

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

Thursday, November 15th, 5:00-7:10 pm, WSU Office, Port Hadlock

Board Members Present:

Patricia Robinson (arrived at 5:30) and Jill Silver.

Others Present:

Eve Dixon and Bob Hoyle

▪ **Introductions:**

Bob Hoyle lives on West Valley Road and runs Bob's Lawn and Garden Service. He is a licensed contractor and does not use pesticides. He has lived in the area since 1999, took the Master Gardener training in 2001 and was in charge of the MG newsletter for 8 years. He has been a member of the Backcountry Horsemen since 2004, was their president for two years and is now director.

▪ **Approval of Minutes of August 16th:**

Jill proposed to approve the minutes as presented.

▪ **Coordinator's Report:**

No comments on the coordinator's report.

▪ **Board Member Reports:**

Jill has been working on weeds both as a job—in the west end—and otherwise. She has become concerned about the spread of reed canarygrass in the west end watersheds and has established a protocol for Early Detection\Rapid Response (ED\RR). She and her crew picked the seeds, which otherwise would have floated over the tops of other plants. She has pulled foxglove, Scotch broom and tansy ragwort in Port Townsend and out west. She talked with people in Clearwater about the above-mentioned weeds. Butterfly bush, English ivy and English laurel are all spreading rapidly on tributaries of the Quinault River—birds and deer are spreading them. Jill has pulled a lot of holly, laurel and tansy ragwort out west and worked on yellow archangel in Port Townsend—mainly on the Gise Street Trail. Poison hemlock has been seen blooming in Port Townsend much later than is normal. Peavine has appeared in North Beach—Jill will pull. Jill will organize a weed pull in North Beach in December and would like to do one each month in Port Townsend. She also mentioned that there is knotweed in a yard near Fort Worden

Pat pulled thousands of tansy ragwort and some Scotch broom on Coyle Road, around the Community Center and on Hazel Point Road. Zelatched Point now has a community organization that pulls Scotch broom. Pat asked in the FS Ranger Station in Quilcene if she could collect vine maple seed on FS land for re-vegetation projects, and was told it was OK.

▪ **Board Membership Update:**

Eve has emailed Alex Huelsdonk (prospective West End board member) several times, asking if he has completed the application form, but has not heard back from him. Jill said he does not check email very frequently and suggested calling or texting, which Eve will do. Eve will also put a

request for board members on the Weed Board website and on the main county website. Jill suggested preparing a synopsis of what it means to be a Weed Board member, and getting the Commissioners and Philip Morley to approve.

▪ **County Road Update:**

Eve has submitted a Report to County Roads staff, the Commissioners and Weed Board Members. She is still working on a Management Plan for 2013, and is waiting for feedback from Laura Lewis and Monte Reinders. Once they have approved changes she has made to it she will send it to Philip Morley and the Commissioners. Jill commented that a Public Meeting may have to take place before it can be adopted as county policy.

▪ **Proposed Changes to the 2013 State Noxious Weed List**

Eve passed out a list, taken from the State Weed Board's Website, of changes to the State Weed List for 2013 (These are not merely Proposed Changes—they were all accepted by the State Weed Board at their November 7th meeting). Four plants have been added

- French broom—Class A
- Tall hawkweed—Class B
- Common teasel—Class C
- and Common barberry—Class C.

Jill was happy to hear the teasel has been added, and would like the Weed Board to select it for control in our county in 2013.

Additionally, Japanese eelgrass is now a Class C weed everywhere, not just on commercially managed shellfish beds.

Eleven Class B weeds were changed to Class C and the Class B designation regions were re-configured. There are now only 6 regions, not 10 as previously.

Several Class B designations were changed and one that concerns this Weed Board is that myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*—sometimes known as donkey tail) is now required-control in our region. Eve commented that it is a fairly common ornamental plant and does not appear to be invasive. Cathy Lucero (Clallam County Coordinator) has already asked that it not be required-control in our region, but that change cannot take place until 2014.

▪ **Volunteer Opportunities and Adopt-A-Road-Program for State and County Roads**

Jill wants to involve more PEOPLE in weed control—do more public outreach. We need a program and could start with Scotch broom, since that is one plant that almost everyone is aware of. The county needs an Adopt-A-Road program and the Weed Board needs a Volunteer Coordinator. Pat suggested trying to get The Leader or The Daily News to publish a weed picture every week or every month.

▪ **Website Discussion**

Eve asked if we should put the Agenda and Minutes of our meetings on the website. The Board approved—transparency is always a good thing. Jill suggested we put something on the website that proposes what a realistic budget for our program would be. Eve and Jill will work on it.

- **Other Business**

Eve passed out a report recently put out by the Weed Science Society of America, in conjunction with the American Psychopathological Society and the Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section of the Entomological Society of America. The report's theme is that pesticides need not be seen as a "last resort", but that judicious pesticide use should be fully integrated into an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program.

Bob commented that there are lots of cinnabar moths on the Pope land between Hwy 104 and Thorndike Road. Jill commented that biocontrols for Scotch broom—insects that prevent seed production—were released this year near the airport. Jill commented that she does not recommend pulling large Scotch broom plants—it is better to cut them to avoid disturbing the soil and potentially allowing seeds in the soil to germinate.

- **Schedule Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 21st, at 5 pm.

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