

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
9:00 a.m. July 16, 2015
Online/teleconferenced meeting via WebEx and hosted at the Natural Resources Building

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft meeting minutes for May 2015 board meeting
- Office reports for May and June

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Bob Roth (WebEx)	
Sarah Cooke (Phone)		
Dirk Veleke (WebEx)		
Bill Agosta (WebEx)	(Jerry Hendrickson unable to participate due to WebEx complications)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Greg Haubrich, WSDA
 Cindy Riskin, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
 Nancy Ness (WebEx)
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board (joined late)

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Bill noted that the San Juan County Weed Board is working to rewrite county ordinances to allow for the use of herbicides on right-of-ways.
- Dirk said WebEx wasn't working for him on his mobile phone in the field.
- Sarah can't get WebEx audio to work on any of her technology so was calling in.
- Bob noted that it was hot and dry and felt like August.
- Tony said he was glad it's a little cooler. Crops were 10 days to 2 weeks ahead of normal. Temperatures had been over 100 and were now back in the 80s or 90s.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for May.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 2015 Board meeting
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE REPORTS

The Board reviewed the office reports for May and June. Alison mentioned that:

- Alison spent some time recovering from pneumonia.
- She had hired a contract writer, Cindy Riskin, whose press releases were very well received. They generated calls from a Walla Walla reporter, Northwest radio and AgInfo radio network.
- Spent some time editing and preparing for print Italian arum, tansy ragwort, poison hemlock, Scotch broom, and Full Circle brochures. Cindy had done a nice job drafting text for Italian arum and Scotch broom brochures.
- Alison also produced 10 sets of 20-inch by 15-inch noxious weed tabletop displays for 25 noxious weeds. She will send out to the counties with the State Weed Board's displays.
- Alison was very happy with a meeting with Greg Haubrich, Tim Miller, Laurel Baldwin, and Amy Yahnke (Department of Ecology). They had tremendously helpful discussion about how to educate about herbicide safety

and what the reality is about herbicides. They came up with the plan to provide a webpage on the State Weed Board website so people learn about more about toxicity, risk, and safety.

- Alison picked out, ordered, and delivered noxious weed magnets.
- May and June Alison worked on end-of-fiscal-year tasks.
- Alison fulfilled and processed Class A eradication grants for payment.
- Alison noted that Wendy DesCamp's last day was June 30. Wendy finished producing written findings for foxglove, ventenata grass, medusahead, and English hawthorn.
- July 1 was Cindy Riskin's first day as Communications and Outreach Specialist.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich gave the report, as Brad White couldn't be at the meeting. There were no allotments for the new biennium yet, so he didn't know what funding would be for Spartina and knotweed programs. He had been working on end-of-fiscal-year projects.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Alison provided the financial report. The approximate balance from FY2014-15 was about \$4K. The Board did not have its allotments yet, since the legislative session had run so late this year. Alison would schedule a Budget Committee meeting once they had their allotment numbers so that the Board could then vote on their budget. She had been told in the meantime to assume that this biennium's numbers would be similar to last year.

Before the end of the fiscal year, Alison:

- Bought an inkjet printer and ink cartridges to replace the printer purchased in 2007.
- Purchased a smaller point-and-shoot digital camera to use when the Canon Rebel and its macro lens weren't necessary.
- Bought stamps and office supplies, including six rolls of Velcro for the new noxious weed displays.
- Wendy's vacation hours were bought out for about \$3K.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2017

Alison provided the update:

- Alison heard from several board members about their three priorities for the new strategic plan. Some board members requested extra time.
- She drafted a new Strategic Plan that emphasized outreach to county commissioners and legislators and issues with RCW Chapter 17.10, such as county weed board membership.
- Clarifying RCW 17.10 in 2017 would be a keystone item for the Board this biennium.
- Alison wanted better communication between state board members and county weed boards and weed districts.
- She liked the suggestion of breaking down topics for the coordinators' handbook, for example, enforcement. It would be great to send out individual chapters of the handbook to the counties.
- There were still discrepancies in how county weed boards were adopting their weed lists. For example, in some counties Class B noxious weeds were listed as Class-Cs and vice versa. All county weed boards needed to be following process correctly if RCW 17.10 was going to be opened up. Alison would be working on educating county governments, legislators, and weed boards.
- Alison received good suggestions about communicating better with state, federal, and tribal agencies. She noted that Cindy had some ideas on providing educational resources to coordinators and the public.
- WSDA shared the state weed board's press releases on Facebook, breaking records on number of shares. The WSNWCB was getting a lot of attention on the WSDA Facebook site, and Alison was excited to have Cindy give the State Weed Board a bigger presence on social media.
- Alison really liked the idea of creating story maps for the website, as a task in the Strategic Plan. She explained that story maps were a form of outreach many agencies and nonprofits use. For example, there would be a map of Washington on the website, and if there were farmers, resource managers, or NGOs doing weed control and/or restoration—there would be a pin or star on the map based on GPS location and viewers could learn more about the project. It would be a way for coordinators to share what they're doing. Greg said WSDA could help with the mapping component.
- Alison would send out the new 2015-2017 Strategic Plan. She was trying hard to be realistic on what the WSNWCB can accomplish in two years. She was pleased with feedback she had received.

The Board and members of the audience discussed:

- Nancy Ness noted that the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board had both RCW 17.10 and the Open Public Meetings Act in its policy handbook. She asked if the State Weed Board could add a webpage for identifying mystery plants.

COORDINATOR’S FORUM

- Nancy had confirmation of false brome in Grays Harbor. It was on Weyerhauser property. A woman who was a neighbor, Weed Warrior, and DNR forester spotted it early, and was working to keep it from escaping. Alison thought the neighbor’s efforts should be recognized as an example of ED/RR. If the false brome was discovered before June 30, she could mention it in the biennial report as a success story.
- Tony was using flagging to mark areas that needed noxious weed control. He had put out over 600 flags this year and noted that it was going to be a long, nasty year for noxious weed control.
- Cathy Lucero had joined the meeting and mentioned that she didn’t think hoary alyssum was in Jefferson County [as was stated in the press release], only in Clallam.
- Cathy also noted that the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board] had been banned from using herbicides for 25 years, but there was a slight change in political environment, and it was possible that the current commissioners would allow herbicide use as needed for noxious weed control only. She had been working on this issue for at least 10 years. She requested that the State Weed Board help with her efforts.
- Alison mentioned to Cathy that the herbicide education meeting that they held last week was fantastic. They now had concrete plans to provide information online about toxicity, safety, and myths about herbicides. She wanted to make sure all the commissioners and legislators knew about the upcoming website as a resource.
- Tony said Grant County was having some good noxious weed control on rangeland because of three big fires this year. The fires were very bad. One was started when someone threw a cigarette out on I-90.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND MEETING EVALUATION

Alison said she was still trying to figure out why WebEx audio is being so quirky. Sarah didn’t think it was the Jabra speakerphone causing problems for her. It was how WebEx was connecting with the computers. Rod had no problem using WebEx on an Android.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to adjourn the meeting.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.



Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB



Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB



Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
WSNWCB