

## **Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting**

**Call to order:** Myrn Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order via telephone at 9:06 am. Others present included Board members Dave Robbins (via phone), Tamara Cowles (via Zoom), Barry Fischer (via Zoom) ex-officio Dan Teuteberg (via Zoom) program assistant, Kela Hall –Wiekert (via Zoom) and coordinator Patricia Grover (via Zoom).

**Selection of 2021 Board Chair and Vice Chair:** Robbins/Fischer moved and seconded to name Cowles as the 2021 Chair of the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board and Stewart as the Vice-Chair. Motion passed.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Robbins/Stewart moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Approved and adopted as written.

### **Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2021 Noxious Weed List**

Legal notice of the public hearing was published in the Mason County Journal on February 04, 2021. In addition, the meeting agenda was posted on the Mason County website and on the Mason Noxious Weeds Facebook page.

Pat reported on what changes would affect the list.

- Turkish thistle was added as a Class A Noxious Weed to the 2021 Washington State Noxious Weed list and will be added to the Mason County Noxious Weed list.
- Scientific name changes were made to ten species, eight of those are on the Mason County list. Those species are:
  - *Anchusa arvensis*, annual bugloss to *Lycopsis arvensis*
  - *Polygonum cuspidatum*, Japanese knotweed to *Fallopia japonica*
  - *Polygonum sachalinense*, giant knotweed to *Fallopia sachalinensis*
  - *Polygonum x bohemicum*, Bohemian knotweed to *Fallopia x bohémica*
  - *Matricaria perforata*, scentless mayweed to *Tripleurospermum inodorum*
  - *Silene latifolia* ssp. *alba*, white cockle to *Silene latifolia*
  - *Centaurea x moncktonii*, meadow knapweed to *Centaurea x gerstlaueri*
  - *Rubus armeniacus*, Himalayan blackberry to *Rubus bifrons*
- In 2020, the Board selected tansy ragwort (class B), buffalo bur (class C), common teasel (class C) and perennial sowthistle (class C) for control.
- Drooping sedge (*Carex pendula*), which was under consideration for listing and is found in Mason County, was not added to the Washington State Noxious Weed list this year.

Stewart/Robbins moved and seconded to adopt the 2021 Mason County Noxious Weed list as presented. The 2021 was adopted unanimously.

**Coordinator's Update:** The coordinator's update is incorporated by reference. Covers about six months of time. All members have received a copy prior to the meeting.

Questions. Myrn asked about the use of diquat and Pat provided some background to the product and the potential site.

Myrn provided thanks for role on Master Gardener "Through the Garden Gate" presentation.

**Current 2021 Budget Report:** Current budget report is incorporated by reference. The format is the same as in prior years. Pat explained that there will likely be a need for a budget revision mid-year to accept funds from the Olympic National Forest and potential additional funding for a professional services contract with 10,000 Years Institute.

**Discussion: Future Mason County Noxious Weed Control program structure and funding**

Based on discussion and interest from the Board during the October 2020 meeting, Pat developed two future organization options. Option 1 and Option 2 are illustrated in a handout. The associated budgets are very preliminary and Pat is seeking feedback from Board members.

- Does the Board support additional conversations with County staff to further develop facilities costs and other financials?
- What should a future organization look like?

Myrn – What comes under facilities? Currently we do not have a facilities charge. Office, computers and telephone, we do not have a cost.

Tamara – Do you have a feeling as to whether the BOCC would support an assessment? Pat does not and deferred to Dan. The process will likely need to be a ramping up of education and awareness to build support.

Dave - Commented that this type of discussion is difficult in this meeting format. He is in favor of continued research into the costs and funding for assessment of program.

Myrn – Good to look into options for more stable funding. Engagement with the public will contribute to building support for an assessment. Developing public awareness, “tilling the soil of the public”, will demonstrate what the Weed Board does and showcase its benefits.

Tamara – Work is important and there is a definite need. Great to move forward with more structured and long term funding option. Discussion around the assessment process in Kitsap County followed.

Developed a goal of mid-year to make a proposal to the BOCC. Pat plans to have additional information available at the April meeting.

**Review meeting schedule for 2021:** Meetings are scheduled for April 14, July 14 and October 13.

**Other Business:** None

Meeting adjourned at 0940.

*Submitted by Patricia Grover 04/12/2021*

*Approved by MCNWCB 07/14/2021*