**PACIFIC COUNTY**

**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

5:00 P.M. February 15, 2017

1216 Robert Bush Drive, South Bend, WA 98586

**MINUTES**

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

1. **Open Public Hearing:** 5:05 PM
	1. No public in attendance.
	2. Nesbitt gave a brief description of the changes that will go into effect in 2017. Knotweed will be added to the list as a conditional county select, within 200 ft. of select waterways (Willapa River, North Nemah River, Naselle River, Salmon Creek, Willapa Bay, Baker’s Bay)
	3. The 2017 noxious weed list will include all weeds listed on the Washington State list, and the following (as County Selects): Purple loosestrife, Gorse, Tansy ragwort, Policeman’s Helmet, Lesser celandine, Scotch Broom (within WSDOT or Pacific County Rights-of-way), and Knotweeds (Japanese, Himalayan, Bohemian, and Giant) within 200 ft. of mean high water mark on Willapa River, North Nemah River, Naselle River, Salmon Creek, Willapa Bay, and Baker’s Bay.
2. **Close Public Hearing:** 5:13 PM
3. **Call to Order**: Regular Meeting 5:14 PM
4. **Minutes**: December 13th meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as written by Waldref, seconded by Bale. Motion passed 5-0.
5. **2017 Pacific County Noxious Weed List**
	1. We are required to adopt the State Weed List and may add (Class B and C) species of our choosing as County “select” species.
	2. The 2017 list will include all state-listed species as well as the following County “select” species:
		* 1. Gorse
			2. Scotch Broom (in WSDOT and County ROW)
			3. Tansy Ragwort
			4. Policeman’s Helmet
			5. Purple Loosestrife
			6. Lesser Celandine
			7. Knotweed (Japanese, Himalayan, Bohemian, and Giant) within 200 ft. of mean high water mark on Willapa River, North Nemah River, Naselle River, Salmon Creek, Willapa Bay, and Baker’s Bay.
	3. Cowell makes motion to adopt the 2017 Noxious Weed List as described during public hearing. Motion seconded by Bale. Motion passed 5-0.
6. **Old Business**
	1. DPW Roads contract (Jeff Nesbitt)
		1. 2017 County Roads vegetation management contract has been written and signed by both parties. PCVM has already sent in the invoice for the $65,000 advance that will be used to purchase herbicide and get equipment ready for the spray season.
		2. This year we plan to do the first treatment earlier in the year to prevent the brush and grasses from getting too tall and will make for a more aesthetic look, free of large dead plants. This will only work out if we get some dry weather during the spring months. Ideally, the first treatment (pre-emergent) will occur in May and then we will follow-up (grass and broadleaf killer) in September.
7. **New Business**
	1. **WSDA- Spartina**
		1. We will renew our contract this year. The new contract will be finished in July 2017 and we expect carry-forward. There is a possibility that we will see a cut of around 20,000 in the next biennium, but that will not impact the program in a major way.

* + 1. The current biennium contract still has remaining funds, which will be used to purchase supplies and equipment, and to pay the salary for Ed Darcher (Spartina coordinator).
		2. The 2017 field crew will begin on June 1. We will stagger the hires in a way that allows us to keep a crew from June to November, without keeping any one employee for more than the limit of 5 months. The crew will work on both Knotweed and Spartina, depending on weather, tides, etc. Hours will be recorded separately for knotweed and Spartina work, to ensure correct contract billing.
	1. **WSDA- Knotweed**
		1. The current biennium contract will expire on June 30th and we are waiting for the RFP to be released for funding the next two years. The remaining $4500 on the current contract will be used for spring surveys and land owner permission acquisition.
		2. In 2017 and 2018 we will return to the Willapa River, North Nemah River, Naselle River and Salmon Creek, with a focus on the Naselle and Salmon Creek, which have not been treated as extensively as the others in past seasons. Permissions have been collected for the majority of the Naselle River, and will be collected by the field crew on Salmon Creek as they make their way up the creek.
		3. We are currently attempting to make contact and build relationships with landowners in order to gain access to the river via private property. Most landowners are happy to cooperate.
		4. There have been two landowners who have objections to the program and claim that a knotweed crew (NOT US!) killed many of their mature alder trees several years ago. We are planning to meet in person to discuss our protocol and safety guidelines.
	2. **Black Lake**
		1. We treated Black Lake with Diquat in February 2016 for Brazilian Elodea and Eurasian milfoil. The treatment was very successful and the current infestation level is low.
		2. There are a few patches of Elodea remaining in the NE corner of the lake that will need to be sprayed or mechanically removed as soon as possible.
		3. Coordination is difficult. Malcolm McPhail uses the lake for irrigation and frost control nearly year-round. We need to find a window that will allow us access to actively growing plants and will provide an adequate post-treatment irrigation restriction.
		4. The City of Ilwaco would like to spend the remaining $46,000 (Ecology grant, which will expire June 30th 2017) to hire divers to manually remove the plants. This will eliminate the farmer conflict and will lead to our exit as the contractors on this project.
	3. **Vandalia Ponds**
		1. We treated one of these ponds for parrot feather in 2015 and it led to a conflict with one of the residents/pond owners who claimed she was not notified before the treatment, despite the claim by the City that she was notified according to requirements.
		2. City of Ilwaco would like us to treat again and we have requested that they mechanically excavate the pond prior to treatment. This will allow us to use less chemical and to prevent an anaerobic event during plant decomposition. City representatives said that they will consider the plan and let us know when they have made a decision.
	4. **Noxious Weed Enforcement**
		1. With limited resources and time, enforcement continues to be a difficult area to manage. We do not have the manpower to adequately complete enforcement activities (inspect properties, send out letters, issue citations, write violation reports, spend time in court, issue work orders, place liens, etc.) for all of the listed noxious weeds, throughout the entire county. Realistically, that is enough work to keep 10 people busy, and we only have one.
		2. We have targeted the major offenders for enforcement, hoping that if we can get the larger and more heavily infested properties controlled, then the smaller ones will follow.
		3. We sent out 18 gorse violation notices in January. We have received responses from most landowners and we are making plans to assist in control activities for these landowners. These notices included a July 1st deadline to provide a control plan to the Noxious Weed Control Board.
		4. Jeff Nesbitt was recently sworn-in as Code Enforcement Officer by the Pacific County Sheriff’s Department. This will speed-up the citation process by allowing the Weed Board to issue civil infractions directly, rather than submitting a report to the prosecutor and waiting for them to take action. The sheriff issued a ticket book for noxious weed violations.
	5. **The White Whale**
		1. We are waiting to hear back from the Prosecutor’s office regarding a court date for a show-cause hearing. We have submitted all of our relevant documents from the case history and hope to be granted the opportunity to show the court that the original order has not been followed, and to request that the judge allow us to enter the property to treat the Spartina chemically. The original order/work plan stipulated that the mowing would eradicate the weeds in three years. It has now been over 8 years and the Spartina is still growing. We have been patient and understanding to the Moby Dick’s perspective, but we cannot jeopardize the success of the entire program to appease one emotionally-motivated landowner with a weak rationale for opposition.
	6. **Gorse Workshop (Friday 2/10/17)**
		1. Jeff Nesbitt gave a 30 minute presentation about gorse. It covered history, biology, dangers, legal status, and control options. We had around 25 people in attendance and they seemed to be enga ged and interested in the topic. Most of the attendees stayed after the presentation ended to ask questions and discuss the specifics of the gorse that they are dealing with. The event went very well and it will likely be repeated in the future, possibly on an annual basis.
1. **Adjournment**—Motion by Waldref to adjourn meeting, seconded by Cowell. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

***Next Meeting will be held on June 13, 2017 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 13thday of June, 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