



Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes



Monday, December 7, 2020 9:19am to 9:34am
Meeting Via Teleconference

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

Clark County Staff:

Parks and Lands: Galina Burley*, Kevin Tyler, Justin Collell, Chris Walker, Denielle Cowley

Guests: None

* Not Present

9:19pm Called to Order – Justin Collell

Time	Action Item
9:21am	MOTION BY: Lee Wells SECOND BY: Bill Zimmerman
	MOTION: Motion to postpone approval of November 2, 2020 minutes
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

9:21pm Opened hearing to review weed board member applications – Jerry Kolke

Time	Action Item
9:23am	MOTION BY: Lee Wells SECOND BY: Bill Zimmerman
	MOTION: Motion to adopt weed board applicants and send to county council
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

9:23pm Closed hearing to review weed board member applications – Jerry Kolke

Time	Action Item
9:27am	MOTION BY: Jerry Kolke SECOND BY:
	MOTION: Motion to approve noxious weed assessment statement per #4 below
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

3) State Noxious Weed List Changes – Justin Collell

- a) Class A additions:
 - i) Turkish thistle, Carduus cinereus
 - ii) Hanging sedge, Carex pendula
- b) Class B designation change:
 - i) Wild Chervil, Anthriscus sylvestris

4) Vote on Noxious Weed Assessment Statement - Justin Collell

- a) The Clark County Noxious Weed Board supports a noxious weed assessment of \$2 on each parcel provided that this assessment would sunset every two years unless it is reapproved by the Clark County Weed Board.

5) Items from the Board – Jerry Kolke

- a) Bill Zimmerman asked about the upcoming hearing regarding agricultural buildings
 - i) Hearing is on Dec 15 at 10am but check website – five public hearings that day so it would be after the normal agenda items
 - ii) Accepting written testimony which they will read during hearing
 - iii) Considering an ordinance that would modify the current permit exemption for agricultural buildings - if they enact the ordinance agricultural buildings would still be exempt if they are outside the Urban Growth Area, if building is located on parcel bigger than 5 acres or is on 1 acre lot considered non-conforming within 5 acre minimum zoning – if you own 1+ acre lot zoned rural 5 but doesn't meet current zoning requirements – would need to certify there is active farming, forestry or wine operations on the property and structure is not a place of employment or open to the public and meets all criteria for agricultural buildings in current code – more detail in the ordinance
- b) Bill Zimmerman requested meeting dates for 2021

9:34am Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker, Secretary

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: February 1, 2021
Time: 9:00am to 11:00am
Location: TBD

From: Justin Collell
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:20 PM
Subject: Noxious Weed Control Board Update

Hello Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board,
I'd like to provide a recap of the unique situation 2020 has brought our program. So far this year, I have issued 8 civil infractions, as follows:

\$750.00 fine to Burlington Northern Santa Fe for **Milk thistle**
\$750.00 fine to City of Vancouver for **Milk thistle**
\$500.00 fine to Washington Dept. of Transportation for **Tansy ragwort**
(2) \$500.00 fines to SRC 119th Cottages LLC for two properties with **Poison hemlock**
\$750.00 fine to Promenade LLC for **Milk thistle**
\$500.00 fine to Bella Vista Heights HOA for **Policeman's helmet (impatiens glandulifera)**
\$500.00 fine to Union Ridge 5 LLC for **Poison hemlock** (appealed and hearing completed, the fine was upheld).

In each case, I issued a fine after exhausting every other option available. The landowners who received a fine this year all have received past notices and information from our office; it's not a this-year-only problem. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have. Past coordinators have never decided to fine these bigger entities, (city, state, BNSF), but I want to hold them to the same standards as every private landowner, in a spirit of fairness under the law. I expect this will yield gains next year as more landowners support this fair approach.

I think it is very unlikely that I will need to issue any more fines this year. I do need to continue to educate landowners about knotweed, but most of the time, they control or allow us to control knotweed with the WSDA knotweed grant. Starting the enforcement process on uncooperative landowners who have knotweed is a remote possibility.

I have decided to send a Land Management Plan, (LMP) to nine (9) landowners who haven't completed adequate control work, but didn't get a fine this year. These 9 landowners were not the worst offenders this year, (the worst offenders were the ones who got the fines), but I want to have them to agree to a plan to manage their noxious weeds ahead of next year's growing season.

This year we discovered the largest infestation of Milk thistle any of us have ever seen on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) land, near the north side of the Ross Complex. There is also Milk thistle on adjoining Clark County Railroad Right of Way. We worked with BPA to begin eradication of this enormous threat. They have started to work on it, but much work remains to bring it under control long-term.

The field inspection season is winding up and we've closed almost all our reports. Even with the limitations of the novel coronavirus, the field inspection program wrote 839 reports of noxious weeds. With tactful communication, the field inspectors were able to gain landowners' voluntary compliance with the law a huge majority of the time this year. I commend them for their hard work. The Vegetation Management department as a whole pulled & bagged over 6000 pounds of tansy ragwort **flowers alone** (not whole plants) from county roads this year, filling over 300 garbage bags.

