

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District  
Annual Weed Committee Meeting  
Miller Woods Conference Room  
July 12, 2017  
Meeting Reports and Minutes

The Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (district) convened the meeting at 10:09am.

Following introductions, the July 12, 2017 minutes were reviewed.

**Update on Noxious Weed Projects & Activities:** Mike provided an update on the district weed activities for the past year.

**Knotweed:** Mike discussed the Knotweed project and reported the District is continuing to control knotweed in known sites in Yamhill County. He recognized that the work is ongoing and is hopeful that the biocontrol developed by OSU/WSU staff is approved. Luke Westphal, GYWC, applied for a grant that would include the ability to GPS Knotweed locations as people are counting fish in the streams.

**Early Detection and Rapid Response:** Mike provided an overview of the Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program for last year. He emphasized the objective of this program is to report new, emerging weeds before they become invasive to an area. Garlic Mustard is at the top of the list and aggressively being sprayed or pulled to keep this noxious weed at bay in Yamhill County.

**Weed Watch:** The Yamhill SWCD continues to publicize a specific noxious weed each quarter. Garlic Mustard was the most recent choice and the information with photos was publicized in the News Register, in the district's newsletter, in flyers and on the website.

**Update on Yamhill County Public Works:** Steve Kindel reported the county has not been spraying roadsides. They were shut down due to citizen complaints. The Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee spent two years writing policy and it was approved. Vern expressed concern as to why the policy that addresses citizen complaints was not followed.

**New Weeds of Concern:**

- **Garlic Mustard:** Mike reported on Garlic Mustard populations in several places in Yamhill County. He and Luke have been pulling these weeds in a newly discovered population located at Heather's Hallow Park in McMinnville. The seeds are spread by mowing and driving vehicles from infected area to another. Mike has informed several heavy equipment users of the potential of spreading these seeds from one location to another.
- **Knapweed:** Vern led the discussion on Knapweed. He is recommending the weed committee create fact sheets and flyers to educate the public about this weed. The information could be distributed to farm stores, equipment rental businesses and many other places. Roadside signs might be a good way to get the photos and information out for identifying this and other noxious weeds.

**Willamette Aquatic Invasives Updates:** Ludwigia spp continues to be a huge concern in the channels of the Willamette River. Spraying continues but it is very fast growing and now threatens to plug inlets to irrigation districts.

**Outreach Strategies:** Vern suggested that along with Marion and Polk SWCD's we select one noxious weed at a time and create a poster with information. The weed committee will saturate the county with posters at farm stores, trailheads, Master Gardner events, OSU Extension and other locations. A mailing could be sent to residents in the areas of the specific noxious weed with instructions on how to control it.

**Sherman County Organics:** One 2000 acre organic wheat farm has not been controlling various species of weeds for nearly 6 years now, and neighboring farmers are complaining that the seeds are coming onto their farms. The Sherman county weed board told the offending party to take care of the problem or they will send someone out to spray and charge the owners. Anti-herbicide folks made a video about the ultimatum and it went viral. It cast the weed board in a bad light to the public and now ongoing discussions between the two parties continue to be very public.

This topic is important because the end result will demonstrate whether a weed district does have regulatory ability or whether it is merely advisory in capacity.

**Concept of a County Weed Board:** The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners is the weed board and the district is the inspection arm. Vern spoke to Tim Butler, ODA. He reported that OWEB has approximately \$50,000 to put into the formation of weed boards or special innovative ideas statewide. If the funding is garnered by ODA he suggested we request funds.

**Budget Needs, Future Focus and Partnerships:** Mike announced that he will be investigating the cost of hiring a weed control staff person.

**Additions/Deletions to County Noxious Weed List:** The group decided on the following changes to the weed list:

- Move Purple Loosestrife from County A list to B list
- Move Bamboo from County T list to B list
- Move Garlic Mustard from T list to A list
- Move Lesser Celandine from T list to B list
- Add Puncture Vine to T list

**Other Agenda Items:** Vern shared that other counties have created a voluntary certification to certify that participating gravel pits are weed free. The forms have been created and we would just need to edit them for our county. It can be a great marketing tool for them and inspections are conducted spring and summer. Vern will make a presentation to the YSWCD board in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

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Attendance List:            July 12, 2017

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
Luke Westphal	GYWC	Luke@gywc.org
Gordon Cook	SWCD and Road Impr. Advisory Comm.	gordoco@upwardaccess.com
Marie Vicksta	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	marie@yamhillswcd.org
Bianca Dolan	TNC	
Mary King	Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District	mary@yamhillswcd.org