

Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board

May 5th, 2025 - 9:00am

4700 NE 78th St B-1

MS Teams

Lee Wells, District 1
Vonne Emery, District 2
Bill Zimmerman, District 3
(Vacant), District 4
Randy Lawffer, District 5
(Justin O'Dea, WSU Extension)

Justin Collell, Coordinator
Chris Walker
Kevin Tyler
Other Call-in Attendees:

Agenda

1.	Open the Meeting, Roll call after recording begins	Coordinator	1 minute
2.	Review and Vote to approve Minutes from previous meeting	Chair	10 minutes
3.	Vote to approve Bylaws as presented at previous meeting	Chair	5 minutes
4.	Discussion of the lack of a Douglas County WB	Coordinator	5 minutes
5.	Review and Vote : Letter to State Noxious WB: Douglas County WB	Chair	15 minutes
6.	FIP Updates: Roundleaf Bittersweet Variable-leaf milfoil Knotweed Calendar of noxious weeds Outreach Events: HGIF and Clark County Fair	Coordinator	15 minutes
7.	Update: civil infractions	Coordinator	1 minute
8.	Submitted Public Comment read aloud	Coordinator	10 minutes
9.	In-person Public Comment		
10.	Items from the Board	Chair	

Additional Information and Discussion

Action Items

Next Scheduled Meeting:

August 4th, 2025 9:00 AM In-Person and via MS Teams



Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting Minutes



Monday, February 3, 2025, 9:08am to 9:58am

Meeting held at 4700 NE 78th Street, Conference Room B1, Vancouver, WA and via Microsoft Teams

Control Board: Bill Zimmerman, Lee Wells, Randy Lawffer, Cheri Vonne Emery, *Justin O'Dea

Clark County Staff: *County Lands Management:* Kevin Tyler, John Wilson, Daniel Miles, Joyce Anderson, Chris Walker

Guests: None

* Not Present

9:01am Called to Order/Roll Call – Kevin Tyler

Time	Action Item
9:12am	MOTION BY: Randy Lawffer SECOND BY: Lee Wells
	MOTION: Motion to elect Bill Zimmerman as Chair
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Time	Action Item
9:13am	MOTION BY: Lee Wells SECOND BY: Vonne Emery
	MOTION: Motion to elect Randy Lawffer as Vice-Chair
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Time	Action Item
9:14am	MOTION BY: Randy Lawffer SECOND BY: Vonne Emery
	MOTION: Motion to re-elect Lee Wells as Secretary
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Time	Action Item
9:15am	MOTION BY: Randy Lawffer SECOND BY: Lee Wells
	MOTION: Motion to adopt November 4, 2024, minutes
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

9:19am Opened/Closed hearing to review Clark County Weed List – No public comment – Bill Zimmerman

Time	Action Item
9:19am	MOTION BY: Randy Lawffer SECOND BY: Lee Wells
	MOTION: Motion to adopt 2025 Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board Weed List with inclusion of class A weeds Roundleaf bittersweet and Marsh thistle.
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

9:22am Opened/Closed hearing to review weed board member applications–No public comment–Bill Zimmerman

Time	Action Item
9:22am	MOTION BY: Lee Wells SECOND BY: Randy Lawffer
	MOTION: Motion to recommend reappointing Vonne Emery (District 2) and Bill Zimmerman (District 3) to Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

Time	Action Item
9:32am	MOTION BY: Randy Lawffer SECOND BY: Lee Wells
	MOTION: Motion to accept changes to bylaws
	DISCUSSION:
	IN FAVOR: Unanimous OPPOSED: None ABSTAINED: None

7) FIP Updates – Kevin Tyler

- a) Roundleaf bittersweet – New class A weed – one location along Little Washougal found by different agency – Justin in contact with landowner who will work on controlling – Field Staff will visit this location
- b) Variable-leaf Milfoil – Small ponds in north Clark County treated last year – will follow up this year to see how control worked – Justin in contact with Warren Seely landowners and organic blueberry farmer for possible treatment in 2025
- c) Knotweed – Surveyed east/north forks, Cougar Creek, and Little Washougal in fall/early winter – utilized drone and found many sites and some that are impassable – hoping to treat in 2025 – grant money used for surveying and will know after June if there will be a grant opportunity for treating
- d) Field Inspection Weed Calendar – Justin created this calendar to show dates for surveying for most common noxious weeds in Clark County

8) Civil Infraction Update – Kevin Tyler

- a) Ruhland – Sold properties, starting over with new landowners
- b) Pahlisch Homes – Signed Land Management Plan, will monitor this season
- c) US West/Centurylink – Lien filed, no response

9) Public Comment – None

10) Items from Board – Bill Zimmerman

- a) Bill Zimmerman elected to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

9:37am Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: May 5, 2025
Time: 9:00am to 11:00am
Location: 4700 NE 78th St. Conference Room B1 and via Microsoft Teams

Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board

Bylaws

Section 1. Name.

