

Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
Quarterly Meeting: October 22, 2024
10:00 am, Island County WSU Extension Meeting room and zoom teleconference,
490 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 June 24, 2024, ICNWCB quarterly meeting minutes, vote for approval

10:05 – 10:10 am

Board member replacement update:

Maybe have a recruitment letter and attach our 2024 fact sheet to it. Mail to specific individuals and groups.

10:10-10:30 am

Budget discussions:

Our 2025 budget proposal to fully fund the coordinator's position and move up seasonal position to a nine-month position has been conditionally approved by the Board of County Commissioners with final signatures to occur on October 22.

In addition to increases for our public works project and general fund we have also secured funding through the following new funding streams this year including: WA St parks work, Garlic Mustard grant, and Lesser Celandine grant.

All staff are also to receive a 3% COLA increase this year as was bargained through the union.

10:30 - 10:50 am

State noxious weed board public hearing and proposed updates.

I think we need to provide a presence at the Feral Holly component of this hearing. It seems like the more voices involved the better our odds are.

Following proposal are being considered:

WAC 16-750-005 Class A Noxious Weed Changes and Additions

The addition of round leaf bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

The addition of marsh thistle, *Cirsium palustre*

WAC 16-750-011 Class B Noxious Weed Changes and Additions

Un-designating shiny geranium, *Geranium lucidum*, in Pierce County.

WAC 16-750-015 Class C Noxious Weed Changes and Additions

Adding wild holly, *Ilex species* not including holly found in managed landscapes, or where commercially or agriculturally grown.

10:50 am – 11:00 am

Compliance case

We have sent out 39 notifications to landowners (poison hemlock, knotweed, tansy ragwort, spurge laurel, and thistles)

Response rate to notifications has been less than 25% this year. With increased funding we hope to be able to follow up with these letters and reinforce need for control to occur.

One of these cases involved a 3rd notice (who did respond and did act). There were six cases that involved a 2nd notice.

11:00 am – 11:10 am

New business:

Noxious Weed Control program website

11:10 am – 11:30 am

- Program Updates:
 - **Spartina (WSDA grant):** We are wrapping up this seasons work and all remaining work must be completed by October 31. Reporting will be due early December. We did discover a new infestation located just beyond the terminus of Penn cove. A single 1 sq. ft. plant was found on the close to Klootchman rock. In the Port Susan area (East Camano, Livingston Bay) we continue to see the effects of the proliferation of plants from the South Leque Island restoration.
 - **Barnum Point/Iverson spit CFF:**

We are wrapping up field work for both parks and have made good progress on treating. We will be asking for an additional year long extension for this project as we still have remaining funding and objectives of this project that have not been completed yet. November will be spent compiling removal numbers and putting end of year reporting together.

 - **Barnum point:** Continued to remove English Ivy, English Holly, and other observed weed species from the park. We hosted a weed workshop/pull party in cooperation with Sound Water Stewards on 9/27/24. Removing 380 lbs. of English ivy as well as many English Holly plants were controlled.
 - **Iverson spit:** Scotch broom removal in zones 1,3,4, and 5 continues to be the primary work conducted at this site. In zone 2, we continue to find small emergent plants of poison hemlock. On 10/15/24 we manually dug 55 vegetative hemlock plants.

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

Like our Camano based CFF M & O projects we will be asking for an additional year extension to use up the allocated funds we were initially awarded for this project. November will be spent compiling removal numbers and putting end of year reporting together.

- **Kettles trails work:** Scotch broom removal continued. Main areas of persistent broom plants include Main kettles trails, Alito addition along the cell tower trail access, and along the two areas of the primitive access road on the western boundary of the Alito addition. Two additional control efforts (September and October) to survey and remove any Spurge laurel from the Alito addition portion of the kettles trails also yielded over 100 small new plants controlled. We also discovered some new populations of spurge laurel on breaking bad and plush plunge trails. Tansy ragwort populations continued to be monitored and removed with both chemical and manual treatments taking place.
- **Saratoga woods:** Work remaining in this park includes English Ivy and Scotch broom removal to the north of parking lot. Late season work included removal of tansy ragwort along the old airstrip and removal of Scotch broom between the park and Saratoga Rd. The field where initial Scotch broom infestation was observed is looking surprisingly good after last year's treatment.
- **Ala spit:** Late season follow up on thistle and knotweed plants occurred in August/September. Yellow archangel population greatly reduced but will continue to need to be treated while other species responding well to treatment.

Garlic Mustard grant: We applied for and were awarded \$3800 to help affected landowners continue in their effort to eradicate the South Whidbey population as well as offer support to the one landowner over on Camano. Work will occur primarily in 2025. Treatment will begin in April. Grant will run through June 31, 2025. This is funding awarded by the State noxious weed control board.

Lesser Celandine WSDA grant: We were approached by WSDA noxious weed coordinator with the opportunity to receive funding for a project that was initially part of our grant proposal for the State weed board grant. We only have one known population of lesser celandine here in Island County. We have been working with landowner to try and support their efforts through technical advice, but infestation remained persistent. This is an opportunity to eradicate a Class B weed before it gains a foothold here. The total amount awarded for this project is \$2,000. Most work will occur over the late winter and early spring months. This project is funded through June 31, 2025.

Public Works: We have currently done survey work on over 329 roads and conducted treatment work on 203 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, meadow knapweed, brown knapweed, sulfur cinquefoil, orange hawkweed, gorse, common tansy, Canada and Bull thistle, common fennel, Scotch broom, common teasel, Italian Arum, Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, and common St. Johnswort.

- **Other partnership project**

- **Deer lagoon:** We have handed this project off to WAS and will continue to offer technical support to volunteers.
- **Ebey's Landing poison hemlock work group:** Nothing new to report
- Education and Outreach
 - SWS weed workshop (Barnum point – English Holly/English Ivy) – (Sept. 27)
 - WSU coached forestry class (Oct. 11)
- Upcoming Education and Outreach
 - Possible workshop series partnership with Land Trust, Greenbank Farm management group (Purple loosestrife, Spurge laurel, Tansy ragwort, poison hemlock) (Spring/Summer 2025)
 - Whidbey Gardening workshop (March 2025)
- Trainings and Professional development:
 - Olympic Invasive Working Group Fall meeting (Oct. 29th)