

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting and Public Hearing

August 18th, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Tri-Area Community Center, 10 W Valley Rd, Chimacum, WA, 98325

Board Members Present: Bob Hoyle (District 3; Chair), Sarah Doyle (District 1), Soozie Nichol (District 2), Lissa Bennett (District 5)

Board Members Absent: Laura Lewis (WSU Director)

Others Present: Joost Besijn (Coordinator)

Start: Board Meeting

- Welcome Lissa Bennett, introduction given by Joost and Lissa.
- Agenda additions: Joost Besijn added "Jill Silver update west-end weed work", Joost Besijn added "Enforcements"
- The Board adopts draft minutes from the 05-19 Board meeting with the addition of the word "Deputy" in David Alvarez's title.

Jill Silver update (phone)

Jill Silver (10,000 year institute and ex-board member) called in and gave a detailed summary of the work completed through her business throughout the County. Work has focused on Scotch broom, knotweed, reed canarygrass, and everlasting peavine; spread throughout Roads, mines, rivers, restoration, and recreational sites.

Jill Silver's update:

- "Hired and trained seven fulltime crew members, three from past Hoh River project work who'd been laid off from the Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition, and four new members. They're working really hard!
- Hired, trained, and are supervising a Hoh Tribe crew of displaced fishermen and women to work on Scotch broom and other species from the Hoh Oxbow at RM 16 to the Pacific Ocean. We've worked on 27 acres of SB infested riparian forest, killed thousands in the past month, with 6 more weeks of project time remaining. Will be providing funding for an ongoing crew of two at the Hoh Reservation, and hiring one for ongoing Hoh River or PTIR project work.
- Worked on the Queets estuary just below the bridge on a large tansy patch. I'd been unable to find funding or inspire work in the past, and the tansy has exploded in the river, estuary, floodplain, and gravel bars and now in recent adjacent harvest units where it threatens elk, bees, butterflies, and habitat for everything else*. 9 crew spent 9 hours pulling, cutting, and bagging flowers on only a half an acre this past week. We removed 18 tall yard waste bags of flowers, which will be burned. There's lots more from the beach upriver 7 miles to the Clearwater, for which we'll be providing funding for and training a Queets Village crew in the next week. (*We observe many stunned and dead bees, wasps, hoverflies, and butterflies on tansy flowers.)

- Starting to work with the Olympic National Park Exotic Vegetation Management Team and Quinault Invasive Species Program, training crews on reed canarygrass control at Irely Lake in Olympic National Park.
- Coordinating a volunteer pulling tansy in the Matheny, Sams and Queets watersheds.
- Conducted surveys and treatment for herb Robert and reed canarygrass along the Upper Hoh Road and Oil City Road, to reduce movement of species into streams and the Hoh River (SRFB project - <http://hws.ekosystem.us/project/100/40192>).
- Pulled and bagged flower heads of tansy ragwort on 50 miles of Hwy 101 from Forks to Clearwater, and working on the Goodman Mainline now. (WSDOT is busy with chip-seal projects and flowers were close to seed.) The 4-8 person crews pulled over 700 plants (200,000 seeds per plant), clipped 9 bags of flowerheads, smacked the soil out of the root balls, broke the stems, and piled them off the shoulder.
- Collected RCG seeds from clumps/patches on Highway 101 from the Bogachiel to Kalaloch, on the Upper Hoh Road, the entire Hoh/Clearwater mainline, and Oil City Road, and mapped everlasting peavine, and knotweed.
- Adopted a survey form from Clallam County's Noxious Weed program, to be consistent with data collection between counties; adapted it for our project use, creating fillable field forms.
- Creating an Excel spreadsheet with pivot tables to track invasive species review and support services for all restoration projects in the Habitat Work Schedule in WRIAs 20 and 21. Will add the additional project sites. It's available for all project partners.
- Negotiating a dedicated, supervised licensed, trained Correction Camp crew for roadside and gravel mine Scotch broom control. Will be hiring them for 24 days of work, and they'll be available to tribes, government agencies, and non-profits at a very reasonable rate (\$675/day).
- Working to complete an Adopt-A-Road agreement for invasives control work on State roads.
- At landowner request, conducted site visits to a farm in the Bogachiel watershed with invasive species issues, and provided recommendations and support.

Continuing to these projects this season:

- Snahapish River RCG survey and control to support the Quinault Nation's EPA and SRFB-funded projects in the Clearwater and Queets, and The Nature Conservancy's WCRI restoration proposal.
- Clearwater River KW and RCG project – Quinault doesn't have enough funding this year to re-do this system, so we'll pay for the crew for the week, ensuring that the previous investments are not turned back, and supporting the outcomes of TNC's project proposal.
- Goodman Creek RCG Control Project – Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition has an ongoing Goodman Creek Assessment Project to prioritize restoration projects in that independent drainage. It's filled in with RCG. We're providing them the service of control work, and the match for their SRFB funding.

This ED/RR investment is making a difference! On top of the prevention we're achieving, the best outcome so far is the excitement and commitment of the new crews doing the work. They all want to keep pulling to restore watersheds that provide the resources (timber, fish, wildlife, recreational opportunities, clean air and water) they enjoy, and they're bringing their new skills home to their communities."

Coordinator's Update

- Budget update. Joost provided an overview of the budget. We have collected \$96,257.97 so far in revenues through the Fee Assessment, and contracts with the Quinault Indian Nation and the JC Public Works Department. An additional \$61,001.87 is expected to come in. Expenditures are at \$70,080.70 with Travel (\$3,858.86), and the WCC crew (\$3,974.35) being the main expenses other than Benefits (\$15,799.12) and Salaries (\$44,136.68).

- Joost updated the Board on his ongoing conversation with the Public Utility District regarding an MOU. They are potentially interested in setting up and MOU for weed removal only. Joost expressed the need to clarify to the PUD that the JCNWCB would not take responsibility for all weed control, but only for weed control within the budget provided through the MOU.
- Joost updated the Board on the WSDOT Fee Assessment payment situation. It is being handled by the legal departments of WSDOT and the County. So far the payments continue to stack up for WSDOT.
- JCNWCB will get 6 days of free crew time from DNR. They will work under their own NPDES license but Joost applied for one as well just in case. One of the sites will be Irondale beach park where knotweed will be targeted.
- Joost updated the Board on the recent survey efforts and explained that the best way to get a good overview is to visit the website and view the dynamic map posted there.
<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=0c2aef863528436eac60288d43a72b00>

MOU strategy

- The Board discussed 2 ways of approaching MOU's and our weed control strategy. 1. JCNWCB starts taking MOU's with any willing agency. If we gather enough MOU's we could hire on another staff member whom exclusively does weed control work funded through the MOU's that we have. 2. Alternatively, the JCNWCB could not take on MOU's with anyone and stay in our education and enforcement role, having each organization do its own work.
- Bob Hoyle suggested discussing this further at the Board's Workshop planned for September.

Board Workshop

- The Board's workshop suggested by Bob during the May meeting was discussed. Joost asked for any additional people or organizations to be invited as well as dates. The Board's preferred dates are between Sept 12th and 23rd.
- Joost will send out a doodle poll before August 27th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting is December 1st, 2016.