The official name shall be "The Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board"

Section 2. Mission.

The six (6) member Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board is organized under RCW 17.10 and serves as an advisory and regulatory body to the County Council to control the spread of noxious weeds to protect human health, livestock, wildlife, native habitat, and ecosystem functioning. The Board shall provide input and oversight to the Weed Coordinator and staff on the following tasks.

- Oversee survey work performed by the Weed Coordinator and Field Inspectors in their jurisdictions for noxious weeds and support work with landowners to ensure they are controlled;
- Guide the Weed Coordinator and staff on educating the public about noxious weeds;
- Review civil infractions and landowner fines filed by the Weed Coordinator and Field Inspectors for failure to control weeds;
- Represent a balanced interest in noxious weed control and regulation;
- Make recommendations to the Weed Coordinator on such matters as the focus of the Field Inspection Program, program service levels, and policies on noxious weed issues;
- Report to the State Noxious Weed Control Board (reporting will be done by the Weed Coordinator) its recommendations for Noxious Weed Control classifications that may be different in Clark County than the state Noxious Weed list requires;
- Annually adopt the Clark County Noxious Weed Control list.

Section 3. Expectations of the Noxious Weed Control Board.

Members of the Noxious Weed Control Board are expected to make considerable commitment in the following areas: regularly attend meetings and workshops; prepare for meetings; participate in the discussion of issues; advise the Council on issues that are difficult for both their implications and complexity. The Council requires and expects careful analysis by the Noxious Weed Control Board on the issues reviewed by them. The Noxious Weed Control Board should expect controversy in making decisions and make timely decisions. Board members should also understand the distinction between applying policy and recommending policy. The opportunity to recommend changes in policy is present at times but should not be the object of discussion when policies are being applied. Members must be fair and consider all viewpoints. Members must recognize that not all recommendations will be upheld and expect that some issues may be remanded so that they can be dealt with in a more comprehensive or clear manner. Members are expected to focus on issues related to the Noxious Weed Control program within Clark County and not make policy or other recommendations about non-noxious weed control programs.

Section 4. Expectations of the County.

The Noxious Weed Control Board should expect the Noxious Weed Management program within Public Works to commit to providing information in a timely, understandable, and accurate way.

Noxious Weed Management should promptly reappoint vacancies on the Board and make appointments that enhance the effectiveness of the Noxious Weed Control Board. Noxious Weed Management should also provide orientation and training materials to the Noxious Weed Control Board members.

Section 5. Regulatory Role.

The Noxious Weed Control Board and its authorized agents were created by state law (RCW 17.10). The regulatory responsibilities include annually adopting the county noxious weed list from the state noxious weed list, and oversight of the county noxious weed control program. This oversight involves a noxious weed coordinator and other authorized agents who are responsible for inspecting the county for noxious weeds, causing those weeds to be controlled, and utilizing enforcement actions as prescribed in state law when necessary. The Noxious Weed Control Board also serves as a hearing board for landowners wishing to appeal any charge or cost resulting from noxious weed enforcement.

Section 6. Advisory Role.

The advisory role of the Noxious Weed Control Board involves the entire community, or large segments of it. Board members are required to be impartial, objective, free of entangling influences, and must appear to be fair to the average person. The Board members are typically selected because they represent the county's interests in "limiting economic loss and adverse effects to Washington's agricultural, natural, and human resources due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state (RCW 17.10.010), with 3 of 5 members being engaged in the primary production of agriculture." Members are expected to communicate issues being considered by the Noxious Weed Control board to the portion of the County that they represent, and to report back to the larger board the feedback and information received by the community.

Section 7. Abstentions and Conflict of Interest.

Members are expected to participate in the discussion of issues before the Noxious Weed Control Board. No member of the Noxious Weed Control Board shall vote on a matter in which they have a direct financial interest, or where a close family member has a direct financial interest. If a member has had ex parte contact with anyone regarding a particular case, that member should reveal that contact and allow any person to object to their participation in the case. Members may step down from proceedings in which they have been challenged. Members may also step down from the proceeding if they believe they can not fairly review any case or that their participation would raise questions of fairness. The appearance of fairness doctrine cannot be used to defeat a quorum if members disclose the basis for their disqualification.

