

Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting

Call to order: Tamara Cowles, Chair, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 9:02 am. Others present at the in-person meeting included Board members Dave Robbins, Myrn Stewart, program assistant, Kela Hall-Wieckert and coordinator Patricia Grover.

Minutes: Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Stewart/Robbins moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Approved and adopted as written.

Coordinator's Update: The coordinator's update is incorporated by reference. Includes the Coordinator's update from April meeting which was cancelled. All members have received a copy prior to the meeting.

Discussion followed:

- Regarding the extra-help positions. Both positions were advertised and Kela has moved into the extra help position with benefits. We are still accepting applications for the non-benefitted extra-help position. To date, we have interviewed two applicants and received an additional application over the weekend. We will be interviewing the applicant today.
- Have you seen a lot of pampas grass escaped in Mason County? Have currently seen two escaped infestations, both are shoreline.
- Details and background regarding the Scotch broom removal with the Earth Corps crew at the Skokomish estuary was provided.
- Additional information about the use of the ½" woven wire fencing method for controlling knotweed.
- Discussed new sites of lesser celandine which is in the buttercup family and is a class B-designate noxious weed. The plant blooms in March and is fully senesced at this time. Outreach and treatments were discussed. Working with local landscape professionals has proven to enhance our control efforts.
- Presence and options for control of bamboo. Outdoors By Design's Bamboo Garden & Nursery on the south side of Shelton may be a resource to learn more about bamboo.

Grants and Agreements Update

Approval and signature from the Mason County Board of County Commissioners and the Olympic National Forest was finalized on June 15, 2021 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

An interagency agreement with the Washington State Parks funded noxious weed control work at Lake Isabella, Potlatch and Belfair State Parks during the month of June. The agreement was invoiced for \$3,196.71.

Waiting for the WSDA Knotweed agreement. Expect the funding to be about the same as previous years which has been \$15,000.00.

We continue to work on the WSDA perennial pepperweed grant (\$5,000.00) and the giant hogweed grant (\$5,000.00). The dedicated funding has given us the opportunity to dedicate time to two properties with, to date, untreated infestations of giant hogweed. Contracts will expire at the end of 2021.

Budget

The delay in hiring an additional extra-help person has us running under projected expenses for wages. The budget does not include amounts for second ½ of June. Pat has been working 40 hours/week to offset the lack of this personnel.

Board By-Laws - The idea of developing Board By-Laws was introduced by a Board member in 2019. The provided draft includes comments from Diane Zoren, Mason County Administrative Services Manager, and Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator who were asked to review. Signature authority has transitioned during the past 15 years and Pat will ask Diane to clarify if there will be any changes to current process.

Pat asked Board members to review bylaws for next meeting.

We continue to seek citizens to fill the vacant positions. Requirement for Board members has changed to 3 members must be engaged in agricultural production. May want to consider an article about the Board, the vacant positions and the opportunities provided.

Dave asked, "Do you answer more to the county or to the State Noxious Weed Control Board?" The MCNWCB members set priorities for the program.

The By-Laws will serve as an operational guide for the Board moving forward.

Noxious Weed of the Quarter – Meadow knapweed and postcard of perennial pepperweed

Kela and I have been working on controlling knapweeds at various locations, including a very large infestation at Lake Isabella. In addition, we will be releasing biocontrols today at that location.

We are also seeing more spotted knapweed on private and WSDOT properties. WSDOT responded quickly to our report. Very little Scotch broom and tansy ragwort along the ROW. Hwy 101 looks good!

Perennial pepperweed has been found at Rendsland Creek, the Skokomish Estuary, and Belfair State Park. Recently found at Theler Wetland. Jorsted, Hamma Hamma, and Eagle creek provide similar habitats for this plant. Dave was asked to watch out for this plant.

Polaris was utilized to treat perennial pepperweed at Belfair State Park with various application practices.

Drooping sedge was also found at Theler and is abundant. Suspect that it will be listed as a B-designate for 2022.

Other Business - Our next meeting will be October 13, 2021 at 0900.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17.

Submitted by Patricia Grover 10/11/2021

Approved by MCNWCB 10/13/2021