

*TREE, BRUSH, NOXIOUS WEEDS, VEGETATION COMMITTEE*  
*COMMITTEE MINUTES...AUG. 30, 2013*

CALL TO ORDER 11 AM

*PRESENT:* Chairperson Larry Raymer, Valerie Harrison, George Miller, Laura Frazier and our new trustee Larry Amundson. *GUESTS:* Larry Nelsen and Jim Romaggi. *ABSENT:* Lee Hill, Bill Johnson and G.V. Williamson.

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new committee trustee, Larry Amundson, to the committee and an explanation and review of the previous history of committee activities. Chairperson Raymer introduced himself and that he had been a part of the committee since 2006 and chairperson since 2007.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:

In 2006 there were 475 outstanding tree complaints. At this time there was not a Compliance Officer. The "Tree Committee" had the responsibility to investigate the validity of the complaints and initiate further enforcement if required. In early 2007 the position of Compliance Officer was approved. With the help of the General Manager, committee and chairperson, they trained with the Compliance Officer. At this time the tree complaints grew to nearly 600. The General Manager and a Board member requested that the committee research a recommended solution for disposal of tree trimmings and yard debris.

In response to the disposal question, the committee consulted with the State, ORCA (clean air people), Pacific County, DNR (Department of Natural Resources), and District 1 fire chief. A chipping program was done with the help of ORCA for a one week trial with three empty dumpsters for the chips and debris. The successful results of this trial were presented to the Board with a request and recommendation the committee move forward with a continuation of the program. This request was denied by the Board.

The committee initiated a community education program that included qualified guest speakers who spoke on the care of trees, shrubs and other plantings. Written hand out material was provided by WSU, District one fire department and the Pacific County Noxious Weed Board.

ACTIVE CURRENT TREE COMPLAINTS:

The committee discussed three (3) active tree complaints. Number 1 was reviewed by the Board and tabled it from further action. Number 2, the representative of the property owner was going to start working on this on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Number 3, Laura gave to committee chairperson the complaint to review for further action.

#### NOXIOUS WEEDS:

The committee has been in continuous contact with the Pacific County Vegetation Board Director Jeff Nesbitt regarding noxious weeds. The committee Chairperson and the County Vegetation Board Director did a survey of Surfside and found that there were many lots with noxious weeds. Jeff was present at two of the tree committee meetings and spoke on ways to control and dispose of the weeds. He further stated that this was not a one shot program but would take several years of hard work to try to control this problem.

The committee chairperson and other members of the committee did a survey and noted that there were in excess of 500 lots that have noxious weeds on them. In the past two years with an increase of tree removal the result has been an increase in noxious weeds on these bare lots. This is an increasing problem that will continue as more bare lots provide the favorable conditions for noxious weeds.

Knowing that it is the responsibility of the member property owner to care and maintain his own property, the committee is trying to assist the members in that responsibility by providing information through hand outs and the *Weekender* and the *Surf-in-Sider*.

The committee is requesting direction from the Surfside Board on this problem, knowing that this is a State and County problem and a covenant. The chairperson has stated that he is willing to work with any member to provide helpful information concerning this problem.

ADJOURN: 1:15 PM