Section 8. Election of Officers.

The officers of the Noxious Weed Control Board shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair elected by the appointed members of the Noxious Weed Control Board. The election of officers shall take place at the first meeting of the calendar year. The one-year term of office as an officer shall run until the subsequent election. The vacancy of an office caused by the resignation or removal of any officer of the Noxious Weed Control Board shall be filled for the remaining term of office by the vote of a majority of the Board.

Section 9. Selection and Term of Noxious Weed Control Board Members.

The Noxious Weed Control Board shall consist of individuals who represent the county's interests in "limiting economic loss and adverse effects to Washington's agricultural, natural, and human

resources due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state (RCW 17.10.010), with 3 of 5 members being engaged in the primary production of agriculture.”

Membership of the County Weed Board shall be governed according to regulations established in RCW 17.10.050. Terms of office for weed board members shall be governed by CCC 7.12.027 and match the established alternating years of expiration.

Attachment “A” illustrates the terms of Noxious Weed Control board members. Attachment “A” will be updated with changes in membership without a vote of the Board.

Members of the Noxious Weed Control Board serve at the will of the Council and can be removed from the weed board at the Council’s discretion.

Section 10. Chair.

The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Noxious Weed Control Board and may exercise all the powers usually incident to the office retaining, as a member of the Noxious Weed Control Board, the full right to have their own vote recorded in all deliberations of the Board.

The Chair shall have power to create temporary committees of one or more members. Standing committees of the Board shall be created at the direction of the Board. Standing or temporary committees may be charged with such duties, examinations, investigations, and inquiries relative to one or more subjects of interest to the Noxious Weed Control Board. No standing or temporary committee shall have the power to commit the Board to the endorsement of any plan or program without the approval of the Board. The Vice Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, perform all the duties incumbent upon the Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair, both being absent, the members present may elect for the meeting a temporary Chair who shall have the full powers of the Chair during the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Section 11. Secretary.

The Secretary may present to the membership the minutes of all meetings of the Noxious Weed Control Board and its committees when requested to do so, and these records shall remain the property of the Noxious Weed Control Board and be retained at the Clark County Noxious Weed Management program office.

Section 12. Quorum.

A majority of the appointed members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Noxious Weed Control Board shall meet with a quorum at least quarterly.

Section 13. Absence of Members.

The Chair shall, at the discretion of the Noxious Weed Control Board, request that the Clark County Council ask for the resignation of any member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings, or is absent for 50 percent of the meetings, without being excused by the Noxious Weed Control Board.

Section 14. Agenda.

An agenda shall be prepared for each meeting and cover the following topics: call to order; roll call and introduction of guests; review agenda and materials; approve meeting notes; Noxious Weed

Control Board's communications with the public; public comments; action items; new business; Field Inspection Program updates; and adjournment.

Section 15. Meetings.

Meetings will be held at the Clark County Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th St, Vancouver WA 98665 in either Conference Room A-1 or Conference Center B-1, unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the Noxious Weed Control Board. Regular meetings shall be held the first Monday of February, May, August, and November, and shall be open to the public. Special meetings shall be at the call of the Chair. When a regular meeting day falls on a legal holiday, the Noxious Weed Control Board will convene at the call of the Chair. If no matters over which the Noxious Weed Control Board has interest are pending, a meeting may be canceled at the notice of the Chair. Except as modified by these rules of procedure, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of each meeting. The general public shall be given an opportunity to voice their opinion at the end of each meeting.

Section 16. Amendment.

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or called meeting of the Noxious Weed Control Board by a majority vote of the entire membership if the proposed amendment is presented in writing at a preceding regular or called meeting of the Noxious Weed Control Board. Final action will not take place until a subsequent meeting of the Noxious Weed Control Board.

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Attachment "A"
Updated 02/03/2025

Term of Each Clark County
Noxious Weed Control Board Member

Member	Appointment Date	End Date	Primary Production of Agricultural Products (Y/N)
District 1 Lee Wells	2019	12/31/2026	Y
District 2 Vonne Emery	2021	12/31/2028	N
District 3 Bill Zimmerman	2021	12/31/2028	Y
District 4 Vacant	NA	12/31/2028	
District 5 Randy Lawffer	2019	12/31/2026	Y
Extension Office Representative Justin O'Dea	NA	NA	NA

