

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**
Comfort Inn; 901 815 N Wenatchee Ave. 98801
8:30 A.M. Tuesday, May 19, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Butch Klaveano	Ray Fann
Jerry Hendrickson	Sarah Spear Cooke
Joe Coombs	Steven Link
Kathy Hamel	Tim Miller
Ken Bajema	Tony Stadelman
Mary Toohey	

OTHERS PRESENT

Alison Halpern,	WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Butch Bosley,	Walla Walla County NWCB
Cindy Orr,	WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Greg Haubrich,	WSDA
Jeanne McNeil,	WSNLA
Jill Severn,	WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Laurel Baldwin,	Whatcom County NWCB
Lisa Younger,	The Nature Conservancy
Marc Staiert,	Benton County NWCB
Marty Hudson,	Klickitat County NWCB
Mike Mackey,	Chelan County NWCB
Steven Burke,	King County Noxious Weed Control Program

8:30 – CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Steven Link was thanked for agreeing to serve a second 3 year term on the Board.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to accept the minutes as prepared for 03/18/09.
	Joe Coombs	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	Voted in favor of the motion.

OFFICE REPORT

Alison Halpern

The Board reviewed the *WSNWCB Office Report May 2009* (Cindy Orr, Jill Severn, and Alison Halpern) which included Presentations, Meetings, Publications, County Noxious Weed Control Board Activity, Website, WWHAM, and Administrative work.

Presentations given included:

- Grass ID workshop (with Dr. Tim Miller), Wednesday March 18.
- Introductory talks and a WSNWCB survey standards presentation at the WA Weed Coordinators' Conference.
- WWHAM table hosted at the Back Country Horsemen of WA annual meeting in Ellensburg on March 21.
- WWHAM refresher class in Dayton on Tuesday, April 21.
- "Bees & Noxious Weeds" at Puget Sound Beekeepers Association on Tuesday, April 28.
- WWHAM program overview at the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board on Tuesday, May 12.

Meetings attended:

- WA/B.C. meeting with Linda Wilson, Jennifer Andreas, and Laurel Baldwin on Friday, April 3.
- Southeast WA CWMA meeting in Dayton on Tuesday, April 21.
- WA Invasive Species Council and workgroup meetings on March 26, April 1, April 13, April 16, April 23, May 7, and May 12.
- Early Detection/Rapid Response postcards discussion with Jennifer Andreas and Bridget Simon on Thursday, April 23.

Publications status:

The Board reviewed images of *Noxious Weeds That Harm Washington State* booklets (eastern WA and western WA versions), a knotweed brochure, a tansy ragwort brochure and text for a future brochure titled *Bees and Noxious Weeds*.

The Board discussed:

- Board review of the draft brochure for bee-friendly gardening and weed control.
- The brochure will be written for the general public and will point its audience to Garden Wise for education on non-invasive garden plants.
- 20,000 copies of the brochure (standard color) will cost approximately \$1,800 and will be taken from the Education budget.
- Mutual benefits of partnering with the WA State Bee keeper's Association.
- Publishing the brochure on the website as well as providing printed copies for the non-technical public.
- Distributing the brochure at fairs, through county boards and possibly through bee keepers.
- Bee keeper feedback, following Alison's talks, was positive.
- The Bee Keeper's Association has not yet been formally approached regarding the brochure.
- Including both the Bee Keeper's Association website address and the State NWCB website address on the brochure.
- The brochure will not be completed this fiscal year.
- Parameters for including bee related side bars in the brochure not directly associated with weed control such as allergies and stings.
- Strategies to reach a broader audience with weed control education.
- Expanding brochure information in relation to the Bee Keeper's Association partnership & feedback.
- Early Detection/Rapid Response postcards will include shiny geranium, flowering rush, common crupina, garlic mustard, and either kudzu or buffalobur.
- There will be a place for counties to place their own address stamp on postcards.

- Postcards can be metered or can fit in a #10 envelope with a packet of information.
- The bulk of printing for this year will be 20,000 copies (each) of knotweed and tansy brochures as well as 40,000 copies (each) of E and W Field guides.

VOTE	Ray Fann	Moved that staff pursue collaboration with the WA State Bee Keepers Association on a <i>Bees and Noxious Weeds</i> publication.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	Voted in favor of the motion.

