

Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board | Supplemental Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online Only via Zoom

Members/Staff present:

- Dylan Mendenhall (Bremerton, Chair)
- Deb Rudnick (Bainbridge Island, Secretary)
- Jody Fulford (North Kitsap)
- Jessica Hartsell (South Kitsap)
- Jess Sappington (WSU Extension, ex-officio)
- Jade Jarvis (Program Coordinator, Staff)
- Daria Etchings (Outreach Technician, Staff)

Absent:

- Amy Lawrence (Central Kitsap)

Guests:

Kim Greenwood

Unnamed observer

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. with quorum.
- b. Review and adopt agenda
 - i. **M:** Dylan moves to add extra meeting agenda to discuss the timber rights in Port Gamble Heritage Park. Jody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Conflict of interest disclosure
 - i. No conflicts of interest.

2. Public Comment

- None.

3. Program Updates

- a. Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) (Jade)
 - i. Jade discusses having initial outreach with City of Bainbridge Island Public Works.
 - ii. **Q:** Jody asks why can't the city hire their own contract? Deb answers because of the city's code, they cannot accomplish it.
 - iii. **Q:** Dylan asks if the county would be matching funds with the city? Jade answers the city may be requesting funds to match but will get more details in the meeting.

- iv. Dylan makes note that administrative tasks of these ILAs may be burdensome for Jade. Jade answers that the workload could be detailed out in the ILA.
- v. Dylan states if we do match funds, that there should be specific perimeters around certain species, competitive pricing, etc.
- b. Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) Projects (Jade)
 - i. Jade summarizes potential project ideas given by Parks. These sites are post-restoration/thinning where noxious weeds have popped up.
 - ii. Jody states there is DNR funds separate for invasive removal field work and is something to investigate.
 - iii. Dylan mentions some concerns about lack of forest management plan/invasive management plan and doing pulling there that may not be advantageous.
 - iv. Dylan suggests more intentional planning for WCC projects for next year.
- c. Landowner Assistance Program (Jade)
 - i. The board discusses approval of the name of the program as the “Stewardship Assistance Program” (SAP).
 - a. Q: Jessica asks why change the name from “Private Landowner Assistance Program”? Jade answers that not just landowners will be utilizing the program (e.g. renters, small private companies who own land, etc). Jade notes that for renters, details about landowner consent will be explicit in the ILA.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Approve minutes February 11, 2026
 - i. M: Dylan moves to approve the minutes for February 11, 2026. Jody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Budget
 - i. Dylan discusses being under budget for 2024, and that the surplus is losing money over time.
 - ii. Field Crews
 - a. Q: Jessica suggests field crews and wondering if we can pull together data and information for a proposal for this year, even if for a week or two?
 - b. Dylan replies to our mapping project is primarily to inform this type of work so it’s advantageous to wait.
 - iii. Program Vehicle
 - a. Jody suggests investing in a truck/vehicle.
 - b. Dylan suggests maybe a passenger vehicle.

- c. **A:** Jade will investigate the county process into acquiring a vehicle to see options and costs.
- d. **M:** Jody moves to ask Jade to find out more information about requiring a vehicle through the county process. Dylan moves to amend to request that the weed coordinator provide further information on potential need for a vehicle and associated costs. Jody accepts the amendment. Motion passes unanimously.

