

Special Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 23, 2017
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via Zoom
And hosted at the Confluence Technology Center
Located at 285 Technology Center Way, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting
- January 2017 Draft Minutes
- January 2017 Office Report
- February 2017 Office Report
- March 2017 Office Report
- January-February Social Media Update
- January 2017 Budget Report
- Draft RCW 17.10 Revisions

Meeting called to order at 1:12pm by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Dirk Veleke	Jerry Hendrickson (Webex)
Brad White	Jenifer Parsons	Tim Miller (Arrived Late)
Wes McCart	Bob Roth (WebEx)	
Bill Agosta	Janet Spingath	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Greg Haubrich, WSDA
 Mike Mackie, Chelan County NWCB
 Jean Postlethwaite, Chelan County NWCB
 Anna Lyon, Okanogan County NWCB
 Janet Nelson, Okanogan County NWCB
 Trish Durand, Grant County NWCB
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County NWCB (WebEx)
 Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County NWCB (WebEx)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for January Meeting.

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 2017 Board meeting.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Jerry Hendrickson shared that the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board had held interviews and reviewed applicants for the vacant coordinator position, and had selected Andrew Wolfe as new coordinator. Jerry also noted weather challenges with the warning that weeds would be horrific in the upcoming year. Bill Agosta, Bob Roth, and Wes McCart also shared their weather concerns, especially regarding flooding as a vector for noxious weed spread.

Janet Spingath reported that Pierce County Parks had successfully collaborated with local beekeepers and the county weed board to mitigate the impacts of a parcel infested with Himalayan blackberry and other noxious weeds. The groups came to the compromise of keeping only a small, carefully maintained Himalayan blackberry patch to provide consistent forage for commercial and hobby beekeepers. The groups did extensive native re-planting and developed an educational sign. Janet explained that the collaboration was extremely successful and another parcel would be developed soon.

Jenifer Parsons shared that she had attended the WWSW and WAPMS conference and flowering rush symposium. As a result of the symposium, awareness was raised in the region regarding flowering rush. She also noted that the Corp of Engineers in Walla Walla district had been given permission to use herbicides to control noxious weeds.

Tony Stadelman shared that the Grant County Weed District #3 had hired Allen Evenson, a local farmer, as their Weed Inspector. He noted that he expected the noxious weed control season to be much shorter despite an anticipated higher weed concentration.

OFFICE UPDATES

Alison Halpern:

- Turned in her final dissertation on Sunday and shared her excitement about being able to focus fully on work once again.
- Explained that the Board had received an incredible number of early requests for seed packets through its Facebook post. She also noted that the new, all-native packets for 2017 would arrive the first week of April.
- Presented at the 4-County CWMA conference in Portland in February about the Board's outreach campaign on bees. She also gave a talk at the first UW Botanical Symposium, which allowed the Board to reach a completely new audience. She noted that the audience was quite interested by the Board's open listing process.
- Is a steering committee member for an upcoming Scotch broom symposium, which would entail an all day workshop on the ecology and management of Scotch broom to be held at the Snoqualmie Casino.

Kittanya Locken:

- Reported that she and Alison helped run the booth at the annual Northwest Flower and Garden Show, which she reported as being successful with the same general questions from attendees as in previous years.

- Shared that the Board’s Facebook page had been very successful in gaining and retaining a diverse audience.
- Noted that she had launched the Yard Guard campaign, and it was receiving positive feedback from viewers and followers.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich provided the update. He:

- Had attended the Coordinators’ Conference and then the WSWS and WAPMS and flowering rush symposium in March.
- Reported that common crupina was found in Walla Walla County. If the report was accurate, it would be the first time the species was reported outside of Asotin and Chelan counties.
- Noted that garlic mustard had been showing up at an increasing rate in Grant County.
- USFS Forest Health Protection funding suffered additional cuts, resulting in less pass-through money for county weed boards and CWMAs. Jennifer Andreas’s program would receive a 25% reduction in FHP funding, though she will still have some supplemental funding provided by other programs.
- WSDA would be putting out an RFP for knotweed control and would hopefully have money to do control work on loosestrife.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alison provided the report.

- Senate Bill 5303/House Bill 1429, the aquatic species bill passed in Ways and Means and would likely pass the House.
- SB 5754 passed the Senate and was scheduled for public hearing in the House on the cut-off day for bills to be passed, and then the hearing was canceled. The bill would probably not go anywhere. The bill would have allowed county boards to place liens on state agencies. Wes McCart noted that the bill is unlikely to move forward due to major concerns with its content.
- All other monitored bills did not go anywhere, including HB 5754, the enhanced pesticide reporting bill, and HB 1005, state agency rule-making bill.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison shared that the January surplus reflected unspent funds in printing, Class A eradication grants, and in special projects. She expected to wrap up and begin printing the toxic plant booklet soon with financial support from Greg’s program and from Nursery Plant Services. The budget surplus also reflected the \$5k that would be used to help support the WSU IWMP. Alison was still waiting for reimbursements from a few state agencies for the economic impact report. Alison summarized that the Board’s budget is on track.

