**PACIFIC COUNTY**

**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**

Regular Meeting

5:00 P.M. December 12, 2017

410 Quincy Street, South Bend, WA 98586

**MINUTES**

**Members in attendance**: Bob Rose (chair), Paul Waldref, Warren Cowell, David Bale, Jeff Nesbitt, Ed Darcher.

1. Call to Order: 5:10 PM
2. **Minutes**: Motion by Waldref to approve minutes. Motion 2nd by Bale. Motion carried 4-0.
3. **WSDA- Spartina**
   1. **(Ed Darcher)-** This was a good year for Spartina. We found fewer plants than ever before, and the population continues to shrink. All of the agencies experienced a major drop in plants found. Pac Co crew only found 220 plants this year, which represents a reduction of nearly 75% from last year. It is still difficult to predict how the next years will go, but it is easy to imagine a season during which the numbers of plants will reach eradication status across many sections of the bay. There has already been talk about consolidating crews and dealing with the reality that this funding will not be available forever. It is important that Pac Co continues to take a leadership role on this project to ensure that the progress continues and the Spartina populations are not allowed to rebound. It is getting harder to find eligible temporary employees and we are beginning to look forward and think of how the program may change to accommodate a shrinking budget.
   2. **Moby Dick-** We had a show cause hearing with Judge Doug Goelz. We stated our case and requested that the court impose a deadline that would force the Moby Dick owners to continue mowing or find another way to eradicate. The court ruled that Moby Dick must continue to mow until August 1, 2019, at which time, the NWCB may take action to eradicate the weeds.
4. **Assessment Funding**
   1. (Jeff Nesbitt) The current funding structure for PC Veg mgmt. is not sustainable. The bills are being paid through temporary funding sources. The Weed Board is supposed to be paid for by the County (RCW 17.10), and the law provides two ways for this to happen, either by an allotment from general expense, or by a tax assessment. At some point in the past, it was decided that Veg mgmt. would not receive funding from either of these sources. Instead, contracts and service agreements would be the only source of income, creating a situation in which contracted services, such as WSDA contracts and ROW spraying, are prioritized over NWCB activity, such as property inspections, community outreach, and notification letters. In order to create a Noxious Weed program that functions efficiently and fulfills its duties, as written in RCW 17.10, we need to pursue an assessment. RCW 17.10 spells out the process of passing an assessment. The process involves NWCB proposing the assessment, holding a public hearing, setting land classifications and rates, and finally presenting the final proposal to the Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting and asking them to make an official ordinance or resolution to enact the new assessment. If we can get this approved, we would increase time and energy spent on NWCB activities. With assessment funds we would be able to do regular property inspections, deal with neighbor conflicts, make public presentations, update the website, write notification letters, research new technologies, publish announcements or educational information in local media, and eventually pursue civil enforcement for violations.
   2. Discussion followed… Rose stated that this has been tried before and the former commissioners were not in favor of the assessment. Rose says that the treasurer’s office and assessor’s office will ask to take a large percentage (up to 50%) of the funds, as a payment for collecting the fees. Rose argues that this might make the whole process not worth the trouble. Nesbitt agreed to contact the auditor to ask about the potential assessment. The Board of County Commissioners met with Nesbitt and said that they would be willing to hear a proposal after the prosecutor, assessor, treasurer, and Weed Board were informed and supportive.
   3. After much deliberation… Cowell makes a motion to allow Nesbitt to pursue information and begin to assemble projections to be included in the proposal, provided; no official action is taken without Board approval, and that the proposal represents an assessment with the lowest rates possible. Furthermore, a special meeting of the NWCB will be held January 8th, to discuss land classification and assessment rates, and no decisions will be made by the Board until this meeting.
   4. Motion 2nd by Bale. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.
5. **2018 Noxious Weed List**
   1. It is time to start thinking of any possible changes to the weed list for 2018. We are required to adopt the State’s weed list, including the designate species. In addition to the State weed list, we can add County “select” weeds that will be required for control. In 2017 our select weeds included: gorse, scotch broom (in ROW), lesser celandine, purple loosestrife, and knotweed (in select watersheds). We must hold a public hearing and approve the new list before the end of February. We will set a hearing date at the next meeting.
6. **Adjournment**—Motion by Waldref to adjourn meeting, seconded by Bale. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

***Next Meeting will be held on December 8, 2018 at 410 Quincy St, South Bend, WA 98586 at 5:00 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Nesbitt, Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator

Adopted by the Pacific County Weed Board at South Bend, Washington, then signed by its membership and attest by its Coordinator in authorization of such adoption this 8th day of January, 2018.

PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

WEED BOARD

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Warren Cowell, Member

ATTEST:

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Jeff Nesbitt, Coordinator Doug Camenzind, Member

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David Bale, Member