

## Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board | Q4 Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** WSU Classroom, 345 6<sup>th</sup> St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bremerton, WA 98337

### Members/Staff present:

- Dylan Mendenhall (Bremerton, Chair)
- Courtney Brooks (South Kitsap, Vice Chair), online via Zoom
- Deb Rudnick via Zoom (Bainbridge Island, Secretary), online via Zoom
- Jess Sappington (WSU Extension, ex-officio)
- Jade Jarvis (Program Coordinator, Staff)
- Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech via Zoom (Program Manager, Staff)
- Daria Etchings (Outreach Technician, Staff)

**Absent:** Jess Sappington (WSU Extension, ex-officio)

### Guests:

Andrew Mathewson

Jessica Hartsell

Joseph Fulford, online via Zoom

Matthew Cook

### 1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with quorum.
- b. Review and adopt agenda
  - i. **M:** Dylan moves to adopt agenda. Courtney seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Conflict of interest disclosure
  - i. Dylan discloses personal friendship with Jessica Hartswell and will abstain from voting in recommendation process.

### 2. Public Comment

- None.

### 3. Meet the Board (Optional introductions by applicants)

- a. Dylan, Deb, Courtney, and Jess and program staff introduce themselves.
- b. Andrew introduces himself- Engaged and involved in a multitude of community groups, and passionate about community.

- c. Jessica introduces herself- Master of Science in Forestry, Chair of the South Sound Chapter of the WA Native Plant Society. Has land that she actively manages for invasive species.
- d. Matt introduces himself- NOAA fisheries biologist, experience in stream restoration, works with stakeholders to develop aquaculture techniques, rearing larva, passionate about developing efficiencies and aware of footprint.
- e. Amy was unable to attend.
- f. Jodi (Joseph) introduces himself- He has 23 acres of forest and pastureland, growing apple orchard; took herbicide/pesticide courses to receive license, and has independent experience in dealing with invasive species.

#### 4. Program Updates (Jade)

##### a. Outreach

- i. Outreach recap of events since Q3 meeting including the Native Plant Seminar, EDRR Training, Island Lake Community Meeting, Salmon Tours, and the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Roundtable.
  - a. Roundtable takeaways: Public perception of herbicide and conflicting policies in the county.
- ii. Deb recaps the Bainbridge Island Land Trust Native Plant Sale which had lots of participation and partnered with Weed Warriors coordinator.
- iii. Deb relays message of massive amount of noxious biomass in disposal facilities and discusses the idea of biochar; Jade discusses reaching out to Tills to understand how they break down weeds.

##### b. Disposal Program

- i. Statistics are presented for the 2025 disposal program.
- ii. Q: Deb asks if there is a way to distinguish between landowners bringing in their weeds and landscaping companies? Jade answers no, but that is something we can discuss to require for the 2026 program.

##### c. Roundtable

- i. The Roundtable takeaways were discussed earlier in the Outreach recap. The array of participating organizations is discussed.

##### d. Landowner Assistance Program

- i. The Program, which is under contract with Environmental Restoration & Stormwater Management (ERSM), has initiated 5-6 knotweed sites in control work in North Kitsap.
- ii. Jade is compiling a list of potential candidates for next season.

##### e. Long Lake Project

- i. The grant ended and the project will be ending soon.

##### f. Public Lands Monitoring Project

- i. Jade discusses miscommunication between the potential contractor, where the contractor does not believe they can survey 14,000 acres under the budgeted \$130,000. The contractor proposed the County compile a list of priority parcels to see what would be doable.
- ii. The board discusses comparison of contract pricing for this type of work.
  - a. **Q:** Deb asks Dylan if he knows organizations and companies that could provide second opinions for pricing. Dylan replies yes.
- iii. The board discusses re-issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP).
  - a. Shannon expresses worry about reissuing the RFP and having no one apply.
  - b. Deb expresses that researching second opinions may be worthwhile and it may not derail the whole process.
  - c. Dylan proposes having a special meeting in late November/early December to re-evaluate this topic.
- iv. **A:** Jade will provide priority parcels to the contractor to receive their final work offer, and he will also get second opinions on work pricing from outside organizations.

## 5. General Business

### a. Approve Minutes: August 27, 2025

- i. **M:** Dylan moves to approve the minutes from August 27, 2025. Motion passes unanimously.

### b. Board Applications

- i. There are 2 applications for North Kitsap, 2 applications for South Kitsap, and 1 application for Central Kitsap.
  - a. Dylan states that the board can recommend all the applicants, but it may be a disservice to the Board of Commissioners and that the current weed board should provide specific recommendations.
- ii. Central Kitsap – 1 application
  - a. The board reviews Amy Lawrence’s application.
  - b. **M:** Dylan moves to nominate Amy for the Central Kitsap board position. Courtney seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- iii. North Kitsap – 2 applications
  - a. The board reviews both Joseph’s and Andrew’s applications.
  - b. Courtney discusses recommending both candidates to the Board of Commissioners. Dylan proposes moving Joseph forward due to his agricultural experience.
  - c. **M:** Dylan moves to nominate Joseph for the North Kitsap board position. Deb seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- iv. South Kitsap – 2 applications
  - a. The board reviews both Jessica’s and Matthew’s applications.
  - b. Jade expresses agreement with Matthew’s work in efficiency and reducing footprint and costs.
  - c. M: Deb moves to nominate Jessica for the South Kitsap board position. Courtney seconds. Dylan abstains from voting. Motion passes.
- c. Budgeting for 2026
  - i. The board discusses potential uses for the program’s budgeting surplus:
    - a. Expanding landowner assistance and forming interlocal agreements (ILAs) with cities
      - a. Deb expresses reinstating ILAs will allow cities to reprioritize weed control
    - b. Extending monitoring program
      - a. Jade expresses concern for committing surplus money that will not replenish and allow for sustaining work
    - c. Increase the disposal program budget
    - d. Increase the public lands survey budget

## 6. Comments from Exiting Board Members

- a. Courtney expresses a need for continued outreach. She suggests sending out postcards, which is how she first heard about noxious weeds.

## 7. Adjournment

- a. M: Dylan moves to adjourn meeting. Deb seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:56 p.m.