

SAN JUAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

F-I-N-A-L MINUTES

Friday, May 10, 2024

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Meeting Held Remotely Via Teams

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

ATTENDING: Bill Rupp (Chair, Area 4), Todd Goldsmith (Vice-Chair, Area 5), Jessa Madosky (Area 2), Kiara McDougall (San Juan Island resident), Susan Eshelman (SJC Environmental Stewardship), and staff members Michele Smith, Andrew Munson and Jason Ontjes.

The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

1. Review and approval of the meeting minutes of April 5, 2024. Todd moved to approve the minutes from April, seconded by Jessa. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Staff will submit the approved minutes to the county website.
2. Land Bank 2024-26 MOU vote (accept, reject or modify). Todd moved to approve the Land Bank's Memorandum of Understanding for 2024-2026 noxious weed control work, seconded by Jessa. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Jason will sign the agreement and submit to the Land Bank for Lincoln Borman's signature. The hourly rate for the Board's staff will be \$55 per hour but can be modified as needed if costs rise, according to Jason.
3. Updates from Environmental Stewardship (Susan). Susan recounted several of the latest activities involving the Environmental Stewardship Department, such as the ongoing management of stormwater bioswales on Lopez, which are challenged by rabbits and a need for maintenance (contractors are scarce or very expensive) to keep the weeds at bay. They are working with Public Works on the Jackson Beach restoration project, which is on hold until details are worked out on possible barge use of the site. Public Works is also being encouraged to delay mowing of roadsides with native wildflowers until they have gone to seed. Susan thanked Michele for her broom efforts at Peace Island, a problem she has wanted to address for five years. A patch of native fawn lilies appeared along a recently cleared section of the "Peace Path", and Michele added that she often sees wildflowers coming up where broom has

been removed.

4. News from the field (Michele and Andrew). Andrew described the recent training event in Sequim that he and Michele attended, which had interesting presentations and discussions, particularly on the use of drones, biological controls, and the problems associated with quarries that may have weed-infested aggregates (gravel, sand, etc.). He continues to refine a list of private businesses that may perform noxious weed control in our county, which would involve an offer of basic training from the Board's staff (Todd suggested for each of the main islands). Michele described her field work on San Juan, encountering Scotch broom and shiny geranium in recent weeks. April had been a busy month, she said, with a lot of outreach for homeowners and land managers, and another stint with the farmer's market and Peace Island's volunteer broom party. She and Andrew continue to team up on Lopez and San Juan on alternating Wednesdays.

9:30—9:45 AM. Public comment time for visitors. San Juan Island resident, Kiara McLaughlin, attended the meeting and voiced her support for the Noxious Weed Board's goals. An owner of a landscape company, noxious weeds and other invasive plants are important to her, and she wants to participate further in a volunteer capacity or during Board meetings. Michele offered to "team up" with Kiara on San Juan Island if desired.

5. Presentation and discussion of the monthly report (Jason). Jason took questions from the Board about the monthly report.
6. Board membership boundary map update. Jason has been working with Mason Wiley (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney) and Dan Root (GIS project leader, SJC Information Services) on a proposed revision of Ordinance 3-2008 and the Board's "membership map". Once completed, they will be presented to Council for its consideration, assuming Board approval. The rationale for the proposed revisions was pitched to Council on April 30th, and they agreed to allow the proposal to continue to the "second touch" and possible public hearing.

7. New vehicle update (Jason). Fleet Services Manager, John Roach, said that the new vehicle (Ford Maverick) would not be ready for at least 4 to 6 weeks, though he reported that one was found on the lot at the dealership and has been reserved for the department.
8. Budget status. According to the Expenditure Status Report (May 9), 15.66% of the department's budget has been consumed thus far in 2024. 7.59% of the weed disposal budget has been spent as of early April.
9. Other business. Susan offered to talk to Kendra Smith, Department Head of Environmental Stewardship, about the possibility of purchasing and sharing battery-powered equipment (weed trimmer, etc.) with the Board's staff. The Board expressed support for this idea and will be provided more details on options (equipment types, costs). Choice may be influenced by availability of repair and service at local businesses.
10. Adjournment. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.

The Board's next scheduled meeting is on Friday, June 7, 2024.