

SAN JUAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

F-I-N-A-L MINUTES

Friday, June 6, 2025

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

PRESENT: William Rupp, Chair (Area 2); Todd Goldsmith, Vice-Chair (Area 3); James Frampton, Secretary (Area 4); Susan Eshelman, Environmental Stewardship; member of the public, Adam Martin; and staff members Michele Smith and Jason Ontjes.

ABSENT: Caitie Blethen, Interim WSU Extension Director (ex officio); Kari McVeigh, Council Liaison (District One); staff member Andrew Munson.

Meeting brought to order at 9:02 AM.

1. Review and approval of the meeting minutes of May 2, 2025. Todd moved to approve the minutes. Bill seconded. ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.
2. Updates from Environmental Stewardship (Susan). Susan summarized the highlights of Environmental Stewardship's ongoing activities over the past month. Michele is still assisting her with noxious weed control at the Beaverton Valley Center.

9:30—9:45 AM. Public comment time for visitors. Adam Smith, a resident of San Juan and a prospective Board member for the Area 5 seat, introduced himself to the Board and described some of his work on managing invasive plant species in grasslands and balds in the County and elsewhere in the Puget Sound region. A botanist, he is comfortable using herbicides as a tool to protect our "unique flora" in the San Juans, working with the San Juan Preservation Trust on its Phelps Preserve restoration project and on State Parks lands. He received his degree from Evergreen and has been a full-time resident since last winter.

3. News from the field (Michele). Michele related some of the highlights of her work in the past month, noting that Class A slenderflower thistle, which was

more abundant two years ago, is now nearly eradicated. She has responded to multiple requests from the public for weed control assistance and has encouraged owners to take on more of the responsibility, providing support and instructing them on personal protection equipment use. The popular plant of the month of June, she said, was Scot's broom. Michele said that poison hemlock has been on her radar of late, and field bindweed to a lesser degree, a weed which vexes the home gardener. She has collaborated with Susan Eshelman of Environmental Stewardship and continues working with State Parks on some of their parklands in the western part of the County.

4. Presentation and discussion of the monthly report (Jason). Jason took questions from the Board about the monthly report.
5. Sportsman's Lake update (Jason). Jason delivered the bad news of continued delays with the Sportsman Lake project, with the Department of Community Development still without a SEPA determination and continuing its insistence on a shoreline exemption application, in spite of the fact that there is no impact to the lake's shoreline. Todd instructed Jason to communicate with upper management and explain that this situation is not acceptable and the funding from Ecology may be lost due to the delay. Jason has worked with Mason Wiley of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, who is attempting to rectify the situation with DCD in order to get a waiver for the application, which costs \$1,500 or more.
6. Flame weeder update (Todd). Todd said that the draft flame weeding procedure was in pretty good shape and that he hopes to have approval from the Fire Marshal and others in the next couple of months. Before any work with this tool were done, staff would get permission from the local fire chief and notify the non-emergency dispatch of their activities. Michele said it was useful for shiny geranium, especially when no herbicides are allowed along the county roadsides. Adam suggested using native seed post-treatment, up to 500 seeds per square meter, to replace the noxious weeds. The flame weeder would only be used in the wet season, typically from October to the end of April.

7. Budget status. Jason reviewed the budgets, noting that the Expenditure Status Report for June 3rd tallied expenditures of 21.98% of the budget for the year. The noxious weed disposal budget is also within its means, with only \$2,199 spent so far between the three transfer stations. Jim said the San Juan station charges the same for loads whether 2 pounds or 100 pounds. Disposal for repeat customers may lead to a policy change if certain people are taking advantage of the “free” charge for loads below 300 pounds, Jason said. Michele suggested education to reduce the volume.
8. Other business. A prospective visitor, Chinmayo, did not attend today’s meeting. Michele said that Chinmayo is pretty active in the Community Home Trust neighborhood, behind the elementary school. There is quite a lot of Scot’s broom there, and she had an idea of creating a “really fun atmosphere of broom-busting projects”, perhaps in the springtime. Jason will send application materials to Adam for his consideration to join the Board.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned 10:18 AM.

The Board’s next scheduled meeting is on Friday, July 18, 2025.