

NOXIOUS WEED BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2015
Deschutes County Board Hearing – Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS Present:

Spring Olson
Jerry Rood
Christina Veverka
Randall Brady

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE and OTHERS Present:

Ed Keith
Anthony Ortgies
Mike Crumrine
Warren Glenn

MINUTES

A quorum of Board members was not present; minutes for October 8, 2015 were not acted upon.

Old Business

Educational items for use in the weed wagon or other events:

Christina had some educational items for review.

- Knappy tattoo (knapweed on the run, used for LPT events)
- ODA also has hitchhikin' spike magnet – contact Tristan Berg at ODA for supplies of this item
- No invasive plants icon (generic weed)
- Aquatic Invasives – stop the spread
- Multiple zebra mussel graphics

Mike also mentioned images related to the play, clean, go campaign – Beth Meyers-Shenai at ODA can supply graphics related to this campaign.

Christina presented a price list from multiple web based companies.

Actions agreed to:

Mike will check into magnets through ODA

Christina will check into use of the spike or knappy image for tattoos or other items

All will provide input and thoughts on other graphics by the next meeting

Christina has looked into activity books but has not found an ideal one to use yet. She had examples from Idaho, Washington, Canada, and Salt Lake City.

Input from the group was to develop 2-3 single page coloring sheets focused on local invasive plants (knapweed, toadflax) and see how they were received and used before spending more time on an entire booklet that may not be utilized.

Seed mixes:

Christina has Idaho fescue, bottlebrush squirrel tail and yarrow she can provide for native seed mixes. She provided a sample label and planting instructions for review. These seed mixes should help to carry the message of restoration, and possibly point people to other sources for additional seed if needed.

Action items:

Spring will verify with Oregon Feed Store and Helena on current availability of mixes

Christina will check with Berta about exactly what may be available through the native seed bank.

One page spotted knapweed information sheet:

Jon and Christina have developed a draft information sheet. This is similar to a BMP handout that Ed already hands out to landowners with knapweed.

Input from the group was to downsize it to the rack card size (4" w x 9" tall) and simplify. Show 2-3 pictures on the front of the card, one paragraph on identification, one paragraph on how to manage on the back, then include a 'for more information' section.

Enforcement:

Ed gave an overview of what is currently taking place in regards to enforcement procedures. When the ordinance passed it included language that stated enforcement would follow the County policy on how code was enforced. This was also covered as part of the public hearing process. Due to that, enforcement has proceeded when complaints are received. Prior to the ordinance there were no enforcement procedures or way to bring cases to court that were consistent with County code. Last week the first enforcement case made its way to court and the defendant was found guilty and was given a 60 day injunction to treat the weeds on his property.

The question was raised at October's meeting was how do we go beyond complaint based enforcement? Ed described that if the County were to go beyond enforcement based on complaints it would have to be done in a systematic way of looking at all properties in the County over a period of time so no one group landowners or area was unfairly targeted. Priority areas and a plan could be agreed to by the noxious weed board. Because of limited time this would involve shifting priorities away from site visits with landowners who are seeking assistance and educational activities and presentations where Ed is currently spending his time.

Warren asked if issuing press releases describing the requirements in code and asking for complaints might raise awareness. He also said it might overwhelm Ed if response was high. There was general discussion on what properties might be targeted, however most properties mentioned were within the City of Bend and subject to City code, not County code. This is a topic that may need further discussion with more board members present so the item was tabled for this meeting.

New Business

Recognition:

Spring mentioned that the Put a Shine on La Pine was a good example of citizens providing leadership on noxious weed issues that needs to be recognized at a County or even State level. She asked for input on how we can recognize people for their efforts towards noxious weeds. People were supportive of the concept of recognizing people's efforts when they step up take action on weeds. Mike thought we might want to divide it into different 'classes' such as

individual, businesses, etc. When recognition takes place we can also do a press release or present the award at a Board of Commissioners meeting which might garner more attention from the local media.

Ed will check with Whitney Malkin on recognition procedures for County boards. Everyone is asked to think about what we call the award. Some ideas discussed were “weed warrior” and “weed hero”.

Roundtable

Mike: Has been busy throughout region on projects, but possibly the highlight for this season is treatment of a full river mile on the Metolius River for ribbon grass and yellow flag iris. He has kept busy with other treatments with the Forest Service and other landowners as well.

Randall: His HOA had Specialty Spray apply a pre-emergent in their HOA common area for their turf areas which has very good results in reducing black medic and other unwanted species.

Spring: Has been busy collecting and cleaning seed.

Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting set for December 10th, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED 5:03 p.m. NEXT MEETING December 10, 2015

Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodations to make participation possible, please call Kelli Candella (541) 322-7104 or send email to Kelli.Candella@deschutes.org.