

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District
Annual Weed Committee Meeting
Miller Woods Conference Room
June 8, 2016
Meeting Reports and Minutes

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

Following introductions, the June 10, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Vern Holm moved and Michal Wert seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates and Information Sharing

Mike Crabtree provided an update on the district weed activities for the past year. He discussed the Knotweed project and reported the program has been successful in controlling Knotweed in approximately 80% of the 60 known sites of the district's Knotweed inventory. The district will continue to spray these sites annually.

Mike reported on the progress of the Spurge Laurel control project west of McMinnville. He found significant native plants and grasses growing, replacing the monoculture of the Spurge Laurel. He considers the site 92% controlled and plans to address other infestations within the project area utilizing grant funding.

Mike provided an overview of the success of the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program the district initiated. He emphasized the objective of this program is to report new, emerging weeds before they become invasive to an area. He recommended removing Yellow Archangel from the list due to its pervasiveness. The district will continue to treat these weeds on a case-by-case basis. The group recommended adding Orange Hawkweed, Oblong Spurge, Policeman's Helmet and False-Brome to the EDRR list. These lists are shared with Polk SWCD and Benton SWCD to maximize efforts.

Mike also reported the district's Weed Watch campaign will begin its second year of outreach. The series will focus again on Tansy Ragwort, Scotch broom, Knotweed and English ivy. Vern shared the success of the Columbia Gorge area's Weed of the Month campaign and suggested the committee consider a similar program. It combines the efforts of local districts, county staff, master gardeners and other concerned groups to extensively focus on one noxious weed each month. All parties share the same collateral materials promoting awareness through print and online media channels.

Michal Wert provided an update on the Yamhill County Roadside Management Plan. The Public Works manager requested the committee continue for another two year term to assist the Public Works Department with implementation and strategies.

Steve Kindel from Yamhill County Public Works reported the county sprayed for Scotch broom this spring. The county is moving cautiously in their spraying efforts. Michal suggested a press release be crafted before a spraying project begins to alert the public and dispel confusion.

More outreach is required and the group discussed outreach strategies. More targeted information is needed to specific areas which should include identification photos. Mike is sending a mass mailing out to targeted areas with information on Garlic Mustard. Sam Sweeney suggested the public works department post informational documents and photos on the county website in a location easily found by the public.

Garlic Mustard is spreading through heavy equipment and soil being moved from one location to another. The best practices portion of the new policy is aimed at preventing the spreading of Garlic Mustard through these means.

Vern updated the group on the strategies being implemented for controlling Ludwigia. 45 groups are working together in the affected areas to spray and control this very invasive and damaging weed.

A discussion ensued about the creation of a Yamhill County Weed Board. Sam reiterated a 1990 discussion stating that the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners is the Weed Board and the Yamhill SWCD (district) is the inspector. The district is not an enforcement arm nor do they wish to take on this responsibility.

Beth introduced new information on ODA's weed program. There is a need to bolster this program, which focuses statewide on the highest priority A weeds and supports B weeds. The Noxious Weed Control Program is proposing a package which includes significant funding for county weed control programs. These resources would allow individual counties to address noxious weeds in their area, which may not be on the statewide list. They would also like to hire an aquatic weed specialist. Beth encouraged the group to provide comments on the package at the appropriate time.

Yamhill SWCD just passed the district budget which designates \$5000 towards weed control.

Additions and Modifications to the Yamhill County Noxious Weed List

The group reviewed the current Yamhill County Noxious Weed List and had consensus to move the Yellow Archangel from the A list to the B list.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Attendance List: June 8, 2016

Michael Crabtree	Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District	michael@yamhillswcd.org
Steve Kindel	Yamhill Public Works	kindels@co.yamhill.or.us
Vern Holm	Western Invasives Network	weeds@cascadepacific.org
Dave Cruickshank	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	dcruickswcd@onlinenw.com
Sam Sweeney	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	sweeneyfarm@aol.com
Michal Wert	Citizen and Road Impr. Advisory Comm.	mwert@teleport.com
Gordon Cook	SWCD and Road Impr. Advisory Comm.	gordoco@upwardaccess.com
Marie Vicksta	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	marie@yamhillswcd.org
Beth Myers-Shenai	ODA/Integrated Weed Mgmt. Coord.	smyers@oda.state.or.us
Susan Aldrich-Markham	Yamhill County Resident	susan.aldrich.markham@frontier.com
Mary King	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	mary@yamhillswcd.org