

Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
Quarterly Meeting: December 5, 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 October 22, 2024, ICNWCB quarterly meeting minutes, vote for approval

10:05 – 10:10 am

Board position description and recruitment letter review.

Coordinator has compiled a list of names of potential individuals to send letters to.

10:10-10:25 am

Invasive Free Whidbey 2030 project:

Our old State parks contact (Lizbeth Seebacher) reached out asking if we would like to be a part of and possibly participate in a grant proposal looking at. Grant would be focused on Poison hemlock initially and could be part of a springboard to launch our own CWMA. The grant is through the Western Integrated Pest Management Center (WIPM). Proposal is due on Dec. 6th. Grant would emphasize educational outreach and offer trainings to public to address weeds of concern.

Lizbeth has asked if we would provide a letter of support. Coordinator has tentatively said yes.

10:25 - 10:45 am

State noxious weed board public hearing and proposed updates.

Coordinator presented oral testimony in support of listing. There was considerable oral testimony provided by many individuals throughout the state. Only two individuals voiced concern regarding the listing of Holly species as being detrimental to the industry and hence expressed an aversion towards its listing.

There was discussion at the state board level that the language be changed to not include the term referring all Holly species growing wild, but specifically identifying *Ilex aquifolium* as the species to be listed. This would exclude Japanese Holly and other *Ilex* species.

This will necessitate that they hold another public hearing with the redrafted language in Feb/March and then hold an official vote again in March.

From the state board executive secretary in reply to what to expect:

"Holly is an exception. The other two class As were added and shiny geranium was undesigned in Pierce County East of the Narrows Bridge (still designated for control on the Kitsap Peninsula).

I have attached the CR103 (official filing for rule making), Concise Explanatory Statement (response to testimony and reasoning for rule making), and OTS (WAC 16.750 official language). The State Weed List goes into effect January 1st 2025. The counties have 90 days to adopt their weed lists which will include all class As including the two new ones, all class Bs designated by the state, and any other class Bs or Cs selected by the county noxious weed control boards.

If holly is added in March, it will be added as a class C and counties would be able to select for control at any time following the a county weed list hearing. I don't foresee any counties selecting it for control through."

10:45 am – 10:50 am

Webpage update

Coordinator is working now with Melissa (Public health administrative assistant) to update all broken links and adapt the webpage to better provide information to the public. The goal is to have all old links repaired, documents updated, previous meeting minutes and agendas uploaded before Christmas Holiday begin.

10:50 am – 11:30 am

- Program Updates:
 - **Spartina (WSDA grant):** End of season numbers indicate that we treated .324885 acres. This is up from .287 acres in 2023, and up from our lowest recorded tally of .2309 acres treated in 2022. There is concern about this trend as it correlates with the restoration work at South Leque Island and the proliferation of plants in that now inundated area. Coordinator has just over a \$1,000 left to spend on his time for the June window.
 - **Washington State Parks noxious weed control:** We conducted control and survey work in seven different parks in 2023. A big priority was using Iforms and ERSI FieldMaps to show noxious weed points in the parks. This mapping will help us and parks better track movement of noxious weeds within the parks. To date we have spent down just over \$3,000. This leaves us \$11,431.53 to work with for Spring treatments. Meeting scheduled December 9th to bring parks staff and Friends of Whidbey Island Parks together to come up with a more cohesive plan for noxious weed treatment in the parks for spring treatment. Coordinator working with parks personnel to potentially put on a training for volunteers to learn how to remove weeds and train in injection of woody shrubs.
 - **Barnum Point/Iverson spit CFF:**
No field work conducted since October. Coordinator working on end of year reporting.

- **Kettles/Saratoga/Ala spit CFF:**
No field work conducted since October. Coordinator working on end of year reporting.

Garlic Mustard grant: Coordinator will send out permission to enter forms in January. Work will occur April through June 2025. Otherwise, no new updates.

Lesser Celandine WSDA grant: Coordinator has received all the paperwork back from landowner and will begin survey and assessment work for this project starting in December/January. Treatment work will begin January/February with follow up monitoring and re-treatment work to occur in March.

Public Works: End of year totals indicate that we did survey work on over 381 roads and conducted treatment work on 206 miles of ROW in 2024. Most ROW work was conducted on Whidbey Island 166.63 miles, with 40.6 miles covered on Camano. This was a further increase from previous seasons of roughly 79.6 miles of directly treated areas for county roads program. Twenty-three noxious weed species were treated along County ROW's. The majority being designated Class B and C weeds. Garlic mustard and Giant hogweed were the only Class A weeds treated along ROW in 2024.

- **Other partnership project**
 - **Ebey's Landing poison hemlock work group:** Working on coordinating all parties to meet for a late January/early February partner meeting to ensure coverage of work is thorough for upcoming spring season. This may happen in tandem with WIPM grant efforts if funding is awarded.
- Education and Outreach
 - None in end of October or November.
- Upcoming Education and Outreach
 - WSU Coached forestry class (March 18th)
 - Whidbey Gardening workshop (March 2025)
 - New WSU Master Gardeners training (Feb 4th)
- Trainings and Professional development:
 - Annual Weed Coordinators Conference (March 12-14th)