
October 9, 2019 Board Meeting

Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
9200 122nd St E
Puyallup, WA 98373
Rainier Conference Room

In attendance: Morgan Heileson, Chelli Pogue, Melody Meyer, Tom Bertram, Erick Balstad, Janet Azevedo, and Beki Shoemaker.

July 10th Board meeting minutes reviewed and accepted; Tom Bertram motioned to accept the July 10th, 2019 Board meeting minutes; Beki Shoemaker seconded the motion.

Program Director's Report:

Office and County Business:

- **County Badges for Board members:** Badging for Board members to gain access to the STOP facility was offered at the July 10th Board meeting; Tom Bertram was interested, and the appropriate paperwork was submitted. As it turns out, Facilities Management (LENEL badging) would prefer Board members not have a County badge as they are not technically County employees. A STOP Facility representative, relays that Board members can use the Call button to enter through the employee entrance.
- **Annual Assessment:** The Program Manager, Chelli Pogue and Education Specialist, Melody Meyer, represented the Board at the September 10th County Council meeting, held at the County City Building in Tacoma. An

adjustment to the 2019 rate was submitted earlier and reviewed at the Rules and Operations meeting on Monday, August 19th 2019. It was proposed to increase the annual assessment from \$1.70 per parcel to \$1.79 per parcel in 2020, as well as adjusting the additional acre after one acre rate from \$0.15 to \$0.16. Six out of the seven County Councilmembers were present, and several questions were asked regarding the Noxious Weed program, protocol, methods of notifying and working with the public, spending of the annual budget, etc.

The adjusted assessment was voted on and passed unanimously.

- 9/80 Schedule for the Director and Education Specialist: A “9/80” work schedule was proposed for Morgan and Melody. A 9/80 schedule is a compressed work schedule which consists of eight 9-hour days, one 8-hour day, and one day off in a 2-week period. The schedule will pertain to full-time employees; *Please see the attached 9/80 Work Schedule Guideline sheet.
- DNR property in Port of Tacoma: Several parcels of land in the Port of Tacoma managed by Dept of Natural Resources have been challenging in 2019. DNR has cleaned up the property with the help of an inmate crew this season. Challenges with the property cleanup included a homeless encampment problem on the property before cleanup efforts could commence. DNR was referred to the City of Tacoma for help regarding the homeless encampment. *Special efforts will be made to establish a working relationship with DNR, and notifications will be sent early in 2020.
- Inflatable Boat and trailer: Pierce County Parks contacted the PCNWCB in August regarding the inflatable boat and trailer stored at the PC Fairgrounds in Graham. As the boat has not been used since 2011, a decision was needed whether to keep the boat and trailer or have it auctioned off through County facilities. The boat was originally purchased with grant monies used for the Variable-leaf milfoil project. Costs associated with keeping the older inflatable boat include: replacing/repairing the inflatable parts of the boat, trailer maintenance, renewing the yearly tabs on the trailer, servicing the 2 outboard motors, purchasing and maintaining a first aid kit, safety kit, noise maker, 2-3 Personal Floating Devices, attending a boat training course, and renewing the yearly Operator’s license. *ESS staff assessed our boat, trailer & 2 motors in late September. The report we received stated the trailer and boat were in fair

condition and one of the boat motors was in good working condition. The second motor (the ‘Torqeedo’) has missing parts and would need to have parts replaced to be used again. As previously mentioned, ESS suggested buying lifejackets, 12V battery for motor, sound maker, safety kit, hands on training course and boaters education card, and a boater’s license (suggested for WDFW owned waters). Navigation lights were also suggested for sunrise/sunset work, foggy or rainy days on the lake (for a non-motorized vessel less than 23 ft long, a 360-degree white light or a flare-up light is needed to signal its location for passing vessels). Bi-annual assessment of boat, trailer and motor would be around \$200 per assessment.

