

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
9:00 a.m. July 21st, 2016
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via WebEx
And hosted at the Natural Resources Building,
Located at 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 9801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- May 2016 Minutes for Review
- Budget Update
- June Office Report
- July Office Report

Meeting called to order at 9:04 p.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tim Miller	Tony Stadelman	Dirk Veleke
Bob Roth	Greg Haubrich	Wes McCart
Janet Spingath	Brad White (arrived after the meeting began)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
Bill Rogers, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Tony discussed his recent trip to and experiences in China.
No other board member updates were given.

OFFICE UPDATES

Alison shared updates from June and July, including the new logos for our outreach campaign, production of the new Noxious Weeds in Washington State booklet, the new WSNWCB website, new magnet, and Invasive Species Economic Impact Report. All 2016 service contracts are now completed. Assumably due to the increased outreach efforts through social media, Alison reported that the office has received far more calls and emails than normal.

Some discussion surrounded the Invasive Species Economic Impact Report. Alison explained that she gave the company producing the report an extension and amended the contract to reflect a more ecologically focused methodology. While the original economic models were sound, our lack of point data on widespread species made this model less accurate in terms of true economic impacts. Spending an additional \$7,000 allows for a more accurate and comprehensive report with much more realistic numbers. While this report has involved much more work on WSDA's

end than expected, Alison believes the report will meet the board's goals and expectations. The board also discussed the methodology used and percentages used for spread rate. The report will conclude at the end of July.

Alison also shared her involvement in Cathy Lucero's integrated roadside management workshop and the poster we produced for the booth Alison manned, explaining that she would give further details during the coordinator's forum.

Tony requested updates on the biennial report, which Alison explained she is behind on but expects to have completed in August.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg gave an update for WSDA, sharing that field season is underway. Greg mentioned that they've been down an administrative assistant position which was filled only just last week. This position being filled will make a big difference in the ability of WSDA to manage contracts and administrative duties.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Alison explained that most of the June expenditures have not posted yet, though these numbers are reflected in the budget under the assumption that they will post. With these expenditures, we expect to have a balance of \$4,932. Alison requested that the Board holds an August budget meeting to discuss expenditures. While the printing budget for this fiscal year was slated to primarily pay for printing of the toxic plant booklet, we are very low on field guides and will need to look at the budget to decide how to best manage upcoming expenses, including the coordinator's handbook, biennial report, class A eradication funding, new written findings, and others. Alison expects to have final numbers for the June expenditures at the September meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Noxious Weed Committee**

Timothy Miller reported that there have been very few requests for changes to the weed list for 2017. He elaborated that the biggest discussion has been the proposed reclassification of Ravenna grass from A to B, though there remains some concern about potential spread of plants from planted vegetation. More discussion is needed and county input will be sought especially regarding distribution and feasibility of eradication. Tim expects that the committee will only need to meet once more in August before the September board meeting. Additional changes include designation changes in Class B weeds, pruning the monitor list and revamping the monitor list process (including listing criteria, categories for monitors, monitor procedures, and timelines), and discussion of weeds that could be removed from the weed list.

Tim also explained potential membership changes, sharing that, originally, the committee had representation from each of the corners of the state as well as agency and organization representation. The committee may be recommending changes to the membership if members are ready to pass their position on.

- **Legislative Committee**

Wes reported that the committee has met five times over the last few months and has gone through the entire RCW 17.10 statute to identify all areas of concern. After a great deal of discussion, all of the notes from the meetings have been gathered and presented to the Attorney General to use in developing a draft of requested changes. Discussion surrounded the timeline for having a draft for the board and stakeholders. Wes explained that the hope is to have a draft ready for the December legislative meetings, meaning ready for board review at the September meeting. Some questions remain about the best method for presenting the draft- should it be agency requested legislation or should board members consider getting sponsors directly? Alison noted that many legislators from both sides of the aisle are expected to support and be willing to sponsor these changes. Alison explained that, if we do as much outreach as possible early, we'll be better off when a bill is introduced. Many stakeholders will be having meetings in December, so our timeline will allow for introduction of the draft to stakeholders before we get to the legislative session. Discussion surrounded the ideal timeline for the draft, process of submitting a draft, and the potential for hot button issues with the timber industry. Alison and Wes both assured the board that stakeholder outreach will begin early and be comprehensive.

- **Bee Forage Committee**

Alison reports that she is working with front office to confirm OFM funding of the bee bill. She explained that the committee will be contracting out the writing of guidelines for pollinator-friendly restoration in different scenarios, such as berry farms, backyards, etc. The committee will begin laying out what kinds of pilot projects it will be looking for and then will contact the counties to seek out candidates. The board discussed the options and expectations in funding this project.

- **Class A Eradication Funding Committee Creation**

In light of the discussion surrounding Class A eradication project funding in past meetings, Alison requested the creation of an ad hoc Class A Eradication Funding Committee. Past ideas for this committee included strategizing spending the money on fewer projects, biennial grants, more grant writing for additional funding. The board established a temporary ad hoc committee to discuss these options in advance of Class A Eradication funding opportunities with members: Dirk Veleke, Greg Haubrich, Tim Miller, Tony Stadelman, and Janet Spingath. The first meeting will be held August or September.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for May Meeting.

VOTE	Wes	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 2016 Board meeting
	Dirk	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Cathy Lucero thanked the board and Alison for coming to her Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management workshops and for creating a new display for these workshops. These workshops were intended to be an opportunity for the public to hear from experts from multiple agencies regarding the new plan to involve multiple steps of the IPM process in roadside vegetation management for Clallam County without the pressure of a public hearing. While the workshop was somewhat anticlimactic, Cathy explained that it was important and helpful to attendees (including a commissioner and some opposition) to see the collaboration between multiple agencies involved. The board discussed the outreach opportunities presented by this event and the positive feedback reported by Cathy on the event, especially in light of opposition to the plan. Cathy shared her appreciation for the unified, statewide message that the State Weed Board has presented in their educational materials and thanked the board for having these materials available for county programs.

Angelica Velazquez shared her experience in having an accident while working for her county weed board. Since, she explained that her weed board has been working to establish their responsibility and that of the county in holding insurance for employees and, in turn, paying for her medical expenses. She expressed the importance of updating 17.10 to clarify the relationship between the county and the county weed board. Alison expressed sympathy for her injury as well as her ongoing battle with county. She explained that the legislative committee has talked extensively about RCW 17.10.60 and hopes to make the relationship between the county and the county weed board more clear and establish definitively that the county weed board is part of the county and county employees. She mentioned that she had asked coordinators previously if they were covered by county insurance policy or if their boards were planning for insurance related expenses in weed board budget. Alison offered to make sure that coordinators are aware of this situation and planning accordingly for the potential of similar circumstances in their own programs.

Tony Stadelman shared that this will be his last week of being a coordinator for his weed district. He explained that Greg Wolf, the replacement coordinator, is being trained now and is on a probation until February.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS

None.

MEETING EVALUATION

No technical difficulties at this meeting.

Next meeting is September 15th, hosted in Olympia and held over WebEx.

The Board adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
WSNWCB

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