

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

### **Meeting minutes for February 11, 2010**

#### **In attendance**

Keith Sarkisian, George Ohlsen, Steve Russell, Louis Stangeland, Curt Moulton, Gordon Sively (County Prosecuting Attorney), Sonny Gohrman, Geraldine Saw

#### **Approval of minutes from December 10, 2009**

Steve made the motion to pass the December minutes as written. George seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve proposed 3 changes for future meeting minutes. He proposed that action items are written down and a person designated to follow-up and report at the next meeting. The minutes should also be in a general format rather than quoting what was discussed since much of the conversation isn't being written down or recorded. After the draft minutes have been written, the minutes will be sent to the board members for edits or corrections. After a 3 day review period a draft set of minutes subject to change will be posted on the Board's website. Posting the minutes allows the public to see what is happening before the next meeting. Sonny supported the proposal. George made the motion to change the format of the minutes. Steve seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

#### **Weed List Hearing**

The weed list hearing was called to order at 10:45.

Sonny reported that no changes were made to the State Weed List. It makes sense to leave our list unchanged. Without added funds, adding weeds would be futile. There was a brief discussion about what other weeds should be added if funding was available. George made the motion to maintain the weed list as is. Steve seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. There was no public comment.

The weed list hearing was adjourned at 11:00

#### **Coordinators Report**

##### **Budget**

Sonny referred to the 2010 budget sheet handed out before the meeting. The Statewide WSDA knotweed budget was reduced by \$108,000 and Spartina funding is reduced by \$33,000. Almost the entire SRFB grant (\$116,900 through 2011) is available. This grant could be extended to three years. With all grants and contracts, we will be between \$10,000-\$15,000 lower than last year.

\$1,500 was left in the general fund in 2009. The Forest Service grant was fully expended and \$3,300 remained in the roadside budget. A balance of \$54,000 from Spartina will be carried over to July 2011. The Giant Hogweed Grant was fully expended and the capacity fund grant

was used to purchase 3 copies of GIS software. Keith asked if Road Maintenance is still providing money up front for all these grants. Sonny said the system hasn't changed; funds will be spent and will be returned to road maintenance after billing. Steve said that we have to pursue and take advantage of setting up a grant pool. It is a matter of administrative paperwork.

- **Action item: Sonny will find out if there is a County grant pool.**

## **Reports**

Except for the mapping on the roads, all of our reporting is up to date. Spartina, knotweed, giant hogweed, and mitigation (in draft) are current.

## **Education**

Sonny gave a presentation to a class of 25 students at the Cattleman's Winter School. There were 1000 attendees at the conference where we also had a display. Sonny gave a 1 hour presentation to 75 attendees at the Snohomish Garden Club. He also spent a very busy morning shift at the Flower and Garden Show. Upcoming events that we will be attending include Pasture Day with the Conservation District at Del's Farm Supply in Monroe (February 20<sup>th</sup>), the Everett Home and Garden Show (March 5-7), Beach Watchers Training for Snohomish and Skagit County (April), training the WCC crews organized by the SSFETF, and the Master Gardener training.

## **Tansy**

There are 468 property owners in our list. Last year, we received 5 phone calls from tansy owners, made 10 on the ground inspections, monitored 61 tansy sites from road surveys and phased out 5 owners. In response to increased cost of printing materials and stamps, we are going to mail tansy postcards to the tansy owners this year instead of the tansy letter, pamphlet, weed list and weed law. We can do the mailing for less than \$400.

## **Old Business**

### **Rules and Regulation Changes (Mission Statement, election of officers)**

Our mission statement has been added into Section 2 of the rules and regulations. This is adopted from the State's mission. The election of chairman and co-chairman has also been added into Section 4, Part D of the rules and regulations. Sonny asked if term limit should be included. Gordon responded that the terms are set by state law. The election needs to be done in the first meeting. State law says that the chair can be the same every year, but an election should be held each year. Steve made a motion to accept the rules and regulations as amended. George seconded the motion.

- **Action items: Sonny will produce an ECAF for the rules and regulations and forward to the Council.**

## **Open Board Positions in District 1 and 3**

Louis Stangland has applied for the District 1 board position. Sonny requested more background details from Louis because of the ECAF requirements. George made the motion to forward the application once completed to the Executive to add Louis to the Board. Steve seconded the motion.

## **POO2 Ford Ranger Replacement**

The county had ordered a 2010 4X4 4 door Chevrolet Colorado pickup for us. The Board noted that they had never approved the purchase and that what do about a replacement vehicle was still under discussion. Sonny was informed that ER&R charges for 2010 would not be affected. Keith said that if it isn't true about the charges the Board will bring the matter up.

## **Weed Board/Public Works/Road Maintenance Discussion Committee report**

Steve reported that the committee is still looking at how we can work things out with Public Works. Gordon is working on possible ordinance changes. A conversation ensued about the different options, but the committee is not ready to present a proposal or proposals until the next meeting. Steve added that the board has to vote on the agreement before it can be presented to the council for the code changes. Gordon said that it will be a couple of months before the code can be changed since the changes have to cycle through the executive office, committees, hearing, etc.

- **Action item: Committee proposal at the next meeting.**

## **Strategy for 2010 and beyond // Work Plan**

The strategy for 2010 is similar to 2009 except for making tansy enforcement a priority because of budget constraints. It is replaced with the point that we still have the authority to do enforcement. Focus will be on a list of weeds and new invaders that have limited distribution in the County and can be controlled or eradicated. Sonny welcomes any feedback on the changes or additions for approval at the March meeting.

## **New Business**

### **Travel authorization for Coordinators Conference and Weed Conference**

The county requested written reasons why attending the Coordinator Conference benefited the County. This was requested along with the standard travel authorization. Sonny wrote a brief explanation for both the Coordinators Conference and the State Weed Conference. The reasons include opportunities to receive recertification credits, keep abreast of new updated information and, network with other coordinators. Steve made the motion for Sonny and Gerry to attend the Coordinators Conference and the Weed Conference. George seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **Assessment**

Sonny asked if we want to try for an assessment to replace the general fund. Keith said that we should have an assessment. If we have assessment, we can cooperate with the property owners to get rid of the weeds. Steve brought up the idea of a cost share program. Sonny said that the cost share program allows us to work with the property owners to kill the weeds. If the owners don't control the weeds and they don't want us to assist them, the enforcement language is there to back us up.

Keith commented that before we do anything, we must have the Executive on our side. The current executive has not met with the Board. There was a discussion on how to move forward with the assessment and how to sell it. Steve believes that we should sell the program and once it is sold, we can go for an assessment. Selling the program could translate to informing the press about what we do or highlighting a new invader. Sonny admits that he has not been active in promoting the program in the newspaper. There have been several articles in the paper about the Weed Board over the years. The Board feels that there is currently a high level of transparency created by open Board meetings and our reporting and record keeping. By mapping the weeds, we can show that we are making progress and are accountable for the money spent. Selling our progress and successes is the hard part.

- **Action item: Sonny will figure out how to sell the program.**
- **Action item: Sonny will gather parcel data and acreage figures for an assessment.**

## **Election**

Sonny said that the chairman signs his timesheet as supervisor. The vice-chairman will sign his timesheet in the absence of the chairman. Keith nominated Steve to be the new chairman. George seconded the nomination. The motion was approved. George nominated Keith as the vice-chairman. Steve seconded the nomination. The motion was approved.

## **Power-point presentation**

Sonny gave a brief power-point presentation showing a gradient map of the progress made on Spartina in Skagit Bay from 2005-2009.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20

Respectfully submitted by: Geraldine Saw, Sonny Gohrman