



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

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

Minutes

Published Meeting
October 22st 2020, 5:30pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Online Via Microsoft Teams
Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 929-229-5406,,417616446#](#) United States, New York City

Phone Conference ID: 417 616 446#

Chair: Jason Kleinhuizen

Board members:

- Sonny Gohrman
- Kevin Andersen

Coordinator:

- Evan Emrick Interim

Guests: Joseph Shea

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Jason Calls to order at 5:32pm
Sonny Seconds
- II. ROLL CALL
Evan Emrick
Sonny Gohrman
Jason Kleinhuizen
Kevin Anderson
Joeseoph Shea
- III. AGENDA
Approval of October 20st, 2022, meeting agenda
Sonny moves to approve this month's agenda
Kevin seconds this and approves the month's agenda
- IV. MINUTES
Kevin Brings to approve the Minutes of the last Agenda
Sonny seconds this and approves the previous agenda
- V. GUEST COMMENTS
N/A
- VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- a. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report
- b. **See attached Report**

New Coordinator Hiring/ general staffing

We were able to hire a new coordinator, one Madelyn Loy who will start at the beginning of November. This is great news as we will now have 2 full time employees (a coordinator and a tech) to help with noxious weeds control around Skagit county. Though staffing continues to be an issue for most of the world, we hope that the new salary study will help bring more applicants to the seasonal positions with the county. In addition, Maddy and I plan on updating the employment listing to better reflect the open positions. We will know more about this when the study results are released in December. Job description and wages we believe will be the factors limiting us and our future hires.

Weeds Assessments

Poison hemlock continues to be the primary outreach point for the public. We think that perhaps doing more news segments regarding some of the other noxious weeds around the county could bring more attention to other weeds we are having issues with. Such as knotweed.

Budget Report

We have spent 100% percent of the knotweeds budget at this time of \$30,000, approximately 32% of our spartina budget, and 29% of our total 2022 budget. There was a lot of over time spent working on knotweed earlier this quarter between the former coordinator Joseph and myself. The addition of our new coordinator will increase these totals a little more quickly after their hire date.

VII. NEW BUISNESS

New board meeting dates for next year:

January 19th April 20th July 20th and November 16th of 2023 these dates will be made public and available on Skagit counties website in the next few weeks.

New Board Chair:

Kevin Andersen was selected to be the new chair with Jason stepping down into a board member position. Sonny approves this movement.

Additional Board Member:

Additional board members of Skagit county are needed in both District 4 and 3. Filling those seats would be highly beneficial for the future of Skagit counties weed board decisions.

- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- IX. ADJOURMENT



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

Coordinator's Report

10/20/2022

Evan Emrick- Noxious Weeds Technician

General

Noxious Weeds Coordinator Hiring Process. The Hiring Process for a new coordinator is well underway. 2nd round interviews were held last week and a new coordinator should be selected soon.

Equipment loan

9/16/22 Temporary loan, to parks department of, EZject lance, injections gun, 2 weed wrenches, a brush cutter, and an electric backpack sprayer. This equipment was used for outreach and use demonstration purposes for the Washington tree farm program and the Conservation District. All equipment has since been returned.

Enforcements

Landowner Consultations

9/26/22 Sybel Jensen knotweed treatments near horse pastures

9/26/22 2 Additional Agreements with landowners along Jones Creek in Lyman, another knotweed infestation. 1 of the properties has been worked on in the past by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement group. The other is a neighbor owning property upstream with a similar knotweed issue.

6 additional on site consultations regarding minor infestations of class C weeds

Education and outreach

8/10-8/13 The Skagit County Fair. The 4 day fair allowed the noxious weeds department an opportunity as it always does to interact with the public and spread awareness of noxious weeds. Hosting the booth during the allotted fair times 10am-10pm, this time was utilized very well by the former coordinator Joseph and myself for inter Skagit networking. There were many questions about misc. noxious weeds around the county, however poison hemlock, and knotweed seemed to be hotter topics for landowners' concerns.