Action Item: Jill Severn will email a draft of the *bee-friendly gardening and weed control* brochure to the Board before a final print.

Board Consensus: In general, other publications will be produced without draft approval and staff will present a finished product to the Board.

Concerning Workshops, the Board discussed:

- The grass ID workshop in March was very informative and well received.
- Workshops have traditionally been scheduled when seasonal examples are available and to best accommodate coordinator attendance.
- Workshops will be scheduled in June – east side (George) and west side (Puyallup).

County Noxious Weed Control Board activity included:

- Attendance at a Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board meeting in Pasco on Monday, April 20. The Franklin County NWCB is concerned about rush skeltonweed and is having a hard time controlling it. They requested that Alison relay this information to the State Board.
- Compilation of the latest county budget data.
- Email/phone correspondence with coordinators re: preferred outreach strategies and education needs, questions regarding county code enforcement, county/board authority, and WWHAM, etc.
- Field meetings with Rick Johnson from Thurston County (April 1, May 7) and Bill Wamsley from Lewis County (May 12) to survey for noxious weeds and to learn more about county programs and outreach needs

Website work included/will include:

- A meeting with WSDA webmaster and IT support staff.
- Draft of a new layout.
- New introductory text has been written.
- A meeting next week with DSHS for potential interagency agreement to create foundation on which to build a new site.

The Board discussed:

- Current state contract restrictions allow interagency agreements.
- Estimated cost for a website template is \$2,000. – \$3,000.

WWHAM activity included:

- Attendance at a WWHAM meeting in Ellensburg, Friday, March 20.
- Work on logistics of partnering with WA Weed Coordinators’ Association to manage twine and tags.
- Contacting all growers for current inventory status and updating the WWHAM suppliers list on the website.
- Numerous communications (telephone/email inquiries).

- Creating a database and mailing labels for all feed/farm supply stores in WA (approximately 350).
- Writing a letter explaining WWHAM program and FAQs for feed/farm supply stores (in progress).
- Preparation for WWHAM training classes on Tuesday, May 19, 2-4 p.m. in Wenatchee and Tuesday, May 26, 10-12 in Olympia.

The Board discussed:

- Anderson Hay plans to produce baling straps for compressed hay (following NAWMA and Board approval). The straps will be orchid with yellow text.
- Language in a MOU will allow the WA Weed Coordinators' Association to manage twine.

Action Item: Alison will submit a draft MOU to the Board following Attorney feedback and signature.

Administrative activity included:

- Budget reconciliation and report.
- Dr. Steve Link's re-appointment to the Board for a three year term.
- Minutes draft.
- Reminders sent for submission of Class A Eradication grant reports.
- Research and preliminary scheduling for a WSU WECN teleconference in July.
- A public disclosure request document search (all state agencies).
- Obtaining estimates for printing booklets, brochures & display images.
- Scanning and touching up 58+ slides for booklets and future use.
- Studying for WSDA pesticide license (Jill).

Due to staff restructuring, Alison provided a short summary of current synergistic staff roles and responsibilities:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Alison | Representation of the Board, weed listing process and other policy-making, budget, election/appointments of Board members, , supporting county weed board programs with policy, funding, botanical/taxonomic questions |
| Jill | Educating the general public about noxious weed laws, impacts, and control on behalf of the Weed Board, other communication including media, press releases, website writing and possible future video |
| Cindy | Administrative foundational work including meeting preparation, minutes, directory, mailing, inventory, website maintenance |

The Board Discussed:

- Names attached to activities on the staff report.
- Questions from coordinators can be directed to the staff person as responsibilities indicate above.

Action Items: Alison will send the Board a detailed staff report that includes names associated with tasks that were completed.

Action Items: Alison will send the Board and Coordinators updated details of staff roles and responsibilities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison Halpern

The Board reviewed *Budget Report May 2009*.

After \$24,475. was cut from the budget, the Board has approximately \$30,489. from staff vacancies. These funds will be used for:

\$3,500.	Special Projects
\$2,000.	Buffer/website
\$25,000.	Printing

The Board discussed:

- A contract with DSHS for a website template would be one-time expense.
- June 30 is the deadline for spending the \$30,489.
- Staff has been in active communication with the state printer concerning ability to meet deadlines.
- The Board can use resources outside the State Printer with a 5% fee.

Consensus: The Board approves of and likes the newly formatted budget report.

WSDA REPORT

Mary Toohey

WSDA has three basic types of funding sources:

- General Fund - Part of which funds the State Weed Board
- Fee for Service - Provides about 2/3 of WSDA's state generated income
- Federal

A subset of federal funding is federal stimulus funding. WSDA submitted federal stimulus funding proposals to two federal agencies. The Forest Service did not grant WSDA's request for funds. NOAA has not yet responded to WSDA's request for \$7.7 million for aquatic weed control projects.

The legislature passed a two year operating budget of \$127 million which is a \$4 million reduction in state funding from last biennium (15% cut in the WSDA General Fund). That eliminated \$400,000. in noxious weed pass through funding.

WSDA anticipates the ability to fund approximately 3 Japanese knotweed projects this year compared to 10-15 which were funded last year. *(Addendum: This statement was believed accurate on the date of the minutes. Correction - As of 6/12/09, WSDA was able to fund 13 knotweed project proposals, for a total of approximately \$380,000 for FY10.)*

The legislature approved a \$350,000 enhancement package for *spartina* eradication in Willapa, and additional funding for Grays Harbor.

The Board discussed:

- All of the existing knotweed projects will not be funded.
- WSDA received \$1.1 million in requests and 35 applications.
- Class A weed eradication pass-through money was cut completely.
- The *spartina* eradication enhancement package is not part of Puget Sound Partnership.

Action Item: Alison will send budget information specific to the State Weed Board when it is available.

Several Class A weeds are proposed to be added to the Quarantine List, and a statement regarding applicability of the restrictions to botanical synonyms was also proposed. Mary requested Board testimony at an upcoming rule making hearing.

The Board discussed:

- The Quarantine List is changed through a process that includes a hearing, testimony and signature of the WSDA director. The director’s decision is made based on the evidence submitted at the hearing. Weeds are removed from the Quarantine List by the same process.
- Code does not require Class A weeds to be added to the Quarantine List, but there is an informal agreement between WSDA and the State Weed Board to add Class A weeds to the list.
- One hearing will probably be scheduled in Olympia.
- Email is an excepted form of submitting testimony.
- Coordinators are also encouraged to testify.
- An impartial hearing officer will conduct the hearing.
- WSDA is still seeking information from the aquarium industry, but it appears there is no evidence of a significant small business economic impact from the proposed listing of variable-leaf milfoil. Alternative plants are widely available.

VOTE	Ray Fann	Moved to recommend the proposed changes to the WSDA quarantine list.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	Voted in favor of the motion.
	Mary Toohey	Abstained.

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

The Invasive Species Council received an EPA Puget Sound Partnership grant (Puget Sound watershed basin area). The ISC has formed five sub-committees to continue their work with this limited funding.

WWHAM REPORT

See the staff report on page 4.

COORDINATORS’ FORUM

Marc Stairet, Benton County

It has been observed that due to the high cost of water, Benton County residents are importing exotic ornamental grasses that are escaping. Grasses are showing up along Benton County highways and are of concern. The county weed board is mapping where the grasses are showing up and will continue to inventory and identify species.

Steve Burke, King County

Reed sweetgrass has been found in King County. It may be a sterile clone, but that has not yet been confirmed.

Steve spoke in support of prioritizing Class A weed control in small counties with limited budgets. He encourages assisting land owners with on the ground weed control as well as with communication and education.

Mike Mackey, Chelan County

Mike secured Title II funds to assist the Forest Service with common crupina eradication. Funds were used to contract a helicopter to place water in terrain that is very steep which allowed the spray team to spray in areas that were only receiving hand picking. This allowed them to spray 66% more area this year. Mike has applied for funding for follow up eradication efforts and welcomes information on funding sources. The State Board encouraged Mike to record his success stories for the biennial report etc..

BREAK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Noxious Weed Committee, Tim Miller

Since a moratorium was established on the weed list, with the exception of emergency listings, the committee’s 5/18/09 agenda focused on the weed listing process.

Greg Haubrich will be contacted for updated distribution information. Steve Burke, Marty Hudson, Justin Bush & Kevin Hupp will review approximately 30 Class B designates. The full committee will review those findings then send it to the coordinators for comment.

Three models of impact analysis’ (created by Bridget Simon, the Invasive Species Council, and OR) were distributed. The NWC discussed using a revised version to facilitate the listing process. Alison will incorporate comments from the NWC meeting and send a draft for the committee to test. The committee will meet via teleconference, prior to the July board meeting, to discuss the test version.

The NWC plans to bring a recommendation to the Board at the Sept. meeting with the intent of using the refined impact analysis next year to evaluate newly proposed species to the weed list. A long term goal of NWC is to use the tool to test weeds currently on the list.

The Board discussed differences between the intent of the NWC impact analysis and the ISC risk analysis.

Special Projects Committee, Ray Fann

The Special Projects Committee proposed spending approximately \$3,000 (missing a comma there!) to purchase displays for regional/county use.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to purchase displays.
	Joe Coombs	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	Voted in favor of the motion.

Education Committee, Kathy Hamel

At the 5/18/09 meeting the Education Committee discussed:

- Roles and responsibilities of the Committee. Decisions included being a ‘sounding board’ for the Communications and Outreach Specialist, a ‘green house’ of ideas for staff, and an advisory committee to help staff with priorities.
- County requests for a heads up on news articles and the possibility of using the list serve for that purpose. Members of the list serve need to register including coordinators and Board members.

- Responses to negative publicity about the weed board could be answered by Jill Severn.
- Educating new county commissioners once a year at a WSAC workshop.
- Outreach to schools by making our website a learning resource.
- Jill doing a press release workshop at the weed conference in Yakima.
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County, has produced a lot of literature and is willing to share the information. Jill will meet with Kevin to review the publications.
- Creating a clearing house for education products.
- Will try to meet in March and November
- Using video for general botanical education such as YouTube.

The Board discussed:

- Researching List Serve details and having Jill administer/moderate it.
- Contacting the grange for possible information on a farmer who might be willing to be a part of communicating his/her experience with economic impact related to noxious weeds.
- Chemical companies may have statistics on crop loss or increase with the use of herbicides.

Survey Standards Committee, Sarah Cooke

- The committee is working on reducing state standards to something that works on GPS unit i.e. a hard copy or software on a GPS.
- Weedmapper for WA should be working in two weeks.
- Sean MacDougall has been collecting data from west side counties and will collect from the east side this summer.
- Training workshops for coordinators may happen this fall.

The Board discussed:

- Using existing resources for training to keep the cost down.
- Greg went to workshop in CO and received training material.
- The Forest Service and BLM have contributed funds to the project.

WWHAM Committee, Tony Stadelman

- The committee meeting in Ellensburg did not produce a narrower the definition of “variable”.
- The certification form will have an attachable sheet for the purpose of including more comments.
- Experimental field tests will be compared with the visual inspection.

Other Committees

The Strategic Planning Committee will not meet today since the budget is not available.

FINALIZATION OF JULY MEETING LOCATION

When the full board and committees meet the cost is approximately \$4,000. Several WSU locations are available throughout WA State to video conference on July 14 using WECN. The cost to use WECN is \$30.00. Both time and money would be saved through teleconference or video conference.

The Board and audience discussed:

- WSU learning centers may not be available due to closures resulting from budget cuts, but many other WSU WECN locations are research centers etc. and are still open.

- Money would be saved if committees met by teleconference.
- Two meeting locations are dictated by events surrounding the board meeting.
- Ellensburg, Wenatchee and Moses Lake are central and therefore less expensive locations.
- The NWC needs to meet in person in September, but can meet via video conference in July.
- The nature of upcoming work may be facilitated by a face-to-face meeting.
- It may be the wrong direction for funds to be taken from special projects or printing to accommodate travel.
- The Board should demonstrate to the legislature that they are focused on their mission which is on the ground weed control.
- Meeting face-to-face is a luxury under the current economic crisis.
- Some board members are not comfortable making budget decisions for a biennium via teleconference or video conference.
- Meeting one month a year, possibly in May, by video-conference.

Action Item: Alison will query the Board regarding availability for the July Board meeting to determine if a quorum will be present and will research doing a video conference one meeting a year in the next biennium.

Action Item: Cindy will work with Mike Mackey on possible locations for the July 14 meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There were no public questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Executive Committee did not meet.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

MEETING EVALUATION

There was no meeting evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by
Cindy Orr
Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Butch Klaveano, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Tony Stadelman, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board