iv. ILAs

- a. Deb echoes that field work is important and that doing it intentionally is important. For her district, Bainbridge Island (BI) is in need mostly of an ILA. Since the previous ILA, BI has lost a lot of ground in rights-of-way.
- b. Dylan describes pursuing ILAs to promote action from municipalities may be worthwhile with tackling specific species.
- c. Dylan would suggest using \$100,000 for ILAs with a 50% match.
 - a. Jade echoes the desire for a match by municipalities to show their investment.
- d. **Q:** Jody asks if there is support from the city of Bainbridge Island to fund this?
 - a. Deb states there used to be a \$50,000 pot of money that was dedicated to this in the past.
- e. **Q:** Jody asks if there are other municipalities with “shovel ready” projects?
 - a. Jade states there is definitely a presence of weeds in cities, and he is aware of both Bremerton and Poulsbo that would probably positively receive funding.
- f. Dylan discusses using the high priority species for our SAP for ILAs with matching funds.
 - a. Jessica notes that removing other weeds not on the priority list could also be advantageous if a municipality’s proposal looks good.
 - b. Dylan describes support in strategic removal of more abundant weeds, but structuring an ILA around it may be tricky and determined case-by-case.
- g. Deb notes capacity issues with administrative tasks and Jade’s time.

- a. Jade describes building a standard ILA for all municipalities and that for review for other species/projects, the board would need a long-term strategy/management plan.
 - h. Dylan poses requesting 100k from the program's surplus for ILAs to target our priority weeds from our SAP.
 - a. Deb questions the allocation of the money, but if it is just a ballpark figure, then that is a good place to start.
 - b. M: Dylan moves to increase the budget by \$100,000 from the surplus for ILAs to target the priority weeds from our SAP at a 50% match. Jody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - v. M: Dylan moves to increase the budget by \$3,000 to increase the cap of the free disposal program to \$15,000 annually. Deb seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Port Orchard landscaping code (Jessica)
 - i. Jessica describes that the city of Port Orchard is updating landscaping code, with mention to noxious weeds but only calls out knotweed and blackberry.
 - ii. Jessica poses that the city perhaps needs some guidance.
 - a. The code does not explicitly describe what noxious weeds are.
 - b. The city plans to adopt code in May.
 - c. The code is limited to aesthetics of development.
 - iii. Q: Deb asks if they have a separate vegetation management code?
 - a. Jessica does not know at this time.
 - b. Deb wonders if there is other code that fills in the gaps, or if they are not addressing noxious weeds.
 - iv. Jade wonders if there is a template for code needed for municipalities and that county code is thin when it comes to addressing noxious weeds. Jade supports doing a deeper dive into code gaps about noxious weeds.
 - v. Dylan warns against lobbying as a board member and influencing policy.
 - a. Dylan describes having template policies may be helpful as guides for municipalities.
- d. Disposal program (Jade)
 - i. Jade describes the standardization of weed amount on the noxious weeds disposed of going forward. Jade poses using AI to collate the data at the end of the year.
 - ii. Dylan wants to discuss if the board wants to limit the amount of green waste being put into the landfill.

- a. **Q:** Deb asks how other counties are disposing of green waste?
 - a. Jade states he has been exploring into biochar.
 - b. Deb describes maybe forming a subcommittee to work on green waste.
- b. Deb does not know as a board if we should we be suggesting composting noxious weeds.
 - a. Jade does not know if the county's composting services get hot enough to kill seeds.
 - b. Dylan states there is harm funding putting green waste into landfills.
 - c. Dylan describes differentiating species that are to be composted vs landfill.
 - i. Jade describes that people often bring a mix of weeds which may be hard for people to separate.
 - ii. Jade also states that this program is a tangible benefit for landowners so limiting species may limit the benefit.
- c. Jody suggests that removing blackberry from the landfill disposal program could reduce costs and potentially lengthen program.
 - a. Dylan clarifies that blackberry would be composted instead and still paid for by our program.
 - b. Deb and Jess Sappington state that of all the commonly disposed of weeds, blackberry is the most successful to compost.
- d. **M:** Dylan moves to revise the requirements of the disposal program, to require blackberry and English ivy to be disposed of in green waste. Deb seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- e. Port Gamble Heritage Park Timber Rights (Jade)
 - i. Jade describes that the Forest Fund reached out to fundraise for purchasing timber rights in Port Gamble Heritage Park. The group that currently owns the rights may not sell, but the Forest Fund is gathering funds in case they do.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. **M:** Dylan moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. Jody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.