After discussion, Tom motioned to surplus the equipment; Janet seconded the motion. *It was noted the boat, trailer, and Torqeedo motor were purchased with DOE Variable-leaf milfoil grant monies, and restrictions apply regarding disposition and recuperated monies; Dept of Ecology will be contacted regarding what we need to do and how to proceed.

- WA State Weed Conference: The annual WA State Weed Conference is coming up November 6th through November 8th in Wenatchee, WA; Morgan and Melody will be leaving on the 5th to attend the Conference and State Weed Board meeting. Morgan & Melody will also be helping with registration and other areas of the event. Quite a few field inspectors also plan to attend the conference. As a member of the State Weed Conference Board, Morgan attended a Conference planning meeting on July 19th, as well as phone meetings Sept 6th and Sept 13th.
- Staff changes: Beginning at the Noxious Weed Board April 1, 2012, our Timberlands field inspector made the decision at the end of the 2019 season to retire after 7 years of outstanding service. Working the Timberlands for the past several years has built good relationships with the many timber companies and he has literally pulled thousands of Tansy ragwort plants during his time in the Timberlands. At the ‘End-of-the-season’ luncheon, he was presented with a framed photo taken of him at work in the timberlands. Our area 4 field inspector has agreed to begin work in the Timberland area starting the 2020 season.

- Timberland IPM schedule: In a meeting between Morgan and a regional timberlands manager an agreement that will allow the Timberland Inspector onto ORM property and obtain a map of their 3-year spray program to show PCNWCB when and what parcels will be treated each year was made; it was also decided that a meeting will be held with Morgan and a regional manager annually, early in June, to go over more specific times and dates for herbicide treatments occurring that year. This business relationship will be extremely advantageous to our staff and hope to build like relationships with the remaining landowners in the Timberlands.

*Tom asked if the Weed Board has contacts for the Mt Rainier National Park & United States Forest Service; currently, we do not have a contact with these federal lands to address the Spotted knapweed infestations off Hwy 410. Tom also noted a Phragmites site off Schuster Parkway near Duke's Seafood & Chowder restaurant. *Morgan and Melody will follow up on the site within the next couple of weeks.

- Chelli retiring: A job posting for Accountant 1 was placed in the News Tribune the weekend of Sept. 6th and 7th and Sept 13th and 14th. Several applicants responded to the ad, and first interviews took place Oct. 8th.
- Enterprise Allocation Quarterly Billing Costs: After reviewing a billing statement, questions were raised regarding quarterly Enterprise Allocation costs. 'Enterprise Allocation' includes the costs of IT staff hours for computer support, Windows File System storage, using the County network, setting up and removing user accounts, Internet & Intranet usage, County email, Anti-Virus protection, computer licenses for most applications, updates to computers, IT ticketing system (accessing help from the IT Service Desk), PC Lifecycle, and more. The Weed Board currently utilizes 11 ports at the STOP; the yearly cost for this service is \$26,340.00. Although the Weed Board does not use the computers in the cubicle area during the off-season, the County IT Dept must bill for the port usage annually. It was discovered that Direct Service billing (IT help) should have been covered in the Enterprise Allocation fee, therefore \$2,946.40 will be credited back, as well as an overcharge credit of \$370.00 for the difference between the 2018 Enterprise Allocation costs and the 2019 costs. The credits will show on the 3rd quarter and 4th quarter billing.

