

# **Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes**

February 10, 2022

Online Microsoft Team meeting

## **Board Members Present**

Lea Anne Burke  
Don Tillman  
Joshua Misenaar

## **Others Present**

Geraldine Saw – Coordinator  
Kevin Zobrist – WSU Ex officio member  
Adam Jackson – SWM Watershed Steward  
Scott Moore - public

## **Public Hearing**

Gerry gave a power-point presentation on the potential additions and changes in the 2022 noxious weed list. The State Noxious Weed Board held their weed list hearing in November and adopted the State Weed List. Three noxious weeds have to be added as a Class B designation in Snohomish County. Hanging sedge has been observed displacing the native sedges. Gerry is not confident about how to tell the native sedges apart from hanging sedge. She will be meeting with King County's staff the following week. King County staff should be able to assist in hanging sedge identification. King County proposed to add rough chervil into the list. Unlike other plants known as chervil, rough chervil is toxic. One location in Lynnwood has rough chervil along the roadside. Wild basil has been observed spreading quickly into the forest in the Olympic Peninsula. One site was reported near Lake Chaplin in the I-Naturalist website. Gerry will follow-up in the summer. Lastly, the scientific name of common bugloss needs to be changed from *Lycopsis officinalis* back to *Anchusa officinalis* and the scientific name of annual bugloss needs to be changed from *Anchusa arvensis*, to *Lycopsis arvensis*. Discussion ensued on the justification of listing wild basil as a Class B. Don made the motion to add hanging sedge, rough chervil, and wild basil as a Class B noxious weed in Snohomish County and change the scientific names of common and annual bugloss. Josh seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

## **Close public meeting and return to regular board meeting**

### **Introductions**

A round of introductions were made.

### **Approval of agenda**

### **Approval of minutes from June 2021**

Josh made the motion to approve the June 2021 meeting minutes. Don seconded the minutes and the motion was approved.

## **Coordinators Report**

Gerry gave a power point presentation on her report. She provided a summary on the 2021 accomplishments, such as road miles treated for tansy and poison hemlock, acreage covered for Spartina and Knotweed, and number of people reached during educational events. There was less educational outreach in 2021 due to COVID. We had educational booth in the Evergreen State Fair and Arlington Street Fair. The Master Gardener Class and the County Living Expo were cancelled. Biocontrols were released for purple loosestrife, poison hemlock and Scotch broom. Discussion ensued regarding the effectiveness of biocontrols and the priority weeds treated along the roadsides. Lea Anne asked if Spartina has decreased. Gerry said less has been found in certain areas but more in others. Last year, a large Spartina infestation was found in Everett and the site had not been surveyed in the past.

Gerry will be helping the Washington State Weed Board's education booth at the NW Flower and Garden Show on Saturday, February 12. The show runs from Wednesday to Sunday. She has also applied for a space at Sorticulture which will be held in June.

The General and Road Maintenance budget, funds for the daily program operations, roadside noxious weed control and public outreach. \$80,000 was allotted by the WSDA Spartina program last June. Approximately \$50,000 is left. \$25,000 was awarded from the WSDA knotweed grant for knotweed control in the Stillaguamish, Pilchuck and North Fork Skykomish River. The SRFB funding is shared with Surface Water Management that coordinates knotweed control and tree planting. Lea Anne asked if we would be receiving help from WCC crew this year. Gerry is confident that DNR will have funding this year to sponsor a crew for WRIA 7 noxious weed control.

For the next couple of weeks, Gerry's to do list includes surveying noxious weeds recorded in I-naturalist, update tansy data, hiring a fulltime assistance and seasonal crew members, attend online webinars and the weed coordinator conference, and update the website.

## **Old Business**

### **Transfer to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

Gerry had a meeting with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. They are supportive of the transfer. Gerry has been working with the deputy attorney to update the county's noxious weed ordinance. She proposed that the county's weed board district be adjusted to mirror the county council district map. The county council district map seems to be divided according to population density. Gerry mentioned that if we follow the council's map, we will lose one weed board member and in the long term it would be difficult to recruit members who are involved in the production of agriculture in the county council district 3 and 4. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of changing the weed district map. Discussion includes board member recruitment, dates of when each board member term ends and the shrinking agriculture community

in Snohomish County. Scott supports the redistricting because should the noxious weed board be funded by assessment in the future, most of the fees will come from District 3 and 4.

## **New Business**

### **Assessment**

Scott supported the idea of funding the noxious weed program using assessment and provided reasons why it's a better funding source than the general fund. Gerry will find out how much the county will charge to collect and administer assessment and talk to King County on the assessment process.

### **Gravel Pit Certification**

Last month some noxious weed coordinators met to discuss the formation of a Washington State Weed Free Certification Program. Currently, there is no standard certification. Road Maintenance uses the State's Department of Transportation standard. The Forest Service have one staff member inspecting gravel pits before the rocks or topsoil are transported to Forest Service projects. A team will be formed to produce grading criteria for this program.

### **Next Meeting Planning and Agenda**

The next meeting will be on June 1.

Adjourn at 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted by: Geraldine Saw