

**Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12, 2024**

**Call to order:** Tamara Cowles called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Others present included board members Bill Bezanson and Brandon Furrer, ex officio member Dan Teuteberg, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator Heidi Steinbach and member of the public Denny Breckenridge.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Dan Teuteberg suggested removing role call and moving adoption of the Agenda before Public Comment. Bill Bezanson made the motion to approve the agenda with changes. Tamara Cowles seconded, and the motion passed unanimously,

**Open Forum for Public Comment:** Denny Breckenridge was present to observe the meeting but had no comment or concerns.

**Approval of the February 9th, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes by Bill Bezanson. Brandon Furrer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Selection of the 2024 Board Chair and Vice-Chair:** After a brief discussion, Tamara Cowles made a motion that she will remain Chair and Bill Bezanson Vice-Chair. Bill Bezanson seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

**Seasonal Noxious Weed Specialist Position:** Heidi Steinbach let the board know that the position was posted April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. We hope to have the position filled by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill Bezanson asked about the progress of giant hogweed work and timeline for survey and treatment. Heidi Steinbach let the board know that mailers are going out to landowners next week (April 15<sup>th</sup>) and they are starting to review expired landowner waivers of liability. The funding agreement with the Department of Agriculture was amended to add \$2,000 to the project budget.

**Coordinator's Update:** Heidi Steinbach provided update on work completed since beginning position on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- Submitted Notice of Intent for coverage under Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) "Application and Agreement for Limited Agent Status for Aquatic Noxious Weed Control under WSDA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Letter of Limited Agent Status was issued on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We are approved for noxious weed treatments in/around water.
- Attended the Washington State Weed Coordinator's conference in Chelan March 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. This was a great opportunity to meet other noxious weed and natural resource staff from State and County Agencies.
- Washington State Parks Interagency agreement: Worked at Lake Isabella State Park pulling spurge laurel. Worked at Belfair State Park, sprayed shiny geranium and manually removed perennial pepper weed. Surveyed for other noxious weeds during site visits and provided staff with control recommendations.
- Grant update: Amendment to WSDA giant hogweed grant will add \$2,000 to the current

agreement. Working on proposal for WSNWCB Class A and B-Designate Eradication program, maximum award is \$5,000 (Due May 1<sup>st</sup>).

- Manually removed spurge laurel on Mason County roadsides south of Shelton.
- Began survey focused on knapweed, poison hemlock, lesser celandine and shiny geranium.
- Reviewed expired landowner permissions for noxious weed treatments on private property.
- Contacted City of Shelton Parks and Roads staff to communicate shiny geranium site on Olympic Hwy S. They are using my civic App for noxious weed reporting.
- Meeting Mason Conservation District staff and picking up education materials (booklets, trifolds etc.) from the State Weed Board April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Events & Outreach plans: Attending Master Gardener Plant Sale (May 4<sup>th</sup>) and invited to attend Shelton Rock and Mineral Society Show (August 17<sup>th</sup>). More events & outreach to come!

**Newsletter and Noxious Weed of the Month:** Board reviewed copy of Noxious Weeds and Master Gardener Program newsletter. Noxious weeds newsletter included a “Weed of the Month” article, focused on spurge laurel. The board expressed concern that spurge laurel is spreading in the community and that much more may be present than documented. Bill Bezanson expressed concern that feral English holly is spreading.

**Coordinator Workplan:** Heidi Steinbach reviewed draft work plan for 2024 and gives board members opportunities to ask questions or suggest additions. Tamara Cowles expressed concern about parrotfeather and fragrant waterlily infestation at Cranberry Lake. Both species are spreading in area. Heidi Steinbach says she will work to contact landowners to address infestations. The program has \$15,000 of funding through the Forest Service, \$12,000 through Title II funding and \$3,000 through non-Title II funding. Coordinator says they are making plans for knotweed work that is later in the year, have communicated with Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement group and needs to reach out to Washington State Department of Agriculture. Heidi Steinbach is planning to participate in Solid Waste and Parks Advisory Board, to discuss noxious weed disposal plan and volunteer weed pulling activity at county-owned parks.

**Other Business:** Board member Tamara Cowles and Bill Bezanson welcomed new program coordinator to position. Tamara Cowles volunteered to help call prospective board members in the future. Dan Teuteberg suggested board members may want to help with community events and discuss potential to partner with Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Program.

**Adjourn: Tamara Cowles called for meeting to adjourn, Bill Bezanson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am**

Recorded by Heidi Steinbach on 4/12/2024.

Approved by MCNWCB on 6/14/2024