

**Chelan County**  
**Noxious Weed Control Board**  
Meeting Minutes June 13, 2017

**Board Members**

Fred Smith - Absent  
Dirk Veleke – Vice Chair  
Joe Grentz  
Ken Bauer  
Jim Johnson

**NW Dept. Staff & Guests**

Mike Mackey, NW Coordinator  
Julie Sanderson – NW Field Supervisor  
Jean Postlethwaite - Recorder

**Open Meeting:** Board Vice-Chair Dirk Veleke opened the meeting at 6:30pm

**Action items**

1. Joe Grentz moved and Ken Bauer seconded a motion to approve minutes of the March 14, 2017 as presented.

**Coordinator Report**

1. New Employee Matthew (Matt) Johnson has been hired to complete a two month probationary period beginning March 8, 2017. Matt fills the vacant Field Surveyor position and will primarily work in the greater Wenatchee area.
2. Crupina 2017 – Julie  
Julie supervised three 8-man crews working on the Schwartz property. Crupina there has exploded in and beyond last year's control area. Approximately 15-20 acres were treated using Milestone. In lightly infested areas one 6-man crew was hand-pulling. Dirk asked if we had considered using Tordon. Discussion followed.
3. Rush skeletonweed at Stayman Flats and Stehekin Airport – Mike  
Both areas are heavily infested; the property owner has agreed to advise prospective buyers of the Rush skeletonweed infestation. A grant was secured to cover the cost of the chemical and Mike's labor. A spray boom was transported by barge to the site; and 18.5 acres were treated the same day. A small amount remains to be treated.  
Discussion followed about other sites:
  - Dirk asked about the Rush skeletonweed along Hugo Rd. Terry and Mike found 2 plants and sprayed them. Mike is monitoring the area and the WA ST Dept. of Transportation (DOT) is treating in the ROW.
  - Monitoring and treatment of plants is continuing on the Alcoa property in Malaga. Mike and Julie flagged many plants. They were sprayed, however some plants were missed. The property owner is cooperative and will continue to control activity.

4. Thistle Control – Mike & Julie

Several sites have been successfully controlled in some way; a few sites require more work. Thistle species include Scotch thistle as well as Musk and Canada thistle. Letters have been mailed to property owners this spring. We also scheduled a complete survey of the three County-owned sections in the Stemilt area. Terry and Tayna have been monitoring and spot treating plants. In total we have 11 cases of Scotch thistle; all but one have complied with control activity. Other active thistle cases include:

- Three cases of Plumeless thistle in lower Eagle Creek and in the ditch along the North Road outside Leavenworth. These are being closely monitored.
- A large infestation of Yellow starthistle is growing along Roses Lake in Manson. The owner is cooperating with control activity and Mike continues to monitor the site.
- Julie is also monitoring Yellow starthistle in the Brisky Canyon area and working with property owners to continue control.
- We have initiated enforcement against two non-compliant property owners. ACT Case #1825 in Wenatchee with Scotch thistle and ACT Case #1342 in Leavenworth with Canada thistle.

5. Budget – Mike

Our budget balance is \$89,521 dollars. \$74,000 is for the Flowering rush survey in 2 counties from Chief Joseph Dam to Rock Island Dam and final expenses for Knotweed control. The Department of Ecology will withhold additional grant funds until the State passes the budget. Crupina Control is pending; there is no Title II money available. We are petitioning the US Forest Service Regional Office to fund the effort. Additionally we hope to receive \$2-\$5,000 WA ST AG grants for small infestations.

6. Education outreach – Jean & Julie

- Jean has distributed over 1,300 copies of the booklet Noxious Weeds That Harm Washington State – Eastern WA Field Guide. Local outlets for the publications include hardware stores, garden centers, nurseries, bicycle, outdoor clothing and recreation stores, libraries, City Halls and USFS Wenatchee River District Office and the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, community grocery markets and restaurants. And with the help of all our staff we are able to appear throughout the summer at 4 Farmers Markets in Wenatchee at the Pybus Public Market and 4 in Leavenworth at the Thursday Market.
- Julie will be recording an episode of 'Green Thumbs and Dirty Knees', a weekly program on NCW Life TV with Bonnie Orr and Co-host Dan Kuntz. The educational program airs during the growing season with a focus on all things green and growing. Green Thumbs and Dirty Knees airs Sundays at 9:00am, Mondays at 1:00pm and 7:00pm, and Tuesday at 3:00pm on LocalTel TV Ch. 12, Charter Cable Ch. 19 and Reflector Ch. 47.1. You can also live stream at <http://www.ncwlife.com/live-stream/>

## **Other Reports**

We continue to operate without the need to borrow from the general fund.

Mike and Julie met with County Commissioners this morning about the Milfoil and Flowering Rush program.

## **Board Members Roundtable**

- Dirk asked if we were familiar with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup program KOZI radio in Chelan. He encouraged Mike to schedule that every week or so and talk for a few minutes.
- Jim asked about the status of goatheads. Mike described our activities and areas of focus. It may still be early in some areas. Julie talked about the large infestations in large undeveloped lots and we will focus our efforts on those heavily infested and more visible sites.
- We have one Hoary Alyssum site on the Entiat River Rd.; we pulled the only plant. Hoary alyssum is harmful to livestock and has been found in Okanogan, Ferry and Republic counties in rangeland.
- Dirk asked if we could send a letter to Natural Resources or Public Works and Community Development to develop a County Ordinance pertaining to address the issue of owners of large tracts known to have noxious weeds. He presented a photo of Naumes who had scraped about a ¼ area of land creating in effect a safe zone for invasive plants.
- Crystal View drive through, found Wild Mustard. Neighbors are complaining about the fire hazard; the terrain is too steep to spray.
- Joe reminded us the Weed Board was created in response to Puncturevine and encouraged us to toughen our approach to controlling this weed. Dirk agreed adding it would be a good public message. Mike added that we have been successful working with organic growers to control Puncturevine along ROWs. Jim asked about the best spray; Mike replied it depends on where the plants are growing. Julie added killing the plant isn't the problem; it's regeneration of seeds that continue to come up with warmer temperatures and precipitation.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Ken moved and Joe seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

***Next meeting date will be Tuesday September 12th at 6:30 P.M.***