



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 416-1467

Minutes

Published Meeting
October 19th 2017, 6:00pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Board of Commissioners Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

I. CALL TO ORDER

- 6:01pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Jim Hinton
- Jim Carstens
- Brian Waltner
- Victor Jensen
- Dan Berentson
- Joseph Shea

III. AGENDA

- a. Approval of October 19th 2017 meeting Agenda.

IV. MINUTES

- a. Approval of June 29th 2017 Minutes.

Jim Carstens: Visser LLC name is spelled wrong.

Victor Jensen: Moves to approve the June 29th meeting minutes with said corrections.

Jim Hinton: Seconds the motion.

Call to vote: Yay: 3 Nay: 0. Motion Passes.

- b. Approval of July 20th 2017 Minutes.

Jim Carstens: Moves to approve the July 20th Minutes.

Brian Waltner: Seconds the motion.

Call to vote: Yay: 3 Nay: 0. Motion Passes.

V. GUEST COMMENTS

VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- a. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report.

****See attached****

Joseph Shea: Presented our 2018 budget request to the commissioners for the general fund. We increased our budget to account for advertising and equipment costs. Finished all of my exit interviews with all the summer hires.

Victor Jensen: How do people respond to you at the fair?

Joseph Shea: It was good I was in a good location but I did have a lot of questions about poisonous weeds that weren't necessarily noxious. At the Skagit County Fair there were some people who wanted to meet board members. Sunny Gorman is interested in applying for the Board for District 3.

Victor Jensen: Did you do anything for Skagit Farmers Fair?

Joseph Shea: No I did not I was unaware of the event or how to apply.

Joseph Shea: There were a couple notices I sent out. Thistle on Sukuma property and it was taken care of. Additionally we treated and notified landowners on Chuckanut about a Knotweed infestation. Joe Root from BNSF is assisting with the treatment. We are planning on continuing that work next year.

Jim Carstens: What is the chemical shed item about?

Joseph Shea: That refers to a metal cabinet I purchased for flammable chemicals.

Jim Hinton: You have notices here we talked about the hemlock on sterling hill nothing has been done. Walker trucking is transporting that material and nothing has been done. Have you sent them a letter?

Joseph Shea: Yes.

Jim Hinton: Have you sent them a second letter? We were very explicit that they take care of that and it hasn't been done.

Joseph Shea: Well we are currently holding off on enforcement until we finish some of our administrative documents for our board.

Jim Hinton: I don't buy that, not at all. I told you to make a strong letter for the property and you haven't done that.

Dan Berentson: Maybe you should go in and talk to Norm or someone so we don't have to take the next step.

Jim Hinton: On the freeway there is a lot of teasel by Barnet Tractor on the south side of frontage road. That hasn't been done either.

Joseph Shea: WSDOT has a lot of weeds on their lands too. I just meet with the regional manager of WSDOT and we developed a plan and they introduced me to their new program and they have had a lot of changes in their management. We will be sharing information with each other to make sure we are quick to manage problem areas.

Brian Waltner: – The process is slow when dealing with other agencies.

Jim Hinton: I don't see anything about spraying anything on the Skagit River.

Joseph Shea: We did not spray anything on the Skagit River besides the Dike District 12 Property.

Jim Hinton: We told you to take care of the knotweed at the bridge at highway 9 and there is nothing in here about that.

Joseph Shea: We didn't do any spraying because this was an exploratory survey to assess the abundance of noxious weeds on the river so we can ask for more funds to do a more complete job also there are a lot of agreements and permits that need to be in place to ensure that I will not be put in jail or sued due to improper procedure.

Jim Hinton: I don't know why you couldn't have sprayed while you worked.

Joseph Shea: We did do spraying on the entire Dike District 12 levy since they supplied a crew and a boat for our survey. Treating one individual spot of weeds is ineffective.

Brian Waltner: Things have changed over the past 17 year with regards to legal issues with spraying.

