

Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

Thursday, June 6th, 2024, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Central Kitsap Fire Station #56, 6470 Seabeck Hwy NW, Bremerton WA 98312

Members present: Courtney Brooks (South Kitsap), Dylan Mendenhall (Bremerton, Chair), Wendy Westerlund (Bainbridge Island, Vice Chair), Terese Walters (North Kitsap), Jade Jarvis (Staff), Kirvie Yobech (Staff), Garrett Ballew (Staff).

Absent: Shannon Rose (Central Kitsap) excused, Jess Sappington (WSU) excused.

Guests: 2 members of the public, one in-person and one via Zoom.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with quorum.

Approval of meeting agenda: Courtney moves to adopt agenda, seconded by Terese, passed unanimously with Wendy abstaining.

Jade requests agenda item 3.f. be changed to “Establish Committees” so that more than just Outreach can be discussed. Dylan moves to adopt agenda with amendment to item 3.f., seconded, passed unanimously.

Conflicts of Interest: Dylan holds discussion on how board should handle potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts disclosed.

Public Comment: Resident Pat Everly of Seabeck commented in person on the need for weed wrenches in the community; described efforts to control scotch broom along her local DNR road. Highlighted the need for various sizes of weed wrench, especially smaller, lighter options.

Resident Josephine Bennion of Port Orchard commented via Zoom about noxious weeds on her property, specifically Garlic Mustard - reporting no new sprouts in two weeks. Described efforts to hand pull the infestation after site visit from Program Coordinator.

Minutes: Motion by Dylan, seconded by Terese to approve the minutes dated February 29, 2024, passed unanimously.

General Business:

Public hearing on revisions to bylaws and ethics guidelines

- No public comments
- Staff (Jade) comments: These are initial updates; reminder that board can continue to refine bylaws as program develops.
- Dylan makes motion to adopt revised bylaws, seconded by Terese
- Board Discussion:
 - o Why is vision not included in Bylaws?
 - o Vision is aspirational; Board is held to the Mission, which is in Bylaws
 - o Courtney – structural questions, Conflict of Interest needs to be included in Bylaws, concerned that removal from bylaws into ethical guidelines will not hold same weight
 - o Discussion about changing the title of “Ethical Guidelines” to something more enforceable; landed on Ethics Policy and Procedures.

- Dylan moved to amend all references to “Ethical Guidelines” to now be “Ethics Policy and Procedures” in the Bylaws, seconded by Wendy. Passed Unanimously
- Reminder to change any references of “citizens” to “residents”
- Dylan provides overview of revisions to Bylaws
- Moved by Dylan to approve Bylaws with amendments discussed; seconded by Wendy, passed.
- Dylan introduces Ethics Guidelines (now Ethics Policy and Procedures)
- Dylan moved to amend the Ethics Guidelines title to Ethics Policy and Procedures
- Seconded and approved unanimously

Board Secretary Position

- Discussion
 - Primary duty is to record meeting minutes
 - No Board member wants to take on duty
 - Dylan moved to table discussion, seconded by Wendy. All in favor and carries unanimously

Establishing Committees

- Coordinator (Jade) hopes to establish both an Outreach and an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy committee, so the board and staff can work more nimbly on program development.
- Discussion:
 - Board decides to establish more informal “working groups” instead of committees
 - Courtney and Dylan volunteer for Outreach working group
 - Wendy volunteers for IMP policy working group

Program Updates

- Budget presentation provided by staff; answered clarifying questions on program budget and budget process from the board
- Tool Library proposal provided by Dylan
 - Discussion on community need, and possibility of utilizing Kitsap Regional Library’s existing “kit” system (astronomy or backpacking kits for example) as a way to provide regional checking in/out, tracking, transportation of weed tools
 - Could also partner with or gift wrenches to land trusts, conservation district, or local community groups for easier access/distribution among community
 - Board decides to table discussion to think more on various options proposed
- List of potential contractors for landowners
 - Jade provided overview of how the provider list was created
- Disposal voucher pilot
 - Jade provided overview of Free Noxious Weed Disposal Pilot Program
 - Could be outreach topics and educating residents about how to dispose noxious weeds
- Landowner Reimbursement Program
 - Jade provided overview of proposed reimbursement program details to be ironed out further during development of IPM
 - Include modifiers including hardships and ability, (many other factors to consider)
 - Question: could we work with individual cities to establish NW control programs?
 - Yes, we hope to but have not at this point
- Long Lake – IAVMP
 - Jade provided overview of the Long Lake project and implementation of IAVMP

- County Roads
 - o Jade provided overview of how County Roads treats noxious weeds in the County
 - o Emphasize outreach about Rights of Way and private landowner responsibilities
- Public Interaction
 - o Jade reported on past six months of noxious weed reports, and top species reported
- Proposal to hold special meeting over the summer to discuss program
 - o Potentially need to meet in the summer to discuss budget needs
 - o Board will wait to decide on additional meeting until it is determined there is a need

Dylan moves to adjourn the meeting, Wendy seconded. 8:38PM