



King County

**King County Rural Forest Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, May 16th, 2019 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am
 King Conservation District, Renton**

Commissioner	Present?	Commissioner (Ex-Officio/Non-Voting)	Present?
Monica Paulson Priebe, academic forester (Chair)		Kelsey Ketcheson, WSU Extension	✓
Amy LaBarge, forest ecologist (Vice-Chair)	✓	Brandy Reed, KCD	✓
Laurie Benson, WA DNR	✓	Martie Schramm, USDA Forest Svc.	
Jeff Boyce, rural cities/professional forester	✓		
Andy Chittick, forest product user/forest landowner	✓		
Wendy Davis, private forest landowner	✓		
Wyatt Golding, non-timber values of forest land			
Daryl Harper, forest landowner			
Steve Horton, forest product user/forest landowner	✓		
Li Hsi, forest landowner	✓		
Bernie McKinney, forest landowner/conservation advocate			
Steven Mullen-Moses, affected Indian tribe	✓		
Grady Steere, large forest landowner	✓		

County Staff Present	Guests Present
Richard Martin, DNRP	Lexi Brewer, Puyallup Watershed Initiative
Wendy Sammarco, DNRP	
Bill Loeber, DNRP	
Dave Kimmett, DNRP	
Steve Burke, DNRP	

Motions

01-0516. Motion to approve the draft minutes from the March 21st, 2019 meeting of the Rural Forest Commission as written. Wendy Davis made the motion, Steve Horton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

02-0516. Motion to approve the draft minutes from the April 18th, 2019 conference call of the Rural Forest Commission as written. Grady Steere made the motion, Wendy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Committee Member Steven Mullen-Moses, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Commission Chairperson Monica Paulson Priebe was unable to make this meeting and co-chair Amy LaBarge was running late, so Executive Committee member Steven Mullen-Moses chaired the meeting until Amy arrived.

Draft minutes from the March 21st, 2019 meeting were reviewed and no changes were recommended. Steven called for a motion to approve the March minutes as written, Wendy Davis made the motion, Steve Horton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Draft minutes from the April 18th, 2019 conference call were reviewed and no changes were recommended. Although not a change to the minutes as written, Li Hsi asked that County staff research contamination issues related to recycling centers in King County and report back to the full commission at a later date. Richard Martin noted that although the Commission asked for a staff report on permitting issues related to recycling centers at this meeting, it was decided to postpone the report until the following meeting due to limited available time on the agenda. Steven called for a motion to approve the April minutes as written, Grady Steere made the motion, Wendy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment

Steven Burke, King County Noxious Weeds Program Manager, discussed the county's noxious weeds program and focused on weeds issues of particular interest to forestland owners and managers. Steve reviewed state and county weed statutes and ordinances and outlined the general goals of his program. Although landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds found on their property, the Noxious Weeds Program provides technical support to help with control efforts. Steve stressed that early detection and rapid response was key to limiting establishment and controlling spread of noxious weeds. Program priorities are 1) 100% eradication of Class A weeds, which are often overlooked since they are not widely established, 2) 100% prevention of spread of Class B weeds and 3) support efficient use of assets to control Class C and unregulated weeds.

Noxious weeds staff have eradicated noxious weeds from over 1,400 acres of natural lands in the county and train hundreds of municipal and agency staff annually. Community awareness and investment are key to successful control of noxious weeds.

Steve discussed two noxious weeds of particular concern to forest landowners: yellow archangel, garlic mustard. After 10 years of direct action, garlic mustard is now fully controlled and is considered a management success. Without control, it is likely that garlic mustard would be a dominant forest understory plant.

Steve briefly described Project HELP (Healthy Lands Project), which was launched to focus noxious weed control resources on lands identified as priorities for protection through the County's Land Conservation Initiative (LCI) and, where necessary, adjacent properties. Noxious Weeds program staff will partner with AmeriCorps staff to work proactively with private landowners to control noxious weeds at no cost to the landowner. Although this program will provide initial control, landowners need to be committed to long-term maintenance.

Kelsey Ketcheson noted the importance of educating landowners, especially those enrolled in PBRS and CUT. Steve noted that the HELP program is currently being integrated into the PBRS program, which includes incorporation of noxious weed control strategies into PBRS forest plans. Wendy Sammarco reported that King County foresters work with landowners to address noxious weeds, regardless of whether the property is enrolled in PBRS or identified as a priority for LCI.

There was discussion about the classification system and the formal quarantine list to prohibit the sale and transport of plants considered to be a threat to natural systems should they become established or spread. Steve noted that there are frequent discussions with the nursery industry to gain their support for including species on the quarantine list.

Richard asked Steve to briefly address the use of chemicals to control noxious weeds. Steve stated that there is a county-wide integrated pest management policy that regulates the application of chemicals and that there is formal oversight over the chemicals used and how they are applied. All county staff are fully trained in the use of chemicals and hold the appropriate applicator's license and all chemical use is consistent with state and federal regulations that control the use of herbicides and other chemicals. Steve noted that the County takes a very conservative approach to the application of chemicals and that there are chemicals available to the public off-the-shelf that the County has chosen not to use. Steve stressed that chemicals are used in manner that protects public safety and environmental health. Li asked about the availability of information about chemicals and bmps and Steve directed commission members to the program website for information on weed control options

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-control-practices/ipm.aspx>

Grady reminded Commissioners that a review of the 2009 Rural Forest Commission report will be a key topic for the July meeting and Richard noted that preparatory emails will be forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

After the meeting, commissioners, staff and guests visited Taylor Mountain to view and discuss forest restoration activities. The trip was led by Bill Loeber, Dave Kimmett and Wendy Sammarco.