9/16-9/17 Washington Tree Farm Program seminar- where we were able to present information about the noxious weeds department to the public with a focus on the kind of equipment we use in the field. This included a backpack sprayer demonstration, a weed wrench demonstration, and a walk through of our injection-based methods for applying herbicides. (IE Ezject lance and the injections gun.) there was also a segment of an online meeting for the public to ask any questions about the noxious weeds field work.

Flood Awareness Week- 10/10-15/22 this week includes an annual training and preparedness meeting for Skagit county employees in preparation for the upcoming flood season. I will be serving as a resource coordinator for district 1.

Training

8/2/22 Evan's Pesticide License as a Public Applicator

Upcoming Washington State Weeds Conference **11/2/22-11/4/22**

ArcGis Training for updating of landowner agreements

Cooperative projects/ Treatments

SFEG AUG 3rd and Aug 24th 2 SFEG days to Ovenell Island, this project was focused on ovenell island in the Skagit river near concrete. There the SFEG noxious weeds specialist, and the Washington conservation crew required transport to the large island where knotweed had infested the area. This island was underwater during the last flood season. The crews worked to survey the knotweed, Track Data Points (new to iform) , and apply herbicides. The County assisted in all of these tasks including the transportation with the new boat.



SLT SEPT 26th -Sept 27th A pick up and drop off for SLT- the Skagit land trust reached out to me in hopes I would assist them in transporting equipment to assist with the knotweed treatments on Skiyou Slough. A possible future restoration site near the utopia area. With out the boat transport, the area would not have been able to be treated to the degree it needed to be. This was productive for time management, Appropriate treatment amounts, and a networking opportunity for the new technician (me)



I met with Kayla Seaforth and Hannah Williams (SLT) at the river front boat launch and provided 2 back and forth trips to the area while they had an overnight treatment plan there. This was around a 3 mile boat ride each way.

WDFW Sept 7th WDFW Talking Fields Fir Island Treatments, I was able to join a team from WDFW to survey and treat spartina in the flats of fir island.



This area used to be protected from the tide water by a dike but was reverted a few years back. Several plants were found, and we look forward to future treatments in this site.

WSDA Sept 23rd Airboat access to Ika Island with Department of Agriculture. This area would have otherwise been inaccessible to survey without the assistance of the airboat. I was able to walk the area of concern on the island and have Sonny pick me up near the other side closer to the mouth of the river and fir island to conclude the treatment area.



COSW AUG 26th Sedro Woolley interlocal knotweed agreement. The city of Sedro Woolley provided a map to me including a handful of small knotweed sites. These sites were treated last year and were revisited and treated this year as well.

Swinomish Tribe Aug 9th Swinomish Tribe Casino lagoon and Turners Cove. With the Help of Denis Dagley of the Swinomish tribe Department of environmental protection. As well as a few helpful member of Skagit counties natural resource division. We we're able to treat possibly the most spartina infested area in Skagit county. Casino Lagoon. This Area stretches to 49 acres and houses many mature spartina plants. Through this very mucky area we sprayed 15 gallons of herbicide mixture, treating over 190 individual plants. These plants were already showing their seed heads. We removed and bagged the seed head separately, and disposed of them properly. We look forward to seeing our progress in this area next year.



Upcoming Events of Note

Washington State Weeds Conference I will be attending the Washington state weeds conference from November 2nd to November 4th. This annual conference is way for applicators such a myself to earn credits towards retaining their pesticide applicator licenses. This conference has historically been a very good source of networking in the noxious weeds world. As well a great learning opportunity of new treatment methods and findings.

CWMA/ county commissioners presentation. Set to be held on December 9th. Myself, along with other cooperative weeds management groups will present to county commissioners. The purpose of these presentations is to reflect on what challenges, accomplishments, and future projects each agency has experienced this year.