has been in touch with John Haas, to get a bid for spraying the two large areas, realizing that the presence of a toxic plant on school grounds is a safety issue. Jill and/or Eve would like to go with him when he goes to assess the situation. In the meantime, volunteers will continue pulling plants close to the school. Richard Hefley said he may be available to help. Jill commented that volunteers are getting disillusioned because of lack of participation by the School District.

Jill said that there is a problem with disposal of noxious weeds and that a weed disposal site would be a good idea. Laura said it could be integrated with phyto- or myco-remediation. It would have to be staffed, but could possibly be funded through a grant, to show the public what can be done. John Merchant said he may be able to supply a portable dumpster for use on large weed sites.

Laura said there is a possibility of getting a newer GIS (mapping program) for us to use. She also said that in July there will be Weed and IPM workshop which she would like the Weed Board to be involved with, and also she would like to focus on Invasivores—people eating invasive plants and thereby limiting their spread!

▪ **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 17th at 5 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eve Dixon, Noxious Weed Control Coordinator.