

**Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District  
Annual Weed Committee Meeting  
Miller Woods Conference Room  
June 10, 2015  
Meeting Report and Minutes**

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) convened the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Following introductions, Larry Ojua reviewed the purposes of the meeting:

1. To provide updates and share information on noxious weed control activities
2. Discuss potential partnerships and cooperative projects
3. Discuss the interest in, and the feasibility of a weed control district
4. Update the county noxious weed list

**Updates and Information Sharing**

Mike Crabtree, provided an update on district weed activities for the past year. He discussed the knotweed project and reported that approximately 80% of the known sites were treated this year. The district has about 60 known sites of knotweed on its inventory.

Mike also reported on the Spurge Laurel control project west of McMinnville (Ramsey Tree Farm site). This project consists of approximately 100 acres, which was originally a solid stand of Spurge Laurel. After several years of treatment, Mike now believes this site is about 92% controlled. The district has received help from Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon State Weed Board grant program. The property recently changed ownership, and the new owners are very interested in cooperating on weed control.

Mike also provided an overview of the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program the district is initiating. Larry Ojua talked about the outreach work the district is doing with newspaper articles and the district website.

Vern Holm reported on the work of the Western Invasives Network. He briefed the group on Garlic Mustard, which was recently found in Yamhill County, near Parrot Mountain. This weed is a problem in Multnomah, Clackamas, Hood River, Columbia and other counties adjacent to Yamhill. Vern asked folks to contact ODA, the district, or his organization if they find populations of Garlic Mustard. It is important to limit the spread of this weed by using good management practices (such as cleaning equipment), because this plant spreads easily.

Tim Butler informed the group that biological controls for Garlic Mustard are being studied; however, they are waiting on approval from APHIS and other agencies that need to provide approval of new biological control methods. Joe Buttafuoco from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) commented that Garlic Mustard seed can stay viable in the soil for over 15 years.

Vern also provided a report on *ludwigia*, an aquatic plant that is causing problems in backwater areas along the Willamette River. This weed has negative impacts on water quality and quantity, and recreation. Vern commented that his organization is partnering with the Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network and 45 other entities to do scouting, inventory, and mapping of the weed. Marie Vicksta reported that this weed has been identified on Grand Island. Tristen Berg from ODA commented that ODA can provide brochures and other information this weed and other problem weeds.

Steve Kindel from Yamhill County reported on the work they are doing to revise their roadside policies, working with a local advisory committee. The county hasn't done much spraying of noxious weeds along roadsides over the past two years while the committee has worked on revising its policies. He commented on some positive spray trials he has conducted to enhance Kincaid's lupine, by controlling unwanted grass species. He also said the county is looking at best practices to keep equipment clean, like using leaf blowers to clean equipment after working on sites with noxious weed infestations.

Michal Wert commented that the county identifies its major road improvement projects annually, and it would be helpful to have a data overlay showing known problem weeds and other inventory data. This information could help them understand where the county needs to do outreach, plan for weed problems and/or decontamination practices, etc. Tim Butler said he would explore how ODA could share their information.

Luke Westphal and Neyssa Hays provided an overview of the watershed council's activities relating to noxious weed control. They are interested in supporting inventory work for knotweed or other species, and are involved with community groups, high school students and others who could be potential partners in the future.

Kurt Heckerth from BLM talked about work in Tillamook County with partners who work cooperatively to identify and control weed populations on private lands. They utilize funding from grants and the local conservation district.

Gordon Cook, district board member and member of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee commented about the need for publications that identify weeds and describe plant characteristics. Tristen commented that ODA has a variety of publications available to the public. ODA has revised their website and has good pictures, plant descriptions, distribution maps and other

information. She also suggested that people can be added to their list-serve to receive updates and other information. People should contact Tristen if interested.

Michal Wert commented that the county public works department plans to work with local partners to gain additional inventory data as the county implements its new roadside vegetation policy. This information could be shared with others in the group.

Joe from TNC discussed the work they are doing on two properties in Yamhill County. They are concerned about Mouse-ear Hawkweed that is competing with Kincaid's lupine on their property. TNC is working with ODA on this project, focusing on spring treatments. Joe would like to see Mouse-ear Hawkweed added to the county noxious weed list. Joe also talked about some of the oak restoration work TNC is doing on the Gahr Farm, near Muddy Valley. The property has a population of Spurge Laurel. There is a good opportunity for TNC and the conservation district to partner on future control efforts.

Sam Sweeney, district director, suggested the group continue to support establishment of grassed ditches along roadsides. The grass ditches filter sediments and help improve water quality. He believes that managing grassed road ditches is cost effective and the ditches provide long-term benefits. Sam also discussed his concerns about spraying roadsides near streams and along sloped areas that drain to waterways.

Dave Cruickshank commented on the outreach material ODA created regarding spray drift. The information is good, but he suggested having it sent out earlier in the spring ahead of bud-break in vineyards. Tim Butler said he would look into the timing of this outreach.

Kim Hudnall from NRCS commented that the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program could be a source of support for brush control.

Tim Butler from ODA, talked about their efforts to secure funding to pilot the establishment of new weed districts. They have been unable to get legislative support for this, but will continue to pursue a proposal in the next legislative session. He suggested that local input and advocacy supporting noxious weed programs and formation of weed districts is key in gaining legislative support. He also said that ODA will be working to set up a one-day workshop regarding best management practices for English Ivy control.

## **Additions and Modifications to the Yamhill County Noxious Weed List**

It was the consensus of the group to update the Noxious Weed List as follows:

- Move Small Broomrape from the “A” list to the “B” list
- Change the description of Japanese Knotweed to Knotweed (various)
- Add Mouse-ear Hawkweed to the “A” list
- Add *ludwigia* to the “T” list

## **Other Topics**

- The group voiced interest in exploring the feasibility of forming a weed district. A fall meeting will be schedule to discuss this issue.
- The concept of a weed-free gravel sources is a potential topic for a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM

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Attendance List:        June 10, 2015

Luke Westphal	Greater Yamhill Watershed Council	<a href="mailto:Luke@gywc.org">Luke@gywc.org</a>
Michael Crabtree	Yamhill Soil and Water Cons. District	<a href="mailto:michael.crabtree@or.nacdnet.net">michael.crabtree@or.nacdnet.net</a>
Vern Holm	Western Invasives Network	<a href="mailto:weeds@casadepacific.org">weeds@casadepacific.org</a>
Steve Kindel	Yamhill Co. Public Works	<a href="mailto:kindels@co.yamhill.or.us">kindels@co.yamhill.or.us</a>
Tim Butler	Oregon Department of Agriculture	<a href="mailto:tbutler@oda.state.or.us">tbutler@oda.state.or.us</a>
Kim Hudnall	Natural Resources Cons. Service	<a href="mailto:kim.hudnall@or.usda.gov">kim.hudnall@or.usda.gov</a>
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Joe Buttafuoco	The Nature Conservancy	<a href="mailto:jbuttafuoco@tnc.org">jbuttafuoco@tnc.org</a>
Michal Wert	Citizen and Road Impr. Advisory Comm.	<a href="mailto:mwert@teleport.com">mwert@teleport.com</a>
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