

Coordinator's Report for the May 12, 2011 regular meeting of the Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board

Coordinator's Report

Sonny gave educational presentations to the Beach Watchers, the Cattlemen's Association, the Conservation District with Horses for Clean Water and the Public Works Environmental Service staff. Gerry staffed a booth on Earth Day at the Jennings Park in Marysville. Aaron Reardon gave an opening speech. The event was attended by about 250 people, mostly kids.

A crew has been hired, 3 are returning from last year and one new staff member who used to work for Scott Moore and the County native plant program. Mitigation site and limited roadside spraying has started as weather permits. We will catch up with roadside sites once all the mitigation sites are done. Giant hogweed monitoring and owner contacts have begun. The general fund has been used heavily for writing grants, owner contacts, education, and some reporting requirements. We have received informal notification that we will receive the Darrington knotweed grant from the Forest Service and the South Fork grant for knotweed from the Community Salmon Fund. Later in the afternoon, we will be presenting a grant proposal to the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to do roadside noxious weed control on the Mountain Loop Highway, Crawford Loop, and Sultan Basin Road. We are also currently writing a small knotweed grant to WSDA, which funding is still uncertain. The WSDA grant provides cash match for other federal grants. We have other in-kind soft match from our partners, but it is easier to have cash match. We applied for a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant but decided to pull back the grant after we got an email requesting further clarification of the grant.

The July edition of the Conservation District newsletter, NEXUS will have an article on the open weed board member positions. Keith has a potential weed board member for District 2. He is a forester and is on the Citizen Advisory Board for Snohomish Conservation District. Sonny can get him the application forms. Keith offered to get the forms to him. George suggested Dick Barr for District 5. Sonny would be happy to have him back because of his experience.

Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting minutes for May 12, 2011(Regular Meeting)

Location: 19620 67th Avenue NE Arlington, WA

In attendance

Steve Russell (Board Chair), Keith Sarkisian (Vice Chair), Louise Stangeland (Board Member), George Ohlsen (Board Member), Roy Scalf (Public Works), Mel Reitz (Public Works), Michael Smith (Public Works), Alison Halpern (Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, Sonny Gohrman (Public Works), Geraldine Saw (Public Works)

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Meeting presided over by Steve Russell, Board Chair

Approval of minutes from April 14, 2011

Keith made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Keith said he has a new board applicant for District 2, Wally Michalec, a forester that lives near Arlington.

Action Item: Application forms to new Board applicant.

Steve mentioned that 3 days ago the secretary to the County Executive contacted him in response to the letter requesting a meeting with the County Executive. The Executive declined the request because he is too busy.

Old Business

PW/RM – Weed Board Q&A with Alison Halpern

Steve invited Alison Halpern, the Executive Secretary of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board to the Weed Board meeting. Alison gave an overview of the State Weed Board and the activities of other counties, and answered Board questions. The Board discussed priorities, survey, mapping, funding and organization.

Strategic Plan

Michael Smith handed out spreadsheet copies of the SWOT response from the strategic planning process. Discussion of the SWOT Analysis results will be held in the next Board meeting.

2011 - 2012 Budget

Sonny reviewed expenditures to date for 2011.

A discussion on the level of 2012 funding occurred, no decision was made.

Sustainable Land Strategy

Sonny would like the board to read the Snohomish County Sustainable Land Strategy Phase 1 Framework report which was handed out before the meeting.

Action item: Boards members to give Sonny guidance on their views on the Sustainable Land Strategy at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourn at 12:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Geraldine Saw and Sonny Gohrman