

SAN JUAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

F-I-N-A-L MINUTES

Friday, December 6, 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 2); Todd Goldsmith, Vice-Chair (Area 3); Jim Frampton (Area 4); Caitlin Blethen, Interim WSU Extension Director (ex officio); Christine Minney, SJC Council Liaison (District 1); Mason Wiley, SJC Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Susan Eshelman, Environmental Stewardship; Jane Wentworth, a member of the public; and staff members Michele Smith, Andrew Munson, and Jason Ontjes.

The meeting was brought to order at 9:05 AM.

1. Review and approval of the meeting minutes of November 1, 2024. Todd moved to approve the November minutes as written, seconded by Bill. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED. Staff will post the approved minutes online.
2. Nomination and election of Board officers for 2025. After a brief discussion, Bill presented a slate of candidates for 2025 Board officer positions: Bill Rupp, Chair; Todd Goldsmith, Vice-Chair; and Jim Frampton, Secretary. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED. The new positions will be posted on the county website.
3. Updates from Environmental Stewardship (Susan). Susan gave the Board an update of Environmental Stewardship activities she has been involved with recently, including work with the Board's staff on two stormwater sites in Lopez Village. She continues restoration collaborations at Orcas Landing and at lower Zylstra Lake and False Bay Creek.

9:30—9:45 AM. Public comment time for visitors. No comments were made by the public during the meeting.

4. News from the field (Michele and Andrew). Michele and Andrew both enjoyed working with Susan on the Lopez stormwater swale recently, where they planted sedges. Michele recently met with restoration ecologist, Sam

Martin, to consider weed control options at an island marble butterfly reintroduction site at Eagle Cove, and she attended a “Play Clean Go” webinar sponsored by NAISMA. Andrew continues field work once per week on Orcas, where he was recently introduced to old man’s beard (*Clematis vitalba*) along Orcas Road in Eastsound. At Crescent Beach Preserve, he injected approximately 400 cartridges with our EZ-Ject lance, targeting English hawthorn and holly. He continues to develop content for his nascent blog.

5. Presentation and discussion of the monthly report (Jason). Todd expressed his support for having a staff member attend the regular meetings for the Agricultural Resources Committee, given the intersection of farming and noxious weeds. Andrew agreed that it was important to be in collaboration with the agricultural community.
6. Resolution 121-2002 discussion on land use charges: alteration? Mason Wiley provided his perspective on Resolution 121-2002, stating that, based on limited legal history to go by, it would not be forbidden to levy a property assessment fee against non-profits and other Department of Revenue-exempt properties. But he suggested that the Board look at the possible revenue involved and consider the worth of updating the resolution. The resolution allows charges on most parcels as either forestlands or non-forestlands, Jason described, but some parcels are excluded from taxation (“non-assessed”) because their owners are government entities or DOR exempt. Todd expressed support for expanding property assessments to include non-profit groups and similar land holdings, given the benefit they receive from noxious weed control. Jason will provide potential revenue figures for the ownership categories under consideration at the next meeting. Council would have to approve any resolution change after a public hearing, according to Jason.
7. Potential YMCA Camp Orkila contract (Discussion/Action). Due to lingering questions about possibility of liability (workplace accidents, damages or personal injury), Jason and Mason will look further into potential revisions on the draft YMCA Camp Orkila contract. Mason suggested looking at the County’s own contract templates for guidance, as the draft contract was based on one developed with State Parks, which was approved to form.
8. Budget status. According to the Dec. 3rd Expenditure Status Report, the overall

budget is still in good shape (49.15% spent through 11 months of 2024). Jason said the weed disposal budget is getting closer to its maximum expenditure of \$15,000 but still fine. Todd expressed concern about the disposal budget for 2025, given the likelihood of inflation, and wondered how costs might be reduced. He suggested holding the proposed contractor trainings early in the new year to potentially help reduce the volume of weed materials coming in (seed heads clipped and bagged instead of entire plants). Jason will send the Board more information on how each transfer station is currently charging for noxious weeds.

9. Other business. Jason is writing the annual report and hopes to have a draft ready by December 9th. Given the holidays, the Board agreed to change the next meeting date to Friday, Jan. 10th.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

The Board's next scheduled meeting is on Friday, January 10th.