



Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes



Monday, August 2, 2021, 9:00am to 10:00am

Meeting held at 4700 NE 78th St, Vancouver Washington – Conference Center B1

Control Board: Jerry Kolke, Bill Zimmerman, Lee Wells, Randy Lawffer, Lisa Nelski, Justin O’Dea

Clark County Staff:

Parks and Lands: Kevin Tyler, Justin Collell*, Chris Walker, Denielle Cowley, Jeff Duval

Guests: None

* Not Present

9:00am Called to Order – Jerry Kolke

Time	Action Item
9:02am	MOTION BY: Bill Zimmerman SECOND BY: Randy Lawffer
	MOTION: Motion to adopt May 3, 2021 minutes as submitted
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

2) Update on House Bill 1355 – Kevin Tyler

- a) Language specifically addressing State agencies’ requirement to pay weed assessments.
 - a. Clark County does not have a weed assessment – the county pays our group for ROW control work
- b) WSDOT has to pay a new assessment per road miles of rights of way.
- c) Weed boards and weed districts are specifically identified as taxing districts in RCW 79.44.003
- d) The term “tax” is replaced with “assessment” in weed district RCW 17.04 to bring it current with current terminology.
- e) The Washington State Weed Coordinators’ Association will hold an advisory seat on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.
- f) Consistent procedures for filling vacant and expired County weed board seats, done in a specified time period.
- g) WSDA has to follow through with complaints from State & County weed boards and weed districts.
- h) Broader weed control requirements for Commercial Foresters.
- i) State agencies are required to appoint a liaison point of contact for weed boards.
 - a. Lee Wells asked if state agencies attended weed board meetings – suggested we send an email to our contacts with the meeting information
- j) County Commissioners are required to hold a public hearing to address weed board budget amendment requests.
- k) 3 of the 5 weed board directors “shall be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products”, as opposed to the current 4 director requirement. The definition of that term is still open to interpretation since it’s never been challenged.
- l) Weed boards can’t be dissolved unless all designated noxious weeds are eradicated.

3) Tansy ragwort Update – Jeff Duval

- a) Low on manpower
- b) Cannot obtain Larch Correctional teams
- c) Attempted to use county corrections crews – only available Sat and Sun
- d) Attempting to calculate pounds of Tansy pulled
- e) Field Inspectors working on Zone 2/3 before writing letters – 1840 pounds pulled in 24 days
- f) Spray Truck team could not spray in 2020
 - i) Denielle added the spray truck treated 800 lineal miles of ROW in 2021
 - ii) Some plants did not accept herbicide and high temps pushed seed production
 - iii) Spray truck is successful with thistle control
 - iv) Has treated most areas required – working on Brush Prairie/Hockinson
 - v) Transitioning to Blackberry for site distance once berries drop
- g) Working on plant experiment
- h) Complaint of large infestation on Railroad – will shut down Wednesday, Aug 4
- i) Jeff is seeing a lot of caterpillars

4) Weed Free Gravel/Mulch Inspections – Status Update – Chris Walker/Kevin Tyler

- a) All on hold due to vacancy
- b) Kevin is working on vacancy
- c) Referring landowners to Sue Welch at the state
- d) May provide weed free next year

5) WANWCB asks about noxious weed designation changes survey – Denielle Cowley/Kevin Tyler

- a) Survey regarding plants to possibly list as class B rather than class C – results depend on feedback
 - i) Hanging sedge – We may have in the wetlands
 - ii) Rough chervil – We have Burr or Wild chervil
 - iii) Wild basil – have not heard of
 - iv) Common tansy – We have a lot here and it has a different flower and leaf structure than Tansy ragwort
- b) Survey - Do you support a state-wide DOT noxious weed assessment?
 - i) It is unknown who would collect the assessments
 - ii) In Clark County the Assessor's office would collect the money
 - iii) The money would go into the general fund and then allocation to our program would go up theoretically
 - iv) At this time, we provide DOT with info such as weed location – there is a good deal of coordination and the funding should offset that
 - v) Lee Wells said the money should be earmarked for weed control
 - vi) Bill Zimmerman said it seems redundant as they are required to control the weeds anyway
 - vii) Lisa Nelski said it would be useful if there were any benefits

6) Inula helenium (Yellowhead) found in Clark County – Denielle Cowley

- a) Inula is on the monitor list
- b) Found across from Raspberry Park in Felida in ROW – approximately 20 plants with 190 flowers
- c) Has been seen in Oregon, California and Stevenson County, Washington
- d) Social media blast
- e) Cut flower and treated with Garlon and will try Milestone (glyphosate does nothing)
- f) Checked adjacent property and new development and found none
- g) Drainage through ROW – herbicide will not leach into drainage
- h) Will continue to monitor

7) Aquatic Updates: Knotweed grant, Vancouver Lake, Variable-leaf milfoil – Kevin Tyler

- a) Japanese knotweed
 - i) Agreement with WSDA for 25k needs to go to council for approval
 - ii) Focus will be on Gibbons Creek and then we will look at other Washougal area streams
 - iii) Coordinate with Skamania County and Wildlife Refuge
- b) Vancouver Lake
 - i) Friends of Vancouver Lake (FOVL) treated milfoil and surveyed lake
 - ii) Clark County helped WDFW survey – data is being compiled
 - iii) No milfoil appeared in Vancouver Lake and Lake River, but was seen in the flushing channel
 - iv) Curly-leaf pondweed is present in Vancouver Lake and Lake River
- c) Variable-leaf Milfoil
 - i) Vegetation Management has requested to apply for a grant for 50k for the Warren-Seely Reservoir
 - ii) Considered early infestation and would treat/survey up and down stream

8) Items from Board – Jerry Kolke

- a) Community member inquired as to why *Arum italicum* was not designated for control
 - i) Originally thought to be on the monitor list – since meeting it was discovered it is a class C
 - ii) It is very hard to control/kill – nothing seems to work
 - iii) Widespread in Clark County
 - iv) Sold as an ornamental
- b) Lisa Nelski commented that volunteer weed removal is taking a back seat to trash pickup due to homeless encampments

10:00am Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker, Secretary

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: September 13, 2021 (Appeals only, if any)
Time: 9:00am to 11:00am
Location: TBD