



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

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Board Members

Jill Silver
District 1

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District 2

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John Richmond
District 4

Katherine Ackerman
District 5

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WSU Chair (Acting)
(Nonvoting)

Coordinator
Eve Dixon

The Weed Board's Mission:

"To serve as responsible stewards of Jefferson County by protecting the land and resources from the degrading impact of noxious weeds."

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 5, 2011

To: Board of Jefferson County Commissioners

From: Jill Silver, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Board District 1 Rep
Eve Dixon, Jefferson County NWB Control Coordinator

RE: Wild Chervil on County Roads – Recommended Change in Control Strategy

As we presented to you in November of 2009 - wild chervil is a noxious weed that is 'required for control', largely because of its impacts to agricultural operations. This means it cannot be allowed to spread by seed or vegetatively. Once established, extensive tilling and herbicide application are required. In spite of considerable effort by staff and the county road department, this species is continuing to spread in the eastern county, and is moving off County rights of way into adjoining private properties.

Attached is a preliminary map of sites with wild chervil in the east county, and a summary of work conducted by JCNWB staff on County roads in the past year – including both manual and chemical control. The extent of the infestation is now beyond the capacity of weed board staff to manage, even with herbicides. The County road crews have been mowing, but that activity appears to be spreading plants in some locations. In light of this, and because it's spreading into private property where it can be an agricultural pest, we are here to recommend some changes to the control strategy – utilizing a State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) crew to treat all the chervil sites in the county at the most efficacious time of year.

The current annual general fund monies of less than \$15,000 are not sufficient to pay for the costs of weed control on County roads and rights of way. The road department has a proposal to cover some of the costs – which would include the costs of a WSDOT crew and rig. A preliminary cost estimate is attached.

The weed board will need to take on the following tasks in order to facilitate this work:

1. Landowner outreach to establish agreements and answer questions/concerns
2. Work with the County to send a letter to WSDOT requesting assistance under the current reciprocal maintenance agreement # GM# 1271
3. Coordinate with WSDOT and the County road crews
4. Report to the BOCC and Public Works on an annual basis on progress.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard. Please do not hesitate to call with questions.

Sincerely,

Jill Silver
District 1 Representative

Eve Dixon
Coordinator, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board