CLASS A ERADICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dirk Veleke, Greg, and Alison discussed the Class A Eradication grant program in a recent phone meeting. They recommended that the Board considered prioritizing certain species for on-the-ground funding. For 2017, they proposed focusing on garlic mustard infestations in Skamania and Spokane counties and providing pass-through funding of \$7,500 for each.

- Skamania County had received funding previously and had done great work so far.
- Spokane County discovered garlic mustard a couple of years ago in Heritage Park along the Spokane River. The infestation had been spreading and was in a highly public area with many walkers who were spreading it to private sites. Because of this, Greg noted that the infestation may have been more extensive than known. Twenty new sites were discovered in 2016. Although garlic mustard had always been thought of as a western Washington problem, large populations had been discovered in Umatilla, OR and a small infestation had been detected early and eradicated in Okanogan County.
- The Board could either provide the funding to the Spokane County NWCB or contract out the control work directly.

Greg shared his support of the proposal, noting that it offers the ability to focus on statewide priorities. Alison explained that the board could choose different Class A species as needed to reflect state level concerns and strategically go after certain populations. Greg confirmed that the eradication work could be done within the fiscal year.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to evenly split Class A Eradication funding between Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board and Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board for garlic mustard control work.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

STATE WEED BOARD OFFICER BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Nominations were requested to fill the open officer position of Chair.

VO TE	Jerry	Moved to nominate Tony Stadelman for Chair position.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

No other nominations were made and Tony Stadelman was re-elected as Chair of the Board.

Nominations were requested to fill the open officer position of Vice Chair.

VO TE	Tony	Moved to nominate Bill Agosta for Vice Chair position.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

No other nominations were made and Bill Agosta was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Board.

Nominations were requested to fill the open officer position of Secretary.

VO TE	Tony	Moved to nominate Dirk Veleke for Secretary position.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

No other nominations were made and Dirk Veleke was re-elected as Secretary of the Board.

The Board called a break from 1:50pm and returned to the meeting at 2:05pm.

REVIEW DRAFT OF 17.10

Alison and Commissioner McCart presented the first of many drafts of revisions/updates to Chapter 17.10 RCW. Alison explained that this first draft was based upon with notes from last year's Legislative Committee meetings, during which every section of RCW 17.10 was reviewed and discussed. The notes were then brought to the Assistant AG who provided draft language, and then Alison and Commissioner McCart made some preliminary edits. Following review by the board, the subsequent draft would be sent out to all county weed boards for their input, and then input would be sought from additional stakeholders, including commissioners and agricultural and timber industries. Changes to statutes structuring weed districts (RCW 17.04 and RCW 17.06) would not be included in this update.

The board started to review each page of the draft revision, discussing sections, making suggestions, and noting errors as discovered.

- The board discussed the proposed membership criteria for county noxious weed control boards. Emphasis was given on ensuring that an at-large member be included on each board and that the other members have either agricultural, timber/forestry, or botanical natural resource conservation/management expertise. Discussion also considered allowing the non-voting technical assistance position to be any qualified expert when a suitable extension employee is not available. They also considered mechanisms to select the most appropriate candidate from a pool of applicants. Clarification of the nomination process for new board members was also explained. Meeting requirements were also noted, including suggestions as to which actions require a quorum. Suggestions to improve the clarity of this section were presented.
- Coordinator position titles and hiring procedure changes were discussed, though a new title for coordinators was not yet agreed upon. The suggested revision in the draft referred simply to county weed board staff, with the understanding that each county weed board could determine the title of its program head.
- The relationship of the county to the noxious weed control board was also discussed, including hiring and authority for making purchases, including capital purchases, facilities, and equipment. It was noted that the weed board, under the discussed changes, would retain the ability to submit a budget and, if approved, use funds as specified in the budget to make necessary purchases.

The Board went into Executive Session at 3:56 to discuss personnel matters, ending the Executive Session at 4:04.

REVIEW DRAFT OF 17.10 CONTINUED

- The Board discussed proposed changes to the sections which regulate the State Weed Board, including hiring, the removal of the requirement to produce a biennial report, and clarification of the relationship of the State Weed Board to the WSDA. They also noted changes to the powers of the director, including the time limit for the director to respond to complaints, the process for reallocation of funding, and the process for entering property, issuing citations, and placing liens on properties in counties with ineffective or inactive weed boards.
- The Board then discussed the possible removal of the sections that apply to regional weed control boards. The rationale for removal of regional weed boards stemmed from the fact that many county weed boards form partnerships with numerous federal, state, and local entities such as cooperative weed management areas.
- The Board also discussed potential modifications to the process by which the state board can require a county to list a Class B non-designate or Class C noxious weed for mandatory control.

Due to time constraints, the board tabled additional discussion.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Anna Lyon noted that she appreciated the great work of the board and especially Wes for working on this draft of RCW 17.10 revisions.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS

None.

MEETING EVALUATION

The Board will hold another meeting in April to continue the discussion. Alison will send a doodle poll to determine availability.

The Board adjourned at 4:54 pm with a motion by Bill Agosta, seconded by Brad White. All in favor.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary, WSNWCB