

Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
Quarterly Meeting: February 27, 2024
10:00 am, Island County WSU Extension Meeting room and zoom teleconference,
406 N. Main St. Coupeville, WA 98239

Agenda

10:00- 10:05 am

- Call meeting to order.
- Take attendance of all members present/on conference call.
- Review December 11, 2023, ICNWCB quarterly meeting minutes, vote for approval

10:05 – 10:10 am

Appointment of new chair for weed control board:

District V board member Russ Holmes has been our Chair for the last two years. The board agreed that we would have a rotating schedule of who acted as Board chair. Two-year term would begin at the Public Hearing immediately following this meeting and run till February 2026.

Notice for District I vacancy has been posted in the Whidbey News Times and on County social media.

10:20-10:35 am

Budget discussions:

Coordinator had three scenarios put together by Renee our Public health accounting manager. This is just looking at Salaries.

- a. F/T Coordinator \$73,000 and 2 seasonal techs \$24, 000 each
- b. F/T Coordinator \$73,000 and F/T Weed Tech \$51,200
- c. Program Coordinator (35 hours week) \$69,300 and F/T Weed Tech \$51,200

Do any of this look viable? How to we fund these increases?

10:35 - 10:45 am

Presentation to the board of County Commissioners

This update will happen on March 20th. It would be great to have some board members present just to help the commissioners put some faces to names and also show support for program.

Coordinator is putting together a one-page fact sheet/impact statement to share in conjunction with presentation.

Action: Is there any addition information that should be included?

10:45 – 11:00 am

Island County Noxious Weed list

Three additions to the State weed list in 2024. The following species were added by the State weed board:

Two Class A weeds:

Palmer amaranth, *Amaranthus palmeri*.

Variable-leaf milfoil hybrids, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* x *Myriophyllum hippuroides* to the Class A listing of variable-leaf watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*.

One Class C weed:

European, American, and hybrid beach grasses, *Ammophila arenaria*, *A. breviligulata*, and *A. arenaria* x *breviligulata*.

Does Board have any questions regarding these additions or the draft of the brochure that will be available to the public?

10:50 am – 11:10 am

Compliance case

Three notifications drafted and sent out in February. All pertaining to reports of spurge laurel on multiple parcels.

Letter on enforcement case sent out February. Have not heard back from landowner but have received confirmation with PA office that our course of action looks sound. As time comes closer, we will connect with sheriff's office about having a presence during the application. We are also getting confirmation of whether or not we are required to have a warrant to access the property to conduct work.

11:10 am – 11:30 am

- Program Updates:
 - **Spartina (WSDA grant):** No activity to report, Submitted end of season report to Chad Phillips (WSDA Spartina Coordinator) in December.
 - **Barnum Point/Iverson spit CFF:**
 - **Barnum point:** Early season survey work conducted in February. English Holly plants appear to not be coming back in significant numbers after a secondary treatment was done in Fall 2023. Will work with FOCIP to have a spring workday to continue making progress through the forested infestation. Surveyed and removed scotch

broom down along Beach trail and along shoreline. King tides have inundated this area with driftwood so only a few broom plants removed (20). The small patch of Common teasel located at the old House site continues to be present. Seven plants removed.

- **Iverson spit:** Early season survey work conducted in February. Still small pockets of Scotch broom observed and removed from zone 1, 3, 4, and 5. Totaled only 40 lbs. Some early season poison hemlock (Five plants total) removed along the Dike trail (zone 5). Removed poison hemlock from zone 2 (Native plantings). Working with Parks to get a mower onsite to start clearing the next area of Himalayan blackberry will be a priority for March and April.
- **Kettles/Saratoga/Ala spit CFF:** Field work concluded in November 2023. Despite not getting to sites in earnest till the fall this year weed control staff still managed to remove just over 700 lbs. from the three sites. Plants continue be brought in through outside vectors (horses and recreational users) as well as working with adjacent land managers (WA state parks, WSDOT) to mitigate noxious weed populations will be critical to long term success of these projects.
 - **Kettles trails work:** No updates
 - **Saratoga woods:** No updates
 - **Ala spit:** No updates

Public Works: Submitted end of season report for 2023 work. Moved 2024 Scope of work and interagency agreement through approval and signatures. Early season survey work done on fourteen roads to date. Treatment will begin on poison hemlock in March.

- **Other partnership project**
 - **Deer lagoon:** No updates
 - **Ebey's Landing poison hemlock work group:** No update
- **Education and Outreach**
 - Master Gardener training class (December 9th)
 - Aquatic invasive weed class for S. Whidbey ALE program (Jan 8th)
 - Coupeville Garden Club (Feb 1st)
- **Upcoming Education and Outreach**
 - WGW workshop (Class and Educational booth) (Mar. 2)
 - Greenbank Garden Club (Mar 7th)
 - SWS weed workshop series (April)
 - Program update to BOCC (March 20)
- **Trainings and Professional development:**
 - WA ST Weed Coordinators annual Conference (Mar 13-15)

