

**Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
 9:00 a.m. January 28th, 2016
 Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar
 and hosted at the Natural Resources Building,
 located at 1111 Washington Street S.E.; Olympia, WA 98504**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the November 2015 board meeting
- Office report for November, December and January
- Budget report for December
- Summary list of special project requests

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman. Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no voting at this meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Dirk Veleke (WebEx)	Janet Spingath (WebEx)
Jenifer Parsons (WebEx)	Carey Caruso (WebEx)	

Others present:

Director Derek Sandison, WA State Department of Agriculture
 Kristen Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General
 Raquel Crosier, Washington State Invasive Species Council
 David Heimer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Greg Haubrich, WA State Department of Agriculture
 Beki Shoemaker, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Debbie Ringler, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
 Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

WSDA DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

Director Derek Sandison gave a brief introduction, discussing his past involvement with weed boards and with water supply and irrigation projects. He noted that he will be happy to work with the board as it begins the process of opening RCW 17.10. The board discussed the history and challenges of water storage and supply.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES:

Raquel Crosier, executive coordinator of the Washington State Invasive Species Council, gave an update.

- She noted that the WISC is currently up for reauthorization with the related bill still in the senate committee. She thanked Alison for providing support at the house public hearing.

- She updated the board on the current projects of the WISC, including an update to their strategic plans, a feral swine response plan in conjunction with other state agencies, expanding outreach efforts, and contracting for the creation of an economic impact analysis with Alison and other agencies' assistance.
- She noted that the WISC may hire an outreach intern who would be potentially shared with Alison and the State Weed Board.

David Heimer gave the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife report.

- He noted that the agency has focused on spartina eradication in Grays Harbor due to specific funding for that area. In Grays Harbor, WDFW is working with DNR and WSDA to combat the infestation and noted that they have had to treat less than 1/3000th of an acre this year. In the Puget Sound, they have treated around 10 acres again, a number that hasn't changed due to an unknown combination of factors that may include an undiscovered seed source or simply due to having a larger crew that is able to find more plants than in years past.
- WDFW crews have been working on eradicating invasive cattail in the Skagit wildlife area, over approximately 650 acres, for the last two years. This year, they rented a Marshmaster with mower which has made mowing the invasive cattail more efficient.
 - Discussion surrounded the decision to mow the cattail versus utilize another control method.
 - David explained that the method was chosen in response to herbicide concerns from the tribal-affiliated research unit that the WDFW is working with on this project.
- He also noted that he has sent out a survey on terrestrial weed control and will have the results of that survey at the March meeting.
- He is also working on a planning project to update wildlife weed control plans and has completed Swanson Lake and Klickitat wildlife area plans. Several additional plans are in line to be updated and coordinators and weed boards are invited to submit comments.
- David has been tracking some bills, noting that the bill relating to aerial spraying and notification is of interest to his department.
- He updates the board that funding for WDFW weed control is sufficient for this biennium.
- David was contacted by the new WDFW employee, Mike Huddel Jr., who is exploring how the Farm Bill will affect the WDFW programs- especially as they relate to private lands and leased lands, for information about weed control and they discussed opportunities to use the farm bill more strategically.
- David notes that he has received information about fire/re-seeding effort funding which included \$300K in the supplemental budget towards weed control and reseeded in the Okanogan wildfire complex.
- The board discussed control of phragmites in Grays Harbor. David explained that his department has treated them in the past but is not currently treating them.

MEET AAG KRISTEN MITCHELL

Kristen summarized her background as an assistant attorney general, explaining that she graduated with a botany degree in 1995 and for this reason enjoyed working with WSDA and the

State Weed Board. She started with the Attorney General Office in 2003 and works with a variety of government agencies. She noted that the noxious weed statute, RCW 17.10, dated back to 1969. She explained that most statutes require modernization or changes to language regularly but that she and Alison have been discussing a more dramatic structural change. Other agencies which have a relationship with county-based programs fall on a spectrum of oversight and partnership, and she encouraged the board to consider where on this spectrum it would like to be. She will be working closely with the Board to consider other possible structures based on other state agencies.

She also explained her role as an assistant attorney general, wherein she provides legal advice to state agencies, and notes that she does not provide those services for counties directly as counties have access to a civil prosecutor for legal advice. Kristen may be able to offer informal advice or refer people to other resources in regards to county disputes if they are disputes that involve the State (such as county weed lists).

The Board Discussed:

Tony asked how one keeps all of the attorneys on the same page in their interpretations of law. Kristen explained that the court is the ultimate decider and the variety of resources she has to assist in coming up with reasonable interpretations as well as her method of presenting options-based advice, providing useful information as well as statute-defined outer limits.

Janet asked about situations in the past where Kristen worked with the board. Alison and Kristen explained the situations in which legal advice has been requested. Most often, this occurring during the noxious weed listing process to ensure that the Board was following proper procedure.

David asked about where state agencies generally find themselves in a legal pinch. Kristen summarized that this occurs when agencies do things the way they have always done it without consulting the statute or requesting legal advice. Especially in regards to public records, she notes that it is very important to stay up to date with changes to legal requirements.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

None of the board members in attendance presented any updates.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board tabled the review of November meeting minutes to the March meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

OFFICE REPORTS

Alison:

- This year, rule-making was straightforward and there was no opposition to proposed changes to the 2016 noxious weed list. Alison notes that the 2016 weed list brochure would be sent to the printers next week and copies would be available soon.
- At the request of the coordinators, she tabled a booth at the annual Washington State Association of Counties conference with custom posters and publications. She was invited next year to be part of a discussion with WSU Extension to clarify the roles of Extension agents in county weed board activities.

- Alison had sent an RFP on behalf of the State Weed Board, WISC, and WSDA to have an invasive species economic impact report produced as a meta-analysis of existing reports and highlighting 15-20 plants and animals in an easy-to-understand format. She noted that the report would be very helpful in working with lawmakers in opening up RCW 17.10. The project is expected to be completed May 30th, 2016.
- Alison has been working to contract out the website to have it redesigned, which has been challenging. In the meantime, Kittanya is making updates to the website.
- Alison had given talks at the Grant County Noxious Weed Conference and in at the Northwest Ag Show in Portland.
- 2016 seed packets have arrived and are being prepared for distribution to county boards, weed districts, and to the public.

The Board Discussed:

Dave asked about financial contributions from WDFW towards the economic impact report. Alison assured him that he would be receiving an invoice and noted that several agencies were chipping in to bring the project total to \$23,000.

Janet asked if the seed packets would be available at the All Ag day or farmers markets. Alison said that she has plenty to share and would be happy to send some with her. Beki suggested that Janet could also pick some up from her at the Pierce County weed board office as well.

Kittanya:

- Kittanya has been working on scanning and archiving weed board historical files and is currently working on species-specific files.
- She is also making edits and updates to the website, including a bee information page and a new publications page.
- Kittanya has updated the 2016 Weed List brochure and is working to re-create the Noxious Weeds in Washington 8-fold brochure as a booklet.

The Board Discussed:

Greg mentioned that he will be bringing over additional boxes of historical files to be scanned and archived.

Alison complimented Kittanya on the new bee information webpage.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich provided the update.

- WSDA is currently conducting spartina surveys.
- Budgets look similar to last year. WSDA received Forest Service's FHP grant but noted that 2016's funding will be reduced.
- WSDA can now do more in-depth phragmites genetic testing to identify which type of natives we have in Washington. Questionable samples can now be sent in and identified. Milfoil testing may be available down the road as WSDA is looking into additional projects.

The Board Discussed:

Tony asked if any of the grant money would be going to the WSU IPM project for biocontrol. Greg said that the majority of the money would go to the WSU IPM project for that purpose. Only a small portion will go towards grants to counties.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Alison Halpern provided the update.

- House Bill 2478, which concerns the preservation of forage for pollinators, has passed the House agriculture committee unanimously and will likely go on to the rules committee. Alison noted that the beekeepers did a great job of listening to the concerns and questions the bill received last year, including those regarding project timelines. For the fiscal note, Alison proposed a sample project that would cost less than \$40K total. If funded by the legislature, the sample project would involve three components: (1) a wide distribution of seed packets and supporting a small number of willing participants who will dedicate 0.01 acres to pollinator-friendly weed control, replacing weed species with (2) bare root starts, and supporting another group who will receive native seeds (3).
- Senate Bill 6162/House Bill 2331, which concerns the continuation of the invasive species council, passed through the House and Senate unanimously.
- House Bill 2392, which concerns pesticide exposure, has not moved as of today.
- House Bill 2751, which concerns the investigation of pesticide exposure, has also not moved as of today. Alison explained the statute changes it would create, including the language change from “poisoning” to “pesticide exposure”, as well having the three investigating agencies choose one agency to take the lead on cases, new requirements for inclusion of LD-50 information, and fines for fraudulent claims.
- House Bill 2387, which concerns flame-throwing devices, has not moved as of today. The board discussed the suggested amendments of this bill that had been suggested to the sponsor by WFFF and WFB to ensure that propane torches and other devices could be used for prescribed burns and for agricultural uses.

Alison notes that no additional relevant bills had been introduced as of today.

The board discussed:

Greg asked about the cutoff date for bill introduction during this legislative session. Alison said that the deadline is February 5th.

Tony asked who will define pesticide exposure in House Bill 2751. Alison said that the language already exists in the statute. This bill just updates and structures the process by which exposure is reported and investigated.

Dirk asked which organization or incident is driving House Bill 2387. Alison did not know specifically who or what was driving it but noted that Representative Dent from the Columbia Basin was the primary sponsor of the bill. She notes that many bills this year focused on wildfire control and prevention.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Board reviewed the December budget report. Alison explained the reason for the high balance was due to unspent allotments for special projects, class A grants, contracting, printing,

and salary and benefits. Alison explained that she is planning to focus unspent money from salary and budgets on education and outreach, including producing the new Noxious Weeds in Washington State booklet, the field guides in Spanish, updating an online version of the Gardenwise book, and in purchasing the scanner that Kittanya is using to archive weed board history.

The Board Discussed:

Greg asked if Alison had consolidated and only had one budget now. Alison said that she had merged the accounts from three to only one fund code, which made budget reconciliation much easier now.

SPECIAL PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

The board reviewed each of the proposed projects that had been suggested by county weed coordinators thus far. Alison notes that the board may hold a special meeting for time-sensitive suggestions or may table all of the suggestions until the March meeting. Alison:

- Mentioned that she would be talking to Greg about the flowering rush survey funding.
- Was not sure if our budget allowed for a low-budget advertisement at movie theaters during the previews but would check into this possibility.
- Agreed that while some training will be covered at the upcoming coordinator conference, more opportunities would be beneficial. Janet mentioned that there are good low-cost online training programs for boards that we could consider. Janet will send that information to Alison.
- Noted that the Board has purchased online web banner ads in the past and could consider a newspaper advertisement depending on cost. Alison will explore options further.
- Expressed her concerns with creating a State weed-free gravel program, including the NAISMA standard of visual inspection for certification. Alison will reach out to county boards that offer this program as well as the State Aggregate and Concrete representative to discuss how we can disseminate information about weed control to gravel pits. This may be an item added to the conference agenda.
- Suggested that while the Board could potentially provide clear weed disposal bags to county weed boards but that it would be unlikely that the Board could pay weed disposal fees. Alison will prepare quotes to bring to the board.

COORDINATOR'S FORUM

Beki had no update for the coordinator's forum but noted that the Tacoma Home and Garden show was January 28th through Sunday 31st.

Cathy sent a draft of the roadside management plan to Alison and is waiting on edits. She met with the new county commissioner and has been given permission to present the plan to stakeholders and the public. Cathy requested that Alison and Greg participate in the public workshops.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT

Alison said that the next meeting would be held March 9th. Board members will be able to travel to Chelan to attend this meeting and the morning session of the Coordinators' Conference the following day.

The Board adjourned at 11:08 a.m.



Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB



Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB



Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
WSNWCB