

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
9:00 a.m. May 19th, 2016
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via WebEx
and hosted at the San Juan County Parks and Fair office,
located at 846 Argyle Avenue, Friday Harbor, 98250

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the March 2016 board meeting
- Office report for March
- Office report for April
- Office Report for May
- Budget Report
- Social Media Update

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

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

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

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Jennifer Andreas, Washington State University IWMP
 Bruce Gregory, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Greg Haubrich, WA State Department of Agriculture
 Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council (WebEx)
 Casey Gozart, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
 Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
 Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
 Bill Rogers, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for March.

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to accept the minutes for the March 2016 Board meeting
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Bill Agosta welcomed Board members and guests to San Juan Island on behalf of Jason, Bruce, and himself.
- Janet Stein mentioned that she had a chance to be on the Olympia radio talking about the Bee-u-tify outreach project in conjunction with staff from Environmental Services. She shared that it was great to be heard and get the word out.
- Tim Miller noted that he had received rush skeletonweed plant samples from the Lake Chelan area to test for resistance to aminopyralid. His test trials suggested the plant population was not resistant, as the test plants were easily killed when treated at label rates. However, plants in his Italian Arum trials are not as easy to control. He hopes to have more information in the next few weeks. Tim also reported that he is redoing the garden loosestrife herbicide trial, which started Monday. Additionally, he is involved in field trials with Herb Robert at Olympia and North Cascade Parks.
- Jenifer Parsons is doing a lot of surveying now that the aquatic plants have emerged. She reported that meetings of the flowering rush working group are on track.
- Tony observed that growth of weeds appears to be ahead of schedule and predicts that the state will face a longer weed season.

OFFICE UPDATES

Alison reported that she successfully complete her dissertation in April. She explained that both she and Kittanya took a lot of leave time in March, April, and May due to Alison's dissertation preparation and defense and Kittanya's shoulder injury, which set them back a bit in the office.

- Biennial Report: Alison plans to have a draft of the Biennial report in the next two weeks. In this report, she will be focusing on the challenges faced by county weed boards and wants to discuss the current state of noxious weed infestations and funding in Washington State, utilizing past reports by various agencies and other resources.
- Aggregate Program: Alison contacted the Washington Aggregates & Concrete Association about providing education/outreach to its members but had not heard back yet.
- Contract Updates: Alison is contracting Wendy Descamp to update 8-10 written findings on an ongoing basis. She has also contracted a local website development company to overhaul the WSNWCB website this fiscal year. The company will make the site more user-friendly and easier to maintain.
- Quarantine List: Alison recently talked about the quarantine list and the noxious weed list with a reporter from Capital Press. She explained that ideally, all noxious weeds would be quarantined but that because the two lists were administered through separate programs and statutes, this would be logistically challenging. Alison acknowledged that it sent a mixed message when consumers purchased plants from nurseries, only to learn later that they were invasive, noxious weeds, but that there was much more education and outreach about invasive ornamentals now. She mentioned that there were additional noxious weeds the Board would like to have added to the quarantine list at a later date.
- Facebook Updates: Kittanya and Alison gave an update about the new WSNWCB Facebook page. Since inception, phone calls and emails have increased, as has overall engagement with the process of discussing, controlling, and understanding noxious weeds. They presented the Facebook update document and pointed out a conversation string, which stemmed from the tansy ragwort post. Alison suggested that this outreach

tool shows the potential to greatly improve the Board's ability to aid in disseminating information to residents in areas where resources are limited. Kittanya discussed the recent statistics and successes of the Facebook page, including large responses to boosted posts. Alison thanked Carey Caruso for suggesting booting the Facebook posts.

- Invasive Species Economic Impact Report: Alison explained that it's taken more work than anticipated between the company contracted to produce the Economic Impact Report and Greg Haubrich, Justin Bush, and herself. The economists understand the modeling components but not the organisms being studied. Greg, Justin, and Alison understand the organisms but not the economics. Alison is confident that upcoming meetings and collaboration with the company will result in an excellent product.
- Toxic Plants Book: The writer that was contracted for this project has been great to work with and has already sent a demo page. Alison reports that the text for this publication will be done June 30th and Kittanya has started formatting the booklet. This will be a useful publication for horse and livestock owners, hay producers, and for people who live near hay fields and pastureland. The booklet will include mostly toxic noxious weeds but also other toxic plants of pastures and hay.
- Class A Reports: Kittanya discussed the draft Class A Report Summary and requested that counties who have not yet submitted a Class A report do so as soon as possible. She noted the overall progress in eradicating and controlling Class A species over the last decade and the board briefly discussed the challenges and successes of Class A eradication.
- Comparative Analytical Tools (CATs): Kittanya explained the results and intent of the Comparative Analysis Tool. Sarah Reichard had used it as a final project for her invasive plant class for two years, and the results were very interesting, allowing species to be compared based on impacts or invasiveness.
- Publication Requests: Kittanya's online publication request survey has been very successful. Alison noted that the board will need to factor the cost of postage into next year's budget so that widespread outreach can be continued. Fellow WSDA employees who travel can also help deliver packages across the state.

WSDA REPORT

Greg provided the update.

- Greg brought Alison on a survey in Grays Harbor to look at a phragmites infestation on Sand Island.
- The Pest Program has been swamped due to gypsy moth spraying and because of a staffing shortage.
- Grants are presently on hold but will be sent out soon. Spartina and knotweed projects are underway.
- Greg set up Okanogan, Stevens, and Adams County weed boards to use iForm to map their noxious weeds. Sixteen counties total are now using some version of iForm, with some on the upgraded software. He mentioned that they have over a million data points, however, few of them are of really widespread noxious weeds such as Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry. Greg requested that those who are in the field begin to collect these data points. Ideally, he hopes to have enough points to build predictive models for Class A, B, and C noxious weed spread.

- The general distribution maps have not been updated since 2003. All but three counties have sent in distribution information and maps are almost done and will be ready in the next several weeks.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Alison summarized the Board's projected end of the year expenditures, noting that she had just received April's budget on Monday. The current net unspent amount of \$68,000 is expected to balance out with an ample buffer after current contracts are completed.
- Alison provided an update on the outreach slogan contract. At the last meeting, the board agreed to fund the development of new slogans for County and State Weed Board usage to promote control of noxious weeds as a neighborly endeavor. Alison shared the draft mockup of the new logo that was created, as well as a secondary logo to be geared towards a younger audience.
- The noxious weed community will be given the opportunity to vote on their favorite magnet designs for a 2016 magnet printing order.
- Additionally, Alison explained that the additional expenditures related to the new and rebooted publications, including the Noxious Weeds in Washington State booklet, writing content for the Toxic Plants booklet, and Coordinator's Handbook will balance the budget.

HB 2478 UPDATE

Alison provided an update on the pollinator forage bill.

- The bill had been passed, but there was no funding attached. The fiscal note was small enough that WSDA might be able to help cover the costs.
- The Pollinator Committee will work with county weed boards to select a scaled-down number of projects. For example, the King County