

Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting

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

Minutes: Minutes from the July 14 meeting were reviewed. Stewart/Cowles moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Approved and adopted as written.

Coordinator's Update: The coordinator's update is incorporated by reference.

Discussion followed:

- Question regarding "required control". In all cases, we have offered to assist with control. Species addressed have included tansy ragwort, giant hogweed, and poison hemlock.
- In applications over a drainfield, are there precautions that are taken? We utilize an aquatic herbicide and in some cases the application is made under an NPDES.
- How are the priorities developed for assisting property owners with control of knotweed:
 1. Threatening drainfield, ecological and economic impact
 2. Riparian. Sites that are outside of WSDA funded areas and a property owner wants to control.
- Accomplishments - We have a better tracking mechanism for recording accomplishments and continue to gain support in the community.
- What plant did the dog eat? It is suspected that the dog ate a *Smilacina* or *Disporum* species based on identification of plant parts.
- Additional information about the Rock & Mineral show.

Grants and Agreements Update

- We have a \$1,500.00 balance on the professional services contract with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, this will not be expended.
- Have requested extensions to the WSDA giant hogweed and perennial pepperweed grants.
- WSDA knotweed contract was funded above projected estimate of \$15,000. We received the contract in early-August and received \$20,000. Knotweed control work began on August 11.
- Forest Service contract has been billed out. Additional work will be funded under new contract in the amount of \$30,000.
- Professional services contract with 10KY in the amount of \$14,000 to expire on June 15, 2022. Signed by BOCC yesterday. This work is in conjunction with two thinning sales as part of the Olympic Peninsula Collaborative between industry, environmental community and government. One is in the Lake Cushman area and the other is in the area of the High Steel bridge with DNR funding.

Budget

Format is the same as in previous months. Salary and wages are shown through mid-September. Based on current spending levels, Pat does not anticipate the need to do a budget revision.

Discussion followed re: the use of Weed Wrenches and controlling Scotch broom. Potential for Scotch broom control work parties at Lake Limerick.

Proposed Changes to the 2022 Noxious Weed List

Public hearing for the adoption of the 2022 noxious weed list is planned for February 09, 2022.

Plants to be considered:

- *Carex pendula*, or drooping or hanging sedge - Likely to be a class B-designate for our region.
- rough chervil - One site known in North Mason area
- wild basil – very common in the Hamma Hamma area. Uncertain as to whether this will be listed. Likes disturbance and has been in the area since late 1900's. This plant is in the mint family and has an odor similar to oregano. We are seeing this expanding on National Forest land.
- common tansy is proposed to be changed from a Class C to a Class B Noxious Weed, with designation in Region 1, Clallam county.

All of these if adopted at the State level will go into our 2022 Noxious Weed list.

Green alkanet is proposed for listing as a class C noxious weed. It is hoped that the Board will continue to select those species which do not require control at the State level, including tansy ragwort, perennial sowthistle, buffalobur, and common teasel.

Also, for consideration by the Board, we have been working on Finch Creek and Sherwood creek since 2013 & 2014 respectively. Species can be selected for control in specific areas by the Board. This topic would be revisited at the January meeting.

Meeting Schedule: Calendar proposed based on the schedule decided on for 2021. The February meeting would be the adoption of the 2022 weed list. Cowles moved/Stewart seconded to adopt the calendar of meetings as proposed. Board unanimously approved.

Board By-Laws - Reviewed changes made at the state level:

- change in the number of Board members which need to be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products to 3 of the 5
- Item 12 – clarification on this. Most financials will continue to be with the BOCC.

Myn asked about the term and how to renew term. The details are provided in the RCW. The term is four years.

Several Board members have continued beyond their four years. A letter template will be created for Board members to submit to the appointing authority if they wish to continue.

Discussion regarding Article 10, Absence of Members followed. Members may participate remotely.

After some discussion Cowles/Robbins moved/seconded to adopt the bylaws. Approved as presented and signed by the Chair.

Board member Application – William Bezanson

Stewart moved/Robbins seconded to recommend Mr. Bezanson for appointment to the MCNWCB by the Board of County Commissioners. Recommendation approved by all members.

Noxious Weed of the Quarter – Drooping, or hanging sedge. Evergreen sedge that appears similar to several of our native sedges. The inflorescence is unique and necessary for proper identification. A prolific seeder which can form a very dense root system.

Other Business – Cards of appreciation to acknowledge WSDOT and the State Weed Board for their contributions to the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program. Cards were signed by the Chair and will be sent to the two agencies.

Our next meeting will be January 12, 2022 at 0900.

Stewart moved/Robbins seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Submitted by Patricia Grover 01/12/2022

Approved by MCNWCB 01/12/2022