

Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
Quarterly Meeting: June 24, 2024
10:00 am, Island County WSU Extension Meeting room and zoom teleconference,
390 N. Main St. Coupeville, WA 98239

Agenda

10:00- 10:05 am

- Call meeting to order.
- Take attendance of all members present/on conference call.
- Review February 27, 2024, ICNWCB quarterly meeting minutes, vote for approval

10:05 – 10:10 am

Board member replacement update:

No applicants or contact. We have sent notices to the papers, the public health newsletter, social media, and mentioning it at talks, events, etc. Any thoughts on better ways of recruitment? How can we do a better job of filling these vacancies.

10:10-10:30 am

Budget discussions:

Coordinator working with public health accounting manager and Shawn (Public health director) to submit a budget proposal that will move program coordinator position to a full time FTE and increase the request for a seasonal staff member to a nine-month period. (Currently, seasonal on a seven-month period and coordinator funded at 30 hrs./wk.)

This will be achieved through grants and other intergovernmental agreements (Garlic mustard grants & IAA's with WA state parks, continued CFF M & O funding) and through requests to increase our time working with our Public works department roads program and the amount allocated through the General county budget.

I have drafted a letter on behalf of the board to be attached with our efforts for a budget request increase.

Action: Any changes to letter, is board still in agreement on pursuing this budget for our 2025 season?

10:30 - 10:40 am

New grants and agreements:

WA state parks contract:

Staff from State parks approached program coordinator about assisting with noxious weed control in the parks. Program coordinator. Contract will run from June 15, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Contract amount will be a \$14,170.00.

This will add an extra day a week to coordinators time, and we will re-structure how we delegate time for seasonal staff. The agreement will run through June of 2025.

WSDA Class A and Class B eradication grant: We will be applying for garlic mustard funding to continue supporting landowners located on South Whidbey. In addition, we are considering adding our one lesser celandine infestation into the RFP as landowner has had trouble finding qualified help that will come do eradication/control work. This might be an opportunity to eradicate lesser celandine in Island County. Grant would be for \$5,000. Grant would run from July 2024 to June 30, 2025.

10:40 – 10:55 am

Formation of a CWMA (Poison hemlock)

Ebey's trust board meeting (NPS, Ebey's reserve trust board, Washington state parks, The nature conservancy, local farmers) requested my presence at a meeting to discuss noxious weed control in Ebey's landing.

Coordinator is looking into funding options to help support getting this off the ground. Possible grant through USFS.

10:55 am – 11:10 am

Compliance case

We have sent out 24 notifications to landowners (mostly poison hemlock related, but also for knotweed, tansy ragwort, spurge laurel, and thistles)

Enforcement update: We applied the initial treatment to the infested parcel on 6/6/24. An Island County Sheriff's deputy met us on site but was not needed as the landowner in question was not present. It is likely that we will require a follow up treatment to occur in July and same protocol will be used to notify landowner. Two additional designated species were observed to be growing on infested parcel in the form of yellow archangel and poison hemlock. Coordinator is working with treasurer's office and PA to now assess the cost of control efforts. As specified under the RCW this will be assessed towards the non-compliant landowner's taxes.

11:10 am – 11:30 am

- Program Updates:
 - **Spartina (WSDA grant):** Spring regional partners meeting and pre-season meeting with Pat Cole. Initial survey and control work starting in Grasser's lagoon and Freeland County Park. Work will begin in earnest in July-September.
 - **Barnum Point/Iverson spit CFF:**
 - **Barnum point:** The long-term English holly removal component of this project continues. Scotch broom down along the beach trail appears to be greatly reduced.

- Thistle and common teasel along the beach trail continue to appear and have been removed.
- **Iverson spit:** Scotch broom removal in zones 1,3,4, and 5 continues in an effort to suppress persistent seed bank. Small clusters of poison hemlock continue to emerge along the dike trail in one small area. Six poison hemlock were treated in the native shrub planting area and eight small plants removed along the beach access/forest loop trail. Common teasel population finally looking down to a handful of plants.

- **Kettles/Saratoga/Ala spit CFF:**

- **Kettles trails work:** Survey work for all the twelve infested trails began in April. Work has been focused primarily to Scotch broom and tansy ragwort in the main kettles complex and tansy ragwort, spurge laurel, Bull and Canada thistle located throughout the Alito addition portion of the complex. In conjunction with efforts in the main complex we did a removal workshop around the parking lot and entrance to the main kettles trail in April. We removed 740 lbs. of Scotch broom from the site which will hopefully continue to deprive area of new seed to infest along the trails.
- **Saratoga woods:** Scotch broom removal work has begun in the main field by parking lot and shelter. Early spring work saw us remove 136 plants from the main field. This is a significant reduction in overall plants present in 2023. On 6/17/24 only a total of 10 small plants were pulled from this area. Survey work has occurred along the main trail and arterials through the park with little weed material observed. Three tansy ragwort were observed and removed along the old airstrip trail during early spring treatment work. Work remaining in this park includes English Ivy and Scotch broom removal to the north of parking lot.
- **Ala spit:** (How many square feet) of yellow archangel treated in the March/April 2024. We also treated remaining knotweed plant as well as bull and Canada thistle in the areas adjacent to parking lot.

Public Works: We have currently done survey work on over 150 roads and conducted treatment work on 91 of these. Species treated include: Garlic mustard, poison hemlock, tansy ragwort, yellow archangel, spurge laurel, Japanese knotweed, shiny geranium, wild chervil, hairy willow herb, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, sulfur cinquefoil, orange hawkweed, common tansy, Canada and Bull thistle, common fennel, Scotch broom, common teasel, Italian Arum, Himalayan Blackberry.

- **Other partnership project**

- **Deer lagoon:** Had seasonal staff do some follow up control along the High dike side of the egress road. Focus was on control of Scotch broom and tansy ragwort population. We continue to downgrade our commitment to this project and mostly are providing technical support to Audubon society as they go about doing thistle and broom removal along the egress.

- **Ebey's Landing poison hemlock work group:** See item pertaining to CWMA.

- **Education and Outreach**

- Program updates to BOCC
- SWS workshop series (Scotch broom – Kettles trails (April); Poison hemlock/tansy ragwort – Rhododendron Park (May)
- Noxious weeds 101 – Oak Harbor library

- Upcoming Education and Outreach
 - SWS weed workshop series (Scotch broom – Iverson spit preserve)
- Trainings and Professional development: