

Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Noxious Weed Control Board Office

Board Members Present: Katherine Humphrey, Valarie Eckloff, Tina Moore, Julie Pirtle, Arthur Smith

Public & Staff Present: Charles Edmonson, Danielle Green, Sofia Sherman

Call to Order – by the Chair at 10:00 am

Adoption of Minutes – **MSC to adopt the minutes.** Katherine moved, Julie 2nd. Motion passed

Introduction of Guests-

Coordinator's Report

- Budget Update – 2026 Budget update. Fund balance is included. It is about halfway through the year and is on schedule. Seasonal help started May 1st and will reflect on the next budget.
- Drafted the proposal to adjust Special Assessment to begin assessing State land which the most recent amendment to the State Noxious Weed Law made this possible. I will start meeting soon with the key people in the County to move this forward.
- Hiring update; about 30 applicants and 4 interviews, the new hires are Sanne Holm and Kelsey Stritmatter, did the onboarding and are now in the field.
- Plummer Lake update signed contract with Evergreen Diving. They will do a survey, map it and removal of any plants. This is scheduled for May 21-24th.
- We are now using our tracking metrics. We should be able to have better end-of-year reports. Tracking road and river miles etc.
- Current total staff hours spent on specie surveys since the last board meeting. Most on Poison Hemlock so far.
- We sent 160 tansy postcards and 45 poison hemlock postcards.
- Spurge Laurel we worked on over the winter, identified 9 landowners and provided in-house treatment for 3 of them. Arthur commented there is a lot in Galvin.
- Lesser Celandine notified 13 landowners and did 1 in-house treatment.
- Poison hemlock notified 33 landowners, 6 resolved, and 11 are still active with the possibility of Notices of violation being sent out. We have also reached out to 4 Agencies 2 responded.
- Tansy Ragwort notified 2 landowners so far it is the start of the season.
- Milk thistle one site treating for the next 7 years.
- 3 certified weed free gravel pits in the area. Danielle has created a system with them.
- Forest Service breakdown, thank you Danielle for the chart, focus is on Holly. They reimburse us for the hours spent. Which was a total of 99 hrs.
- We are doing a more targeted mailout this year, the landowners can expect to see us this year. 30 so far 11-knotweed and 19- purple loosestrife.

- Casey did a partnership with the Cowlitz County Weed board for a Spring workshop, 94 attendees, most of which received 6 credit hours and 1 C& T credit hour. Free.
- Casey has been to 8 events since the last meeting for a total of 375 members that we have talked to, 4 site visits and about 87 staff hours.
- 12 wrenches loaned out so far with approximately 123hrs of use.
- SIP program 8 participants approved, if they max out it will be 3300.
- Charles has been appointed to the State Weed Board as the Rep for the County Weed Boards.
- Casey and Charles met with Port Blakely about a large knapweed infestation.
- We are currently focusing on Poison Hemlock, Gorse is almost eradicated, Tansy Ragwort and Knotweed as well.
- Charles will bring samples of Broom to the next meeting.
- Tansy Ragwort removal days June 26 1-4:30, July 10 1-4:30, at Centralia transfer station and July 18 9-12 and July 25 9-12 Morton transfer station.
- Planning to do an education campaign on common (English) Holly, Himalayan black berry and wild carrot.

Old Business –

- WSDA Organic farms there are 20 certified in the county. We will be doing surveying and enforcing the weed law. We will be talking to them and, if necessary, sending enforcement letters to them and their certifier, so they are drawn into the conversation as well. Talking to them about their weed plan.
- Lewis County has a State Weed Board representative, Bill Zimmerman. He lives in Vancouver.

New Business-

This is a public hearing now.

- **Motion to recommend District 1 reappointment of Katherine Humphrey- Motion by Tina and 2nd by Arthur, motion passed.**

Out of public hearing.

- Arthur wanted to discuss the frequency of the meetings. Discussion followed. It was decided to start the monthly updates.

Comments from Individual Members of the Board – None.

Comments From the Public – None

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Adjournment – 11:26 am by Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Pirtle