Victor Jensen: there needs to be more roadside and ditch maintenance of blackberry.

Jim Hinton: looking at Skagit land trust for a contract?

Joseph Shea: After talking with Skagit land trusts they were interested in contracting us to do some of their noxious weed work on some of their properties. We have already been taking care of knotweed on Grandy creek and the Samish River.

Jim Hinton: I told you about thistle problem on highway 20 at one of their projects and that didn't get done this year.

Joseph Shea: Well they have noxious weed control as part of one of their outcomes of that project.

Jim Hinton: I talked to them before and they were not receptive.

Dan Berentson: If there is a private firm that is able to do that job we don't want to compete with the private industry.

Jim Hinton: We need to advertise and see if there are private applicators to do private work.

Joseph Shea: I have business cards of private applicators to hand out.

Dan Berentson: We don't want to get into an agreement at this time.

Victor Jensen: There are a lot of farmers that don't understand how we got to where we are. Farming is difficult and organic doesn't mean it is easier.

Jim Hinton: Japanese knotweed at the gas pumping stations near Josh Wilson road on pullover across from Skagit Valley Farms. I have it in my notes and it didn't get done.

Jim Carstens: How are you enacting or surveying for weeds? Do you drive around of respond to complaints?

Joseph Shea: I do both, I drive around and documenting areas of importance with weeds but I also do inspections from landowner complaints.

Jim Carstens: How are you prioritizing areas?

Joseph Shea: The ultimate goal is to develop more data to get a better understating of the infestation existent so we can priorities our weed outreach.

Dan Berentson: So, you're trying to develop something to base your progress?

Brian Waltner: I see how having that would help with the program.

Joseph Shea: Allison Halpern and the state board are excited to see our data that we collect.

Dan Berentson: Documenting our no-spray areas in our database would be helpful too.

Joseph Shea: Unfortunately we were not accepted for our NFWF grant.

Jim Carstens: What is the budget now?

Joseph Shea:

2017 General Fund Budget: \$99,920.00, 2017 EOY Est.: \$118,115.00

2017 – 2019 Spartina Grant: \$28,811.23 PR1 July – Sept. Est. Remaining: \$11,188.77

2017 – 2019 Knotweed Grant: \$11,599.37 PR1 July – Sept. Est. Remaining: \$ -1,599.37

Jim Hinton: In that regard the board requested to get information about the budget at our meetings and we haven't seen it.

Joseph Shea: I supplied those plus our 2018 budget request to you at our last meeting.

Brian Waltner: Do you have everyone's email? You should pass that information to us over email that should be fine.

Jim Hinton: Is there anything else?

Brian Waltner: I don't think so.

Jim Hinton: Well we will adjourn the meeting.

Joseph Shea: I believe there are still things that we need to address before we conclude the meeting. You have to decide your meeting dates for next year and additionally you have to vote on our weed districts.

Brian Waltner: Okay.

Jim Hinton: Okay.

b. **Coordinator hiring process.**

(**Executive Session**)

c. **Permit and grant status**

(**Included in Coordinators report**)

d. **Skagit County Noxious Weed Board Policies and Procedures doc.**

Joseph Shea: I am currently working with Stephen Fallquist to develop county code for our board to outline responsibilities and logistics of our board. Like previously discussed we will be outlining our document based on Snohomish and Whatcom County County Codes.

e. **Weed District Delineation verbiage.**

Joseph Shea: We are proposing changes to our weed districts. I have included all of you previous comments and am looking for a vote so we can bring this to the commissioners for further review.

Brian Waltner: You should include all of Anacortes to district 1 rather than using highway 20 a as division.

Brian Waltner: I think it is pretty strait forward.

Jim Hinton: Use the Swinomish channel. Okay we got that settled.

Dan Berentson: Are you going to vote on that?

Brian Waltner: Moves to change the boundary of District 1 and use Swinomish Channel to separate Districts 1 and 2.

