

F-I-N-A-L

San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Friday, September 6, 2019

08:40 AM CALL TO ORDER

Noxious Weed Board Chair Gregory called the meeting to order at 08:40 AM.

Present: Board Members Bruce Gregory (Chair), Bill Agosta (Vice-Chair), Bill Rupp (Secretary), Joyce Nigretto, Todd Goldsmith (on phone), Brook Brouwer (WSU Extension Director, ex-officio), and Bill Watson (SJC Council District 1); members of the public Joseph Shea (Skagit County Noxious Weed Program Coordinator) and Alexandra Simpson (Skagit County NWB staff); and staff members Shawn Beach, Erinn Nelson and Jason Ontjes.

1. Review and approval of minutes of the meeting of July 5, 2019. MOVED by Bill Agosta, seconded by Joyce, to approve the Noxious Weed Board meeting minutes of Friday, July 5, 2019 as written with no changes. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED. Staff will send an electronic copy to Sue Kollet (County Council Administrative Specialist).

9:00 AM to 9:15 AM. Public comment time for visitors. Mr. Shea reported an increased political push for “no spray” roadsides in Skagit County, in part due to public perception of glyphosate. Bill Agosta suggested recruitment of state officials (State Weed Board, WSDA) whose testimony may help inform the debate at the local level. Alexandra observed significant progress in both Spartina and knotweed control over the past few years. Joe is attempting to fund her position as a year-round employee, and if successful, would promote adoption of property assessment funding from Skagit County (grant money currently funds most of their field work).

2. Presentation and discussion of monthly report. Staff took questions from Board members and the public about the July-August report.
3. State Parks update. Staff recently submitted an invoice for \$1,517 to the State Parks and Recreation Commission, covering noxious weed work through July 31. The contract has not yet been extended for 2018-2019. Mr. Watson suggested a future contract might have “dedicated resources” to hire a seasonal whose primary focus would be weed control for State Parks.

4. OPALCO update. Shawn described recent control work on Scot's broom within utility corridors near Mineral Point Road on San Juan Island, with a plan to begin clearing a ¼-mile stretch of broom along Pear Point Road. Bruce suggested sending a year-end summary report to OPALCO.
5. Youth Conservation Corps. The Orcas Island YCC spent two productive days (August 20-21) controlling Himalayan blackberry and other weeds on Patos Island, which is owned by the Bureau of Land Management and co-managed by Washington State Parks. If a recession occurs in 2020-2021, the Noxious Weed Board's financial support for the YCC may be reduced or eliminated altogether, as part of the County's "flat-dollar" biennial budget review.
6. Discussion of Public Works' participation in this season's weed control. Bruce observed tansy ragwort in bloom along several San Juan roadsides in recent weeks, leading him to wonder about Public Works' involvement in noxious weed control this season. According to recent emails received from Jason, the Orcas road crew pulled 925 pounds of tansy alone, while Lopez estimated the removal of 30 pounds of tansy and 60 pounds of poison hemlock. San Juan's roads superintendent, Brian Webb, was on leave and did not respond in time for the Board's meeting. Bruce emphasized the need to invoice Public Works for staff's roadside noxious weed work.
7. Budget status. The Weed Program has spent 62.68 % of the 2019 budget as of September 5, according to the Expenditure Status Report.
8. Other business. Erinn suggested future funding for revegetation materials that might be used once noxious weeds are controlled. Bruce suggested that staff provide a draft budget of this pursuit for its review.
9. Adjournment. Bill Agosta moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joyce. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED. Chairman Gregory declared the meeting's end at 10:19 AM.

The Board's next meeting is on Friday, October 4, 2019