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OKANOGAN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD
1234 2nd Ave S, Suite B, Okanogan, WA 98840

www.okanogancounty.org/government/noxious_weed_control

Email: noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us

OFFICE: 509-422-7165

OFFICE STAFF

MANAGER

Larry Hudson
509-422-7167

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Darla Dolph
509-422-7295

FIELD TECHNICIAN III

Naomi Neal
509-422-7224

FIELD TECHNICIAN II

Machelle Hawkins
509-422-7165

FIELD TECHNICIAN

Cheryl Adkins
509-422-7168

OFFICE TECHNICIAN

Gina Bartlett
509-422-7179

BOARD MEMBERS:

AREA # 1

Dave McClure
509-631-1060

AREA # 2

VACANT

AREA # 3

Steve Kieffer
Chairman
509-429-9900

AREA # 4

Nancy O'Neil
509-322-1280

AREA # 5

Michael Rayton
Vice-Chairman
509-322-5335

To: The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Subject: Activation of the Douglas County Noxious Weed Control Board

Date: April 1, 2025

Representatives of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board,

Douglas County is currently the only county in the State of Washington without an active noxious weed control board. The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (OCNWCB), on behalf of the citizens of Okanogan County, requests that the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB) lobby the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to activate the Douglas County Noxious Weed Control Board pursuant to RCW 17.10.040, Subsection 3:

"The (WSDA) director, upon request of the state noxious weed control board, shall order a county legislative authority to activate the noxious weed control board immediately if an infestation of a class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed designated for control on the state noxious weed list is confirmed in that county"

OCNWCB asserts that the following class A and class B designate noxious weeds were confirmed in multiple locations throughout Douglas County during past growing seasons:

Class A

Flowering Rush

Class B Designate

Common Reed

Rush Skeletonweed

Scotch Thistle

Bohemian Knotweed

OCNWCB further asserts that other class A and class B designate noxious weed species would be detected in Douglas County after completing systematic inspections. The potential spread of these species poses a serious risk of infestation to neighboring counties.

In the past, other county weed boards, including OCNWCB, have requested that WSNWCB and the WSDA Director activate the weed board in Douglas County. Douglas County resisted activating a noxious weed board, also referencing RCW 17.10.040, Subsection 3:

"The county legislative authority may, as an alternative to activating the noxious weed board, combat the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed with county resources and personnel operating with the authorities and responsibilities imposed by this chapter on a county noxious weed control board".

Previously, Douglas County utilized this alternative attempting to eradicate known class A & class B designate noxious weed infestations within their county. For many years, Dale Whaley, a fulltime employee of the Washington State University Extension office in Douglas County, was tasked with contacting and working with Douglas County landowners for control of their class A & class B designate noxious weeds. However, Mr. Whaley retired in January of 2025 and has left a vacuum in the fight against noxious weed infestations.

Additionally, OCNWCB would like to point out that RCW 17.10.040, Subsection 3 also states:

“No county may continue without a noxious weed control board for a second consecutive year if the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed has not been eradicated”.

The fact that Douglas County continues to have reoccurring infestations of class A and class B designate noxious weeds, despite Mr. Whaley’s efforts over the past several growing seasons, exemplifies the fact that Douglas County is out of compliance with RCW 17.10, and further highlights the need for the WSDA Director to compel activation of a Douglas County noxious weed control board.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Representatives of the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board,

Dave McClure, Area 1: _____

Steve Kieffer, Area 3, Chairman: _____

Nancy O’Neil, Area 4: _____

Michael Rayton, Area 5, Vice-Chairman: _____

Larry Hudson, Manager/Coordinator: _____

Field Inspection Program Noxious Weeds Calendar

[illegible]

X: Recommended survey timing due to flowering

+: Fruits maturing and present

CLARK COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

May 5, 2025 – MEETING 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

NAME	DISTRICT	SIGN-IN SHEET (signature)
LEE WELLS	1	
VONNE EMERY	2	<i>Vonne Emery</i>
BILL ZIMMERMAN (Chair)	3	<i>William F. Zein</i>
VACANT	4	
RANDY LAWFFER (Vice-Chair)	5	<i>R. Lawffer</i>
JUSTIN O'DEA	WSU Ext.	
JUSTIN COLLELL	CC-Staff	<i>Justin Collell</i>
KEVIN TYLER	CC-Staff	<i>Kevin Tyler</i>
CHRIS WALKER	CC-Staff	<i>Chris Walker</i>
DANIEL MILES	CC-Staff	
JOHN WILSON	CC-Staff	<i>John Wilson</i>
<i>DON KERIKOW</i>	Guest	<i>Don Kerikow</i>
	Guest	
	Guest	
	Guest	