

## **Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting**

**March 12, 2009**

---

The meeting was called to order at 11:25AM by Board President Keith Sarkisian

- Introductions

In attendance: Keith Sarkisian, Phil Cunningham, Carol Schram, George Ohlsen, Steve Russell, Sonny Gohrman, Mel Reitz

- Approval of minutes from February 12, 2009

Minutes were approved with typo corrections made on the second page.

### **Coordinators Report**

Not a lot going on except paperwork and meetings. Sonny says he's been doing the administrative part of his job, reports, planning and trying to work with the bureaucracy. The voucher problem hasn't been cleared up yet, but Sonny is working on it.

We will have a booth at the Everett Home and Garden Show in April. This will be the first time we have participated in the show. We have helped out at the NW Flower and Garden Show in Seattle and will continue to do so, but we will put in less time. This appears to be a great opportunity to reach a lot of people in the County.

Seasonal hires have been approved and a process that works for Personnel and for the Board has been worked out. Letters have gone out to last year's seasonals. It looks like we will get some of them back. Gerry is on vacation to Malaysia until the end of the month and will go back to full time when she returns.

We finally received the Forest Service knotweed grant and it has been forwarded to Lindsey Downs our new DPA. She has already found a small issue with the wording of the contract. Sonny will stay on the process and make sure that it keeps moving. Getting paperwork through the County is getting a bit more challenging.

### **Old Business**

- **Strategy for 2009 further discussion**

Enforcements:

Sonny stated that we will be writing enforcement letters for tansy ragwort and knotweed. The knotweed located upstream from our work areas has to be dealt with or it will re-infest the areas that have been controlled downstream. With tansy we need to pick the worst and long term sites and track them for enforcement. The plan is to move forward. We will be buying a small inexpensive net book for recording site and owner information in the field. Putting an

expensive laptop in the inspection vehicle is a bad idea due to theft. The small net book will slide under the seat out of site and isn't a big loss if stolen. An Acer Aspire net book is around \$350 compared to \$2000 for a County laptop. Sonny warned that from a previous meeting with Roads that enforcements may be an issue and there will be further discussions. At the last meeting Roy Scalf said he thought that PDS or Code Enforcement should be doing them.

#### Priorities:

The Board reviewed the priority list again and felt that it was adequate and addresses the Class A's, low level infestations and new invaders. Sonny will do more education on the priority list weeds and add them to his power point presentation. The first presentation with this topic will be this Saturday for the Master Gardeners. Thistles will become the lowest priority until funding is restored.

#### New invaders:

We will be doing some survey only for new weeds. We will also try to track the time involved and see how this works. Sonny will be doing more education on new weeds in his talks and cutting out some of the weeds present like Dalmatian toadflax where we have so little and we know where it is.

#### o **2010 Budget Discussions**

Sonny's suggestion is to go with what we did last year. Sonny feels it's a good plan and some of the current strategy relates strongly to the budget proposal. Just because the Board wasn't funded doesn't mean it's a bad plan. Sonny stated that there were no counter proposals put forward. We just didn't get what we asked for. There also appears to be a disconnect between performance measures and our budget goals.

Steve brought up how DOT handles budgets that don't meet current targets. DOT asks for money to catch up with what wasn't funded the year before. Numbers need to show what we didn't get done do to low funding and what we need to get done to catch up. The cost for that catch up is what we need to go after. Phil felt that we should ask for more also. Keith said there probably isn't going to be anymore to get due to the economy. Sonny explained that going after the same was going after the requested amount of \$145,000 not the \$65,000 we got this year. Phil felt better about that. The Board directed Sonny to work up a new proposal based on the 2009 – 2010 proposal.

A problem with the 2009 POG proposal was discovered in reviewing last year's request.

Sonny passed out copies of what The Board had approved and what was actually put through the BDT system. There were a number of differences ranging from typos, cut off sentences, and funding levels in the body of the proposal. No one seems to know where the copy that

was posted in BDT came from. Sonny will try to find out more about what happened and not let it happen again.

- **Upcoming meeting with Road Maintenance / Public Works**

The meeting with Steve Thomsen, Roy Scalf and Debbie Terwilliger hasn't happened yet. Topics include our budget, reporting hierarchy, expense vouchers and authorizations, FTE status and what happened this year, and how we can work more closely with roads and expand our work to other complimentary areas. Sonny feels the subject of our regulatory status will come up. There was a brief discussion over what the Board's status doing enforcements is and Sonny feels we are ready.

- **WWHAM (Washington Wilderness Hay And Mulch)**

Alan Shank said he ran the suggestion for the CD to take on the inspections passed Bobbie and his board and they aren't interested. I left a message with Andrew Corbin at Extension and haven't heard back. He is the Extension agronomist. Steve feels this is a good program for farmers to make a little extra money. He also suggested that to get this going and bring the price down to about the same price as uncertified hay the tax on certified hay could be dropped. Carol made the point that we aren't financially able to take on a new program and get it off the ground the way it should be. There was a conversation about whether or not this had to be a government program and it seems that is really doesn't. A private business enterprise could come out of this or tag onto an existing business. Sonny will follow up with Extension and with the Ag Advisory Board to see if there is interest. Mel brought up the point that the County is already requiring weed free fill, gravel, mulch, and topsoil. Sonny said he may not be the best person to give a presentation to the Ag Advisory Board, but he would talk to Alison Halpern the State Weed Board Executive Secretary to see if she or someone else could do a better job explaining the program.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

Adjourn 12:25

Respectfully submitted by:

Sonny Gohrman