

SAN JUAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

F-I-N-A-L MINUTES

Friday, July 7, 2023

8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Held Remotely Via Zoom

and at the Orcas Senior Center, 62 Henry Road, Eastsound, WA 98245

PRESENT: Todd Goldsmith (Chair, Area 5), Bill Agosta (Vice-Chair, Area 1), Bill Rupp (Secretary, Area 4), Laura Rensberry (Area 3), Jessa Madosky (Area 2), and staff members Michele Smith, Libby Taylor-Manning, Jesse Stout and Jason Ontjes.

Meeting brought to order at 8:38 AM.

1. Welcome to Libby Taylor-Manning, our new Seasonal Technician. Libby, who holds a degree in Environmental Science from Western Washington University, previously worked as a member of the Island Conservation Corps (SJIs Conservation District). She will be working for the Board through the September pay period, assisting with field work.
2. Review and approval of the meeting minutes of June 2, 2023. Bill Rupp moved to approve the draft minutes from June as written, seconded by Bill Agosta. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Jason will send the approved minutes to Sally Rogers, Clerk of the County Council.
3. Presentation and discussion of the monthly report (Jason). Staff took questions from the Board regarding the monthly report. Todd emphasized the importance of seeking permission from property owners to allow staff entry, though OPALCO easements and the presence of Class A species would be possible exceptions, as pointed out by Jesse and Bill A. “A reasonable attempt” to contact the owner to notify them of the intent and purpose of the visit should be made (RCW 17.10.160).

9:00—9:15 AM. Public comment time for visitors. No visitors attended this meeting.

4. News from the field (Michele and Jesse). Michele said June had been a busy month, with work for the Port of Friday Harbor a main focus. She was proud

to have controlled Scot's broom along Weber Way, working with the owner of Saltwater Farm, who had been uncooperative in the past. In early July, she and Libby worked with the Youth Conservation Corps at Jackson Beach and the Land Bank's Limekiln Preserve. Staff continue to control tansy ragwort and Scot's broom along roadsides as the opportunity allows. Jesse said June was difficult for them because of health issues, but they got a lot accomplished along Center Road on Scot's broom (Todd was very pleased), with the Morse property being particularly challenging. They have done follow-up broom control along Dill Road and Fisherman Bay Road recently, with hopes of moving on to Mud Bay Road and Sperry Road soon. Jesse was pleased with the new reciprocating saw that Jason purchased.

5. Discussion of potential for meeting time change. Due to Jessa's employment with SJC Community Development, she has not been able to participate in the past several Noxious Weed Board meetings. The interim Director, however, recently granted her permission to attend again. The proposed time (9 AM instead of 8:30 AM) was agreed upon by the Board to better fit her schedule. Meetings will continue to take place on the first Friday of each month (August excepted because of the County Fair).
6. Renewal of support for WSU Extension's Integrated Weed Control Project in 2023. The Board reemphasized its desire to provide funding to WSU Extension's Integrated Weed Control Project, as it has done in past years (\$1,500 per year). Staff will contact IWCP's Jenn Andreas to fulfill the Board's wishes. The IWCP relies on fiscal contributions from several sources, including county noxious weed boards, to help pay for its biological control services.
7. Contract expiration with State Parks: interest in renewal? Based on the Board's recommendation, staff will communicate with State Parks of its interest to renew the contract for weed control services on State Parks' properties in San Juan County. Julie Morse, our liaison for State Parks, suggested a five-year contract this time. Jessa asked if this arrangement would "break even" in terms of the staff's time and materials (the program charged \$44 per hour for labor in 2023). The previous contract expired on June 30 at the close of the state's last biennial budget.
8. Budget status. The Expenditure Status Report (July 4) showed a total expenditure of 16.25 % for the year, well below potential.

9. Other business. Todd described the Pickerings' property on Lopez, which has a sizeable infestation of Canada thistle along the roadside following Public Works' realignment of Fisherman Bay Road some years ago.

10. Adjournment. The Board adjourned at 10:03 AM.

The Board's next scheduled meeting is on Friday, September 1, 2023.