- Financial Report: The current budget balance was presented to the board, including the total expenses of \$495,600.50 with revenue at \$590,343.46. \$94,742.96 is remaining before our 2nd half monies post at the beginning of November.
- Winter projects: Morgan and Melody have a slew of projects lined up for the winter months; greater detail of the projects will be presented at the January Board meeting. *Morgan gave a sneak preview of some of the training that will occur at the beginning of the 2020 season: Morgan and Melody will hold a two-day training session to help field inspector's better recognize and identify a greater majority of the 34 weeds on the enforcement list; also, training on the notification process (NONW's, Violations, etc.) will also be covered. Morgan is also creating a "FastTrack" sheet for the Field Inspector's to use for historically problematic properties. Field Inspector's will check the noted properties at the beginning of the season before bloom stage, hopefully resulting in quicker compliance and less-waived properties.
- Proposed Changes to the 2020 State Weed List: The state has proposed one new addition to the state weed list in 2020. South American spongeplant (*Limnobium laevigatum*), a floating aquatic plant, is being proposed as a Class A noxious weed. Currently, it has only been found in Pacific County. Four Class B noxious weeds are being proposed for designation in Pierce County: Lesser celandine (cell-and-ine), Purple loosestrife, Wand loosestrife, and Policeman's helmet. The final decision for these additions will be made in November at the State Board Meeting.



Much discussion ensued regarding the addition of Purple loosestrife to the Pierce County noxious weed control list; historically, Purple loosestrife has been discovered in several locations within Pierce County, including Lakewood, Bay Lake in Gig Harbor, Port of Tacoma, and other areas. Adding Purple loosestrife to the list will dramatically increase costs to both our department as well as private landowners and partner agencies. Tom Bertram suggested we write a letter to the State Noxious Weed Board, requesting a year to survey the county and evaluate before considering a classification and designation change to Purple loosestrife.

Fairs and Presentations:

- WA State Fair: the WA State Fair ran from August 30th through September 22nd. Field Inspector's and Education Outreach Specialist Melody Meyer attended the Weed Board booth located in the Ag building 'J' barn. 3,120 people visited the booth, an overall decline of 706 visitors to the Weed Board booth from last year. Melody held 2 additional educational presentations at the Fair, emphasizing the Terrible 10 list and IPM noxious weed treatment during the fall.
- STEM Outreach Youth Camp through Pierce College: Melody presented a weed identification/control presentation and "Weed Walk" through Bradley Lake Park for 3 adult counselors and 14 youth between the ages of 9 to 13 on July 12th. Working with the kids made it fun, and the kids were happy and engaged during the presentation. 😊
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians: A presentation was held on July 16th at the STOP facility for 3 members of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. One of the attendees was the USA in Trust Fisheries Habitat Coordinator, and the other two attendees were hatchery employees. Another training for the hatchery grounds crew is being scheduled for the spring of 2020.
- City of Tacoma: Melody presented 'Vector Control on the Terrible 10', with added information on Knotweed control. Approx. 20 WA Conservation Corps and City of Tacoma Road crew employees attended.
- Fox Island Community Fair: Melody set up and manned a booth at the Fox Island Community Fair on Saturday, August 10th; approx. 60+ people stopped by to visit with Melody and pick up literature. State, County, and Garden Wise booklets were in hot demand, as well as several Class C fact sheets (Blackberry, Horsetail, Scotch broom, and English Ivy).
- Literature drop for the Pierce County chapter of Back Country Horseman: Melody delivered County booklets, Tansy ragwort pamphlets, Disposal & Control pamphlets, and Livestock Toxicity booklets on August 28th; A

spontaneous presentation was given to approx. 52 people regarding Tansy Ragwort and Meadow Knapweed.

- STOP Facility Safety meeting presentation: Melody gave a short presentation on the “Fearsome Four, Safe Handling & Vector Prevention” at the September 19th STOP Safety Crew meeting; approx. 47 were in attendance. Another presentation for a Safety Crew meeting is in the planning stages for next spring.
- Fox Island Garden Club presentation: Melody presented ‘*No Rest for the Weedy*’ to the Fox Island Garden Club on October 6th. Approx. 19 people were in attendance, and Melody has been asked back to present again later this year.
- Projected upcoming presentations:
 - a. Edgewood Garden Club on Monday, October 14th;
 - b. Habitat Stewards Training (Tacoma Audubon) on Wednesday, November 13th.

No other questions or business was brought up; Tom Bertram motioned to adjourn meeting; Erick Balstad seconded the motion.

Report respectfully submitted by Chelli Pogue, Secretary to the Board.