

**Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board**

10:00 a.m. August 9, 2017

WSDOT maintenance facility located at  
151 South Bullfrog Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 and  
Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting
- May 2017 Draft Minutes
- Second half of May 2017 Office Report
- June 2017 Office Report
- July 2017 Office Report
- Summary of online publication requests
- KUOW story about invasive ivy
- June 2017 Budget Report
- Proposed FY18 allotments
- Draft FY17-19 Strategic Plan

**Meeting called to order at 10:10 am by Chairman Tony Stadelman.**

**ROLL CALL:**

*Board Members Present*

Tony Stadelman	Bob Roth	Tim Miller
Brad White	Janet Spingath	
Dirk Veleke	Carey Caruso (WebEx)	
Jerry Hendrickson	Commissioner Wes McCart	

*Others present:*

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
Greg Haubrich, WSDA  
Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Trish Durand, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Kris Hubbard, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Rachel Hutchens, Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Skylar Schrock, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Steve Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx) (joined late)

## MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 18, 2017 board meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Wes McCart	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 18, 2017 Board meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Jerry Hendrickson shared that Andrew Wolfe had been the Asotin County Noxious Weed Coordinator for several months now and that Nelle Murray was now controlling weeds with the Conservation District.

Janet Spingath announced that her new aquatic weed removal company would be conducting a demonstration of its underwater weed removal system in American Lake later in August. She said that Beki Shoemaker from the Pierce County NWCB would be there, along with the WDFW Fish Biologist for that region.

### OFFICE UPDATES

Alison Halpern reported that:

- She and Wendy had been receiving many calls and emails from the public about noxious weed control.
- The new toxic plants booklet was well-received and was in high demand from county weed boards, conservation districts, and individual landowners.
- She shared a few simple graphs showing activity of the online publication request form, and how a spike in usage coincided with the printing of the toxic plants booklet and a post about it on Facebook.
- The Scotch broom symposium that was held on May 23 had a large turnout, and feedback had been positive. Many attendees asked when the next symposium would be held.
- She had been busy in June with the end-of-fiscal year preparations.
- The 2017 “Washington without noxious weeds is a lovely sight” magnet had been produced and was being distributed. It had the same image used for the cover of the toxic plants booklet.
- She had received the draft of the updated Coordinators’ Handbook back. She wanted to go through it and make some edits before sending it out to some county coordinators’ to review.

Wendy DesCamp report that:

- She had been working hard on written findings for the proposed additions to the 2018 noxious weed list.
- There were many general questions and answers on noxious weeds.
- She had given a talk about noxious weed identification and control at the annual Mt. Rainier vegetation crew training with Tim Miller. She noted that it was held in a different facility and was well attended.

The Board discussed:

- Janet noted that the website looked great and very informative. She also asked whether the online form could sort requests by zip code to help determine urban and rural demand for publications.
- Jerry asked Alison if she would be printing out the directory. She replied that it was perpetually getting updated but that she would put out a call for any seek new changes and then print it out.
- Tony asked about the Russian olive letter-to-the-editor Alison was going to write for the local paper in Grant County. Alison replied that she and Trish Durand were still communicating about the best approach.
- Tim complimented Wendy on the thorough Written Findings that she had produced.

## **WSDA UPDATE**

Brad White and Greg Haubrich provided the update:

- Brad reported that funding for the spartina program had been reduced by about \$400K or 22% this biennium. WSDA had absorbed some of the reduction and they would probably have to scale back pass-through funding and focus on containing spartina rather than targeting eradication.
- Greg announced that WSDA had a new assistance agreement with BLM. Over \$60K was available over the next five years, including funding for sage grouse habitat restoration. Multiple state agencies along with the Benton County NWCB had been working together to spray flowering rush in the Yakima River using WSDA and WDFW airboats. Jenifer Parsons and Dave Heimer coordinated this project. They were limited to glyphosate due to irrigation use. They were hoping to finish treating the infestation in September.

The Board discussed:

- Tony asked about the status of WSDOT's decision not to pay its noxious weed assessment. Alison replied that she believed WSDOT would be sending out a statement soon to all the county weed boards.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board reviewed the proposed FY17-19 budget allotments. Alison explained that:

- She had drafted up the suggested allotments based on last year's expenditure levels, making adjustments for anticipated cost increases and decreases. She was still seeking information from fiscal about the large discrepancy between FY16 and FY17 in NRB bond payments under sub-subobject ED (rentals and leases) and how best to proceed, as she did not want to over- or under-allocate this biennium.
- She had allocated funding for 2.1 FTE towards a full-time executive secretary (Alison), full-time education specialist (Wendy), and 0.1 FTE for four hours/week of administrative support from Susie Allen in WSDA Plant Protection. Any unspent funding could be used towards education and outreach projects.
- \$13K was suggested towards printing in FY18 because they would be running out of field guides soon, and it would be a good opportunity to update both eastern and western WA versions and do a large printing. They were almost out of the Full Circle brochure, which

was popular. Less funding (\$5K) was proposed for FY19. Alison would be writing a funding proposal towards the reprint of the successful GardenWise booklets.

- She had suggested \$2K per year towards the bee forage project since OFM had not funded the bee bill fiscal note, and WSDA had advised her that they could not guarantee that they would have any extra funding towards the project this year. This amount was much lower than what was planned, so they would have to scale back the pilot project and would focus on the quality of fewer sites.
- Although they had planned on consolidating cubicles to reduce cost of renting office space at NRB, Alison learned that WSDA had put a freeze on cubicle modifications. Brad explained that WSDA had outgrown the second floor of NRB and had created a Space Committee to explore options. Until then, they weren't adjusting cubicle allotments, and the Weed Board would continue to use their vacant cubicle to store publications.

<b>VOTE</b>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the suggested allotments,
	Wes McCart	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### **NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Tim Miller provided the update. The Noxious Weed Committee had met on August 7 and were leaning towards the recommendations of:

- Reclassifying spurge flax from a Class A to potentially a Class B noxious weed.
- Adding cheatgrass (aka downy brome), *Bromus tectorum*, as a Class C noxious weed.
- Adding coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*, as a Class B noxious weed
- Adding Malta starthistle, *Centaurea melitensis*, as a Class B designation
- Adding the hybrid watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* x *M. sibiricum*) as a Class C noxious weed
- Adding Empress tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*, to the monitor list
- Adding small-flowered jewelweeds, *Impatiens parviflora*, as a Class A noxious weed
- Adding spotted jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*, as a Class C noxious weed
- Making designation changes to butterfly bush and shiny geranium per the Thurston County NWCB's request
- Providing education about, but not listing, Foxtail grass
- Not removing any of the species the Committee had discussed for now.

Alison noted rule-making was due September 20, the day before the regularly scheduled Board meeting and suggested that they hold a special meeting earlier in the month for the purpose of voting on proposed changes to the 2018 noxious weed list that would be moved to the public hearing in November.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Brad provided the update. He explained to the Board that Director Sandison had decided that since the revisions to RCW 17.10 would be through agency-requested legislation, he wanted WSDA to take a more active role in the process. He was creating a Noxious Weed Task Force, which would have many stakeholders, including some members of the Board's Legislative Committee. He envisioned having legislation for the 2019 session. The Board discussed:

- Wes pointed out that having all the stakeholders meeting at once instead of one by one made good sense and would be much more efficient. He asked whether Director Sandison would be appointing members. Brad said he would seek more details and clarification and noted that the Director already had a few stakeholders in mind. Alison noted that the last WSDA Task Force had its members appointed by the Director. It had included State Weed Board members, county weed board members, coordinators, commissioners, and representation from WSAC, WSU, the conservation districts, and the timber industry and agriculture.
- Alison mentioned that she had spoken to the Deputy Director on Monday about working with the Task Force and the WSDA policy team as a professional development opportunity.
- Wes suggested that the Board come up with a list of suggested stakeholders to give to the Director. He noted that it would be important to address recent noxious weed issues during the legislative session, such as enforcement on state-owned land that the WSDA policy team should be aware of.
- Bob Roth wrote down the stakeholders that the Board had mentioned and then passed the list around the table for members to add additional suggestions to. The Board agreed that Wes would then give that list to the Director to consider.

#### **COORDINATORS FORUM**

- Cathy Lucero from the Clallam County NWCB asked about the task force, as she had joined the meeting after that update. She asked whether all members would be appointed, whether they would be voting on items, and how the process would work.
- Brad replied that he had just learned about the Director's decision to create the task force and didn't have any details yet.
- The Board discussed their committee structure and appointment process. Alison wanted to include a section in the State Weed Board Handbook about roles and expectations of committees.
- Tony mentioned that in Grant County, one of the intercounty weed districts might dissolve. Since it covered areas in two counties, it was more complicated.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING:**

Alison attempted to play the WSDA/ATG PowerPoint presentation training for the Open Public Meetings Act, but the sound was too low. Alison said she would send the presentation out to the Board, with the expectation that members would watch it so she could issue certificates to show that they had completed the training.

## **STATE WEED BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN**

- The Board reviewed the draft strategic plan and added additional tasks to the goals including to:
- Review, revise, and adopt the state noxious weed list for 2018 and 2019.
- Report on Class A noxious weeds.
- Support and promote WSDA's noxious weed GPS-collecting and mapping project.
- Update written findings of any additional aquatics that haven't been done recently.
- Work with state agencies to improve awareness about aquatic noxious weeds.
- Create outreach campaign for hikers, horseback riders, ORV riders, and other recreationists to survey for and prevent the spread of noxious weeds in backcountry areas.
- Educate gravel pit companies about noxious weed management and encourage voluntary inspections.
- Support WSDA noxious weed task force in the process of revising RCW 17.10 with the involvement of stakeholders.
- Provide training about effective communication to the Weed Coordinators' Association.
- Create a primer about the noxious weed listing process and weed control requirements for all county legislative authorities and WSU extension offices.
- Present at WSAC conference about the noxious weed laws.
- Review State Weed Board's ethical guidelines
- Adopt the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based) method for goal-setting.
- Produce new State Weed Board handbook for members and staff (roles, duties, parliamentary process, ethical guidelines, etc.) and also share it with county weed board members
- Develop annual performance review for executive secretary.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS**

Anna Lyon said that she liked the strategic plan.

## **MEETING EVALUATION**

The next regular State Weed Board meeting would be on September 21. Alison would schedule a special meeting earlier in September.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm following a motion by Wes McCart, seconded by Bob Roth. All in favor.

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Tony Stadelman, Chairman  
WSNWCB

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Dirk Veleke, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary WSNWCB