

COOS COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Owen Building – Large Conference Room, Coquille

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cassie Bouska, Chair
Jason Kral, Vice Chair
Jill Rolfe, Secretary
Ed Cope, Coquille Watershed
Ben Masters, Coquille Watershed
Barbara Negherbon, Member-at-Large

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ivy Randall, Member-at-Large

I. Call to Order

Chair Cassi Bouska called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Adoption of Minutes

The Board reviewed the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion: Jason Kral moved to approve the March 4, 2026 minutes.

Second: Barbara Negherbon.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that there was no official Board meeting in April as it was a work session to review the cost share application and prepare for the associated training.

III. Business

a. Cost Share Program Review

Jill provided an update on the 2026 Cost Share Program and discussed the recent participant training session. Board members complimented Ed Cope on the weed identification and control presentation provided during the training.

Discussion followed regarding participation levels in the Cost Share Program. Members noted that enrollment appears to be declining and discussed potential reasons, including previous participants having adequate herbicide supplies remaining from prior years and increasing reporting requirements associated with grant funding.

The Board discussed opportunities to improve participation and documentation, including:

- Providing additional assistance to landowners completing applications and photo documentation requirements.

- Conducting follow-up outreach with previous participants to evaluate project success and gather program effectiveness data.
- Utilizing County staff to assist with participant follow-up calls.
- Opening the application period earlier and extending its duration.
- Developing a generic application that could be distributed throughout the year and at outreach events.
- Creating educational materials to help applicants understand reporting expectations.

Board members agreed that documenting treatment success through before-and-after photographs will be important for future grant applications and program funding.

Cost Share Program Action Items

- Jill Rolfe will explore creating a generic application form that can be distributed year-round.
- Staff will begin compiling past participant information for follow-up contacts and program effectiveness reporting.
- The Board will continue evaluating methods to improve participation and reduce barriers to enrollment.

b. County Weed List Review

Ed Cope presented a review of the County's current noxious weed list and discussed potential updates.

Ed explained that he compared the County's current list with the Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weed list and records from Oregon Weed Mapper. His recommendation was to initially update the County list so it aligns with the State's designations while retaining County-specific Target (T) designations.

The Board discussed:

- The meaning and purpose of A, B, and T classifications.
- Opportunities to elevate certain species to a higher priority designation within Coos County.
- How local designations could strengthen future grant applications.
- The possibility of adding species of local concern that are not currently listed by the State.
- The importance of developing written justification when County classifications differ from State classifications.

Members also discussed the possibility of seeking public input regarding weeds that should receive additional local attention.

Direction

The Board agreed to review the proposed list prior to the next meeting and identify species that may warrant elevation to higher priority classifications within Coos County.

Ed Cope recommended completing the review process by October 2026 so the updated list can be utilized in future grant applications.

Action Items

- Board members will review the proposed weed list and provide recommendations for local classification changes.
- Staff will place continued weed list review on the next meeting agenda.

c. Coos County Fair

The Board discussed participation in the 2026 Coos County Fair.

Members noted that public interaction at the 2025 Fair was lower than in previous years and attributed some of the decline to booth placement.

Discussion included:

- Requesting booth placement near other natural resource organizations.
- Continuing participation at the Fair for another year before reevaluating.
- Developing outreach materials and promotional handouts.
- Creating QR codes that direct visitors to program information and applications.
- Using the Fair as an opportunity to distribute Cost Share Program information and recruit future participants.

The Board agreed that participation remains worthwhile if a more favorable location can be secured.

Action Items

- Jill Rolfe will contact Fair organizers regarding booth placement near natural resource partners.
- Staff will explore development of QR-code-based outreach materials and postcards.
- The Board will discuss booth materials and outreach displays at a future meeting.

The Board will work toward completing revisions by Fall 2026.

d. EDRR Update

Coos Watershed Association

Ed Cope reported that recent Spartina surveys confirmed the species remains present in all known locations around Coos Bay. Treatment efforts have significantly reduced abundance, although populations remain established and require continued management.

Coquille Watershed Association

Ben Masters reported:

- Monitoring of previously identified infestations continues.
- No new Pinecum populations were observed at the North Bank Lane monitoring site.
- Additional knotweed infestations were identified and added to treatment schedules.
- Seasonal staff onboarding is underway, with field work expected to increase in the coming months.

e. GAG Updates

Members discussed the upcoming Gorse Action Group (GAG) meeting scheduled for June 2, 2026.

Ed Cope noted that the meeting is expected to occur near Pistol River and will include a project site visit hosted by Erin.

No additional GAG actions were reported.

IV. Next Meeting/Agenda Topics

The Board identified the following topics for the next meeting:

1. Continued review of the County Noxious Weed List.
2. Fair participation and booth planning.
3. Follow-up outreach to previous Cost Share participants.
4. Development of outreach materials and QR-code resources.
5. Cost Share Program application revisions.

Staff will also provide an update regarding Fair booth placement and participant outreach efforts.

VI. Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:57 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Jill Rolfe, Secretary

Coos County Noxious Weed Advisory Board