Jim Hinton: Seconds the motion.

Call to vote: Yay: 4 Nay: 0. Motion Passes.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Scotch Broom in Electric (Seattle City Light) Right-of-Way in Marble mount.**

Joseph Shea: We are organizing a community group and developing a plan for this highly infested area. Cheryl Cunningham has been asking for help the last couple years and now the neighboring property owners are expressing a need for control. Seattle city light is trying to be proactive and develop a plan to eradicate the region.

Jim Carsten's: How do you get rid of scotch broom?

Joseph Shea: TriclaPHYR works very well we have been using a combination of cut stump treatments as well as spot spraying techniques.

b. **RCW 17.10 revision.**

Joseph Shea: There are a lot of changes with the RCW that are being suggested. Some of these include getting rid of the 10 signatures requirement as well as lowering the requirement of board members to 3 out of 5 instead of 4/5 being engaged in primary production. Additionally there are suggestions to remove the forest exemption and including term limits to serving on the weed board. There are also some authority changes between the Noxious Weed Board, County Commissioners and the Directors.

Jim Hinton: We should make something similar to what we have.

c. **Board member and Coordinator Required Training (Open Public Meetings Act, Ethics in Public Service, Public Records Act, RCW 17.10, WAC 16-750).**

Brian Waltner: What is the OPMA training about?

Joseph Shea: There are some changes that have happened over the years and the state board has had required training and I think it would be helpful for us all to be caught up on the laws. We could have Cori Russel from Skagit County and Alison Halpern from Washington State to give us some presentations and to go over the laws.

d. Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board 2018 quarterly meeting dates and times.

Brian Waltner: I move to have our meetings on...

- January 18th 6:00pm
- April 19th 6:00pm
- July 19th 6:00pm
- October 18th 6:00pm

Victor Jensen: Seconds the motion.

Call to vote: Yay: 4 Nay: 0. Motion Passes.

e. Filling Vacant/Expired positions in District 4 &5.

Jim Hinton: We will talk about expired board positions at the executive session. (**moved to executive session**).

f. Knotweed and Spartan program.

Joseph Shea: Almost over. Allie is working on reports and presentations. All other seasonal hires are no longer employed. The treatment season is over.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Hinton: Moves to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Victor Jensen: Seconds the motion.

Call to vote: Yay: 4 Nay: 0. Motion Passes.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jim Hinton: Calls to move the meeting to executive session.



Skagit County Noxious Weed Coordinator

July 20th – October 19th Quarterly Report

October 19th 2017 6:00pm

1800 Continental Place

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

(360) 416-1467

Landowner Calls / Emails

- Thistle near D'Arcy rd. on County Right-Of-Way – Barb Gibbins
- Poison Hemlock on Highway 20 and Avon-Allen RD
- Knotweed help Non-Chemical – Ian Horton
- Thistle help on dikes – Dan, Dike District 12
- Anacortes Water Treatment Plant thistle encroaching on property - Cameron Frazer
- Thistle on Rhodes Rd in Sedro Woolley – Bill Rogers
- Poison Hemlock on Guemes Island - Amy Carlson
- Moving noxious weed sign – After Conway Bridge
- Knotweed and Bittersweet Nightshade issues - Rich Haley on behalf of landowner
- Knotweed and English Ivy on Britt Slough – Dave Towne
- Aquatic weed in Barnaby Slough - NFS
- Issues with Myrtle Spurge being sold in store - ICNWCB
- Email about stopping the fight against invasive plants and stop chemical use - Stephanie Meehan
- North Cascades Institute wants to have me give a presentation to their class about my journey of employment and Noxious Weed Control Boards also creating a Stewardship Program – Kiley Barbaro
- Tansy Ragwort on Lower Finney Creek Rd. - Bill B.
- WSU extension needing publications- Alex Dupont
- Big lake knotweed treatment help - Sheri Sager
- landowner needs help with noxious weeds - Rick Haley