The WSDA knotweed grant is underway and I'm surveying Cedar Creek in north county. Every other year, I have had a team of temporary workers to help me carry out the grant, but this year I've done all the surveying alone so far.

I've heard that next year's budget situation will likely be very similar to this year. Without the staff to adequately survey the county, we will miss some infestations. When some landowners with noxious weeds are not educated and the law is not enforced, we are failing our mandate somewhat. A noxious weed assessment would take our program out of the county's general fund and provide more consistent revenue. I'm not expecting that the county will want to push for this change right away, but I am hopeful that the conversation about an assessment will continue and options will be explored in the future.

Best,

Justin Collell
Coordinator, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
Lead Field Inspector, Vegetation Management
Office: 360.397.6140 Cell: 360.624.2289

From: Fee, Mary (AGR) <MFee@agr.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:04 PM
Subject: Proposed Noxious Weed List Changes

Dear Coordinators,

It is that time of year again!! We are getting closer to the State Noxious Weed List Hearing. Below are the details for the hearing and proposed changes to the noxious weed list. I have also attached the written findings for the two class A proposals, the CR 102 (legal document for proposed changes to the WAC), and OTS (the official WAC 16.750 language changes). The written findings go into detail about the noxious weed species including identification, distribution, and impacts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mary Fee
Executive Secretary
WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
360-902-2053 (office)
360-561-4428 (cell)
www.nwcb.wa.gov

The State Weed Board welcomes your comments about the proposed changes to the 2021 noxious weed list. The Board is considering two new Class A noxious weeds, a number of Class B noxious weed designation changes, as well as updating noxious weed scientific names based on the updated Flora of the Pacific Northwest. You can submit written testimony by email to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov or mail letters to WSNWCB; P.O. Box 42560; Olympia, WA 98504-2560 by Monday, November 9th, or you can attend our public hearing that starts at 1:00 p.m. on WebEx Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Please contact Mary Fee (mfee@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-2053) for information on attending the public hearing and the State Weed Board Meeting later that same day at 1:00 pm.

Proposed changes:

Class A proposed additions

- Turkish thistle, *Carduus cinereus*, as a Class A noxious weed – Turkish thistle is a newly identified non-native thistle found close to Washington in northeastern Oregon and the adjacent area in Idaho. Listed as a noxious weed in Oregon and Idaho, Turkish thistle invades open habitats and can readily spread and crowd out native species. [Find out more about Turkish thistle on our website here.](#)
- Hanging sedge, *Carex pendula*, as a Class A noxious weed – Hanging sedge is an evergreen, perennial, clumping sedge with tall arching stems having long, hanging spikes. Introduced ornamentally, this sedge grows in shaded areas with wet soils in a variety of habitats, notably along edges of streams and creeks. Find out more about [hanging sedge on our website here.](#)

Class B designation proposed changes: When a Class B noxious weed is designated for control in a county, control will be required of that noxious weed in that county. When a noxious weed is undesignated for control in a county, the WSNWCB will not require control of that Class B noxious weed in that county--though a county noxious weed control board may still require control and/or still prioritize control of that noxious weed locally.

- [Non-native hawkweeds in the wall subgenus \(*Hieracium*\)](#): undesignate in Snohomish County
- [Ravenna grass \(*Saccharum ravennae*\)](#): designate in Chelan County
- [Myrtle spurge \(*Euphorbia myrsinites*\)](#): designate in Stevens County
- [Saltcedar \(*Tamarix ramosissima*\)](#): designate in Benton and Franklin counties
- [Spurge laurel \(*Daphne laureola*\)](#): designate in Skamania County
- [Tansy ragwort \(*Jacobaea vulgaris*\)](#): designate in Klickitat County
- [Velvetleaf \(*Abutilon theophrasit*\)](#): designate in Franklin County

- [Water primrose \(*Ludwigia hexapetala*\)](#): designate in Cowlitz County
- [White bryony \(*Bryonia alba*\)](#): designate in Garfield County
- [Wild chervil \(*Anthriscus sylvestris*\)](#): designate in Cowlitz, Clark, Island, and Skamania counties
- [Yellow archangel \(*Lamium galeobdolon*\)](#): designate in Cowlitz County
- [Yellow floating heart \(*Nymphoides peltata*\)](#): designate in Cowlitz County

Proposed scientific name updates

- *Anchusa arvensis*, annual bugloss to *Lycopsis arvensis*
- *Polygonum cuspidatum*, Japanese knotweed to *Fallopia japonica*
- *Polygonum sachalinense*, giant knotweed to *Fallopia sachalinensis*
- *Polygonum x bohemicum*, Bohemian knotweed to *Fallopia x bohémica*
- *Saccharum ravennae*, Ravenna grass to *Tripsidium ravennae*
- *Matricaria perforata*, scentless mayweed to *Tripleurospermum inodorum*
- *Silene latifolia* ssp. *alba*, white cockle to *Silene latifolia*
- *Centaurea x moncktonii*, meadow knapweed to *Centaurea x gerstlaueri*
- *Zostera japonica*, Japanese eelgrass to *Nanozostera japonica*