**PACIFIC COUNTY**

**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**

Regular Meeting

7:00 P.M. Tuesday December 13, 2016

410 Quincy Street, South Bend, WA 98586

**MINUTES**

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

1. **Call to Order**: 7:10 PM
2. **Minutes**: September 27th meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as written by Camenzind, seconded by Bale. Motion passed 5-0.
3. **Old Business**
	* 1. **Spartina— (Ed Darcher)** There was a cooperators’ meeting last week with DNR, WSDA, WDFW, USFWS, and County. Bay-wide the partners treated 0.4 acres of Spartina, 0.16 acres of that were treated by County. This shows a significant decrease from last year and represents a trend towards reaching a maintenance level Spartina population. Two-year funding cycles make it hard to predict the future of the program, but the funding future looks good at least for the next biennium. We have been warned that we may face a cut of up to 20% on our next WSDA contract, which we should receive from WSDA in June. While this is a worst-case scenario, the reduction is not enough to threaten the existence of the program. The biggest challenge has become finding good candidates for the field crew. The job has become increasingly difficult as the plant numbers drop and the coverage requirements remain the same. Most employees move on to other jobs after a few seasons and there are few qualified applicants to replace them.

* + 1. **Moby Dick Property— (Jeff Nesbitt)** WSDA has stated that they would like to put more pressure on Moby Dick to control their Spartina. This could mean forcing chemical control (if allowed by law), arranging a mowing plan that we carry out, or coming up with some other option (like crushing, or covering). When asked for their input, the County commissioners expressed interest in moving forward with forced control. We are currently attempting to arrange a meeting with the County Prosecutor, Mark McClain, to go over our legal options. We need to come up with a plan as soon as possible in order to see action in 2017.
		2. **Soil Testing Project— (Ed Darcher & Jeff Nesbitt)** We have finished collecting samples for 2016 and are in the process of preparing the results, which will be available in January 2017. Our results indicate that herbicides used in Willapa Bay to treat Spartina alterniflora and Zostera japonica do not remain in the soil at dangerous or even measurable levels. We did experience one setback during the process when sampling error led to a set of contaminated samples. Once the contamination was brought to our attention, we quickly identified the source, adjusted our sampling method and retested the sites in question. All of the samples came back clean, showing no presence of residual herbicides.
		3. **Knotweed— (Ed Darcher & Jeff Nesbitt)** County treated 24 acres this season. 13.6 acres on the Willapa River, 8.75 acres on the Naselle River, and 0.85 acres on the North Nemah River. We are happy with the results, especially on the North Nemah River where we have reduced the Knotweed population to easily-managed levels. The treatment time on North Nemah has gone down from around two weeks to two days. This is a good example of what we want to see on the larger rivers like Naselle and Willapa. After a few years of persistent treatments, our project costs will go down dramatically. The WSDA will release a call for proposals for the 2017-2018 biennium within the next few months and County will submit a proposal asking for enough funding to continue our current work and to add new territory. In 2017-2018 we need to spend more time/resources on the Naselle River and its tributaries like Salmon Creek. We will continue to schedule our treatments so that they do not coincide with the knotweed flowering. This is done to protect pollinators but does lead to the issue of having a short window to treat large quantities of weeds.
			1. We are discussing adding knotweed to the County Weed list in 2017 as a Class B “select” species in areas that are sensitive to its spread, such as streams and rivers. This would allow us to force control on rivers that are included in our WSDA knotweed program. We will not designate it in areas that do not pose a threat to waterways, allowing landowners without a free treatment option to avoid civil infractions and fines. The specific language needs to be finalized before the public hearing in February.
	1. **Tansy Ragwort (Jeff Nesbitt)**— This year we tried something new in Tansy control. A long stretch of bad weather and remaining funds on the County Public Works contract led to the decision to pull tansy along county roads, rather than spray it. We ended up pulling thousands of plants up and down the County during the month of October. This being an unusually heavy year for tansy, there were a lot of weeds to pull. Removing these plants before they were able to set seed will likely have a negative (negative meaning *less*, not undesirable) effect on the total number of plants we see coming back next summer.
1. **New Business**
	1. **WSU extension representative (Jeff Nesbitt)** – RCW 17.10 states that each county weed board must have a non-voting board member who serves as a representative of a WSU extension branch. Dr. Kim Patten has volunteered to serve the board in this position. Dr. Patten is highly qualified and would be a huge asset to the Weed Board. Waldref made a motion that the Weed Board request Dr. Patten’s service and fulfill the necessary requirements to his appointment. Motion seconded by Cowell. Motion passed by vote 5-0. His appointment will have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioner’s before his position will be made official.
	2. **Board Member Term Expiration (Jeff Nesbitt)** — The terms of David Bale and Paul Waldref will expire on 2/1/2017. To seek reappointment, they must obtain signatures of support from 10 residents of their respective weed districts, and submit those, along with a letter of interest, to me (Coordinator) by January 15th, 2017. Once I have received application documents from all interested parties, I am required to evaluate the candidates and submit my recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval and appointment.
	3. **Board Member Pictures (Jeff Nesbitt)—**The Washington State Weed Board has created a comprehensive directory which includes information on State and County Weed Board officials. They have requested photographs of our Weed Board members and Coordinator. Pictures will be taken at this meeting and submitted to the State.
	4. **2017 Meeting Schedule**—The State requires Counties to adopt their weed list before 2/28/2017. This deadline forces us to break from our standard meeting schedule (2nd Tuesday of March, June, September, December), in order to hold a Public Hearing to discuss the 2017 County Weed List and a regular meeting to adopt the list. To accommodate this requirement, the following meeting schedule has been proposed:
		1. February 7, (5:00-7:00 PM) Public Hearing/Regular Meeting

Commissioners’ Meeting Room. 1216 Robert Bush Drive, South Bend, WA.

* + 1. June 13, (5:00-7:00 PM) Regular Meeting

Dept. of Vegetation Management Office. 410 Quincy Street. South Bend, WA.

* + 1. September 12, (5:00-7:00 PM) Regular Meeting

Dept. of Vegetation Management Office. 410 Quincy Street. South Bend, WA.

* + 1. December 12, (5:00-7:00 PM) Regular Meeting

Dept. of Vegetation Management Office. 410 Quincy Street. South Bend, WA.

Motion by Waldref to approve proposed schedule, subject to facilities availability and BOCC approval. Seconded by Camenzind. Passed by vote 5-0.

***NOTE****: Meeting room was not available on February 7th. This hearing/meeting will be held on the following day. February 8th (5:00-7:00 PM). Commissioners’ Meeting Room. 1216 Robert Bush Drive, South Bend, WA.*

* 1. **2017 Pacific County Noxious Weed List (Jeff Nesbitt)**—We are required to adopt the State Weed List and can add species of our choosing as County “select” species.
		1. The 2016 list included all state-listed species as well as the following County “select” species:
			1. Gorse
			2. Scotch Broom (in State and County ROW)
			3. Tansy Ragwort
			4. Policeman’s Helmet
			5. Purple Loosestrife
			6. Lesser Celandine
		2. These species will remain on the proposed list for 2017.
		3. The only proposed addition in 2017 will be Knotweed (all species), with control mandatory only along waterways which are included in our work plan for WSDA knotweed control.
		4. We will receive public comment on February 8th and will adopt the list at a regular meeting immediately following the public hearing.
1. **Adjournment**—Motion by Camenzind to adjourn meeting, seconded by Cowell. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

***Next Meeting will be held on February 8th, 2017 at 1216 Robert Bush Drive, 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 8thday of February, 2017.

 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