

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

Thursday, August 16th, 5:00-6:20 pm, WSU Office, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Patricia Robinson and Jill Silver (by phone).

Others Present:

Eve Dixon and Alex Huelsdonk (by phone)

▪ **Introductions:**

Alex Huelsdonk lives in West Jefferson and wishes to serve as a Board Member, replacing John Richmond who has resigned.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of May 17th:**

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

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

Jill asked for more details about the “weed tour” that Eve gave to two County Commissioners (separately). Eve said she had taken them to wild chervil sites on Center Road, Eaglemount, Old Eaglemount and/or Larson Lake Roads. Both the Commissioners (John Austin and Phil Johnson) saw for themselves how rapidly wild chervil spreads, and how hard it is to handpull or even dig, because the roots and stems break easily. Jill also asked if Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group is working on butterfly bush on the Dosewallips or just knotweed. Eve did not know but will find out.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

Jill is currently working in the west end, but before heading out there she pulled yellow archangel on the Gise Street Trail, and coordinated with Ian Keith to remove poison hemlock from his property near the Tremont Trail. Jill also reported that the Blue Heron School has a new superintendent and that poison hemlock is still very bad there in Areas 3 and 4. It needs spray, mulch and re-planting. Wild chervil and the county road spraying issue took up a lot of time during the spring. Jill has received four phone calls from people wanting to know more about the petition to ban roadside spraying and there is some concern about rumors and innuendoes being spread. She also commented that the Commissioners have to listen to both sides of any issue and have to respond to citizen concerns. She has been pulling foxglove while working on knotweed on the Hoh, Queets and Clearwater Rivers. She also reported seeing cinnabar moths on tansy ragwort plants in the west end. On the Clearwater people are concerned about knotweed, reed canarygrass and blackberry, and they want and need help. Jill also commented that Tom Shorey, of the Fruit Growers Supply Company (which owns a lot of land in the west end of the county), would like to see the Winfield Pit (owned by DNR) cleared of Scotch broom.

Alex has planned a tansy-ragwort-pulling-weekend at his grandparents' farm—The Hoh Humm Ranch on the Hoh River. At least 10 people have already signed up!! He also pulls tansy ragwort and foxglove whenever possible, and has distributed Scotch broom galls on the river bars at the Hoh Humm Ranch. Reports are that plants have died.

Pat surveyed Center Road for wild chervil. It took 2 days and was rainy and nasty. She took over 250 points and submitted a very thorough, typed report to Eve. There is a very bad patch where Center Road crosses Hwy 104, plus she found many plants on Ole Torkelson—a site newly discovered this year. Wild chervil is already starting to spread under fences onto farm land. She also commented that herb Robert, Scotch broom and tansy ragwort are all bad on the Coyle Road and she will organize volunteers to help pull them.

▪ **Board Membership Update:**

Jill welcomed Alex, our potential new board member. He needs to fill out the application forms, which involves getting 10 signatures from registered voters. Pat reminded him that people have to both print their name AND sign—sometimes they do not realize this and the Commissioners' office will not accept the application. Eve said she has, as required by state weed law, placed two advertisements in the Leader for weed board representatives for Districts 3 (vacated by Richard Hefley) and 5 (vacated by John Richmond—Alex will fill). She also put a note in the last Newsletter requesting applicants for District 3. So far no one has expressed interest.

▪ **Wild Chervil Update:**

Eve reported that the largest wild chervil patches on county roads were weed-whacked at the end of May (by a contractor hired by the Weed Board). The plants have not rebounded as much as expected and Eve has been clipping flower heads when seen, to prevent seed production. A few private landowners now have wild chervil in their pastures, but have done an excellent job controlling it. One mile of Larson Lake Road was sprayed in June, as we said we would at the May 17th Board Meeting. No other spraying has been done on county roads.

▪ **County Road Update:**

Eve has been pulling or digging weeds—mostly tansy ragwort—on many county roads. On the spraying issue, Philip Morley (County Administrator) is working on a management plan and would like to facilitate a meeting between the Weed Board, Public Works and the No-Spray advocates. He has recently returned from vacation and Eve expects to hear from him soon. Eve reported that peavine (*Lathyrus latifolius* or *L. sylvestris*) has exploded on many county roads—probably three times the extent of last year's growth. Pat said she has noticed this too. Peavine is not a listed noxious weed, but it's rampant growth is disturbing.

▪ **Other Business**

Jill commented that we need more letters to the editor (of The Leader), presenting the Weed Board side of the spraying issue. Both Jill and Alex commented on the need for native plant seed, to replant areas after weed removal. Alex especially needs grass seed for his grandparents' farm. Eve commented that a Weed Workshop will be held at the Tri-Area Community Center on Tuesday, August 28th, from 12:30 till 3:00, and a spurge laurel weed pull will take place at Fort Worden on Thursday, August 30th, from 1:00 to 3:30. Participants will meet at North Beach Park

▪ **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 15th at 5 pm.

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