Budgets

- **See attached Doc**

Office

- New Spartina Grant - K2234 \$80,000.00 (2017-2019). Final and approved.
- New Knotweed Grant \$20,000.00 (2017-2019). Final and approved.
- NFWF pulling together initiative applied for \$100,000.00. Application denied.
- Todd Palzer – Donating in-kind funds for river survey (WCC crew assisted event and possible future help)
- RCW 17.10 review Snohomish County , Whatcom County, Island County, San Juan County
- County Code Stephen Fallquist and Dan Berentson

Notices

- Chuckanut Drive - Knotweed
- Mount Vernon for Anderson rd. bypass
- Thistle in Sakuma property
- Various weeds on Farm to Market Road
- Dike District 12 by water treatment plant
- Thistles on Memorial Highway/ Dike District 12

Purchasing

- Chemical shed for chemicals and gas canisters
- Shovels and buckets for digging Spartina
- Boom Sprayer apparatus parts
- New sprayer parts and accessories.
- New 40 gallon spotlight sprayer for Argo and ATV Knotweed operations
- Presentation and tabling supplies (Table, canopy, display holders and youth event supplies)

Outreach

- Creating a volunteer outreach program and gaining a list of contacts for volunteer help. Liability forms, online register page.
- Skagit Land Trust is looking for a partner to contract out to complete Noxious Weed Treatments on their lands. Looking to create a contract with Skagit Land Trust.
- Dike District 12- need help with noxious weeds is willing to donate boat for surveys and treatments.
- Seattle City Light – Scotch Broom infestation problem on St Rt 20. Just before Marblemount there is a problem land parcel owned by Seattle city Light and is posing a serious threat to agricultural lands near by due to the high density of Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom. In contact to develop eradication plan for the Parcel. Meeting September 6th to develop plan with adjacent landowners.
- DOT meeting with Snohomish and Whatcom County to discuss vegetation management zones.
- Facebook Page with weed information and contact information.
- Working together with Skagit County Lake Management Districts.

Treatments

- 13501 Sullivan rd. Bow, WA. Dick Sullivan, Winter Wheat Certification.
- 14971 Wilbur rd. Yellow Archangel
- 17719 West Big Lake Blvd
- Sullivan rd. Samish River Knotweed Treatment
- 17995 Fir Island rd. Jan Johnson (360)-630-1002
- 16422 Britt rd. Dave Towne (360)-708-1196
- 5742 Hobson rd. Bow, WA. Marcella Schloemer (360)-766-6612 knotweed

- Soda Lane, Dodge Valley rd. Doyle Schmidt (360)-661-60050
- Big Lake, Evelyn (949)-735-2807 water Hassan South end of lake
- 4344 Blank rd. Bob Adams (360)-854-2037
- 17848 West Big Lake Blvd. Mount Vernon, Jeffalyn Pettigrew Knotweed (360)-840-9413
- 2020 Chuckanut Drive, Karen Reid Alan (360)-223-5239
- 2178 Chuckanut Drive, John Miller +1 (360)-766-4410
- 20100 E Hickox Rd, David Walde (360)-416-1852
- 6976 Steelhead Drive, Knotweed

Projects 2017

- Skagit River Initial Survey Dike District 12.
- WSDA, Swinomish Tribe co-op air boat surveys of north and south Swinomish Channel August 8th and 9th.
- Boat assistance with Swinomish Tribe at Craft and Ika Islands.
- Britt Slough cleans up, doing a vegetation survey of Britt Slough to give Skagit County advice for cleanup project. - Nicki Davis

Education and outreach

- Skagit County Fair August 7-12th
- State Weed Board August 9th
- State Weed Board October 31st
- State Weed Board September 21st
- Skagit River Salmon Festival September 9th
- Fidalgo Bay educational event August 13th
- North Cascades Institute Education event.
- Washington State Weed Conference Wenatchee. November 1st – 3rd
- DNR Noxious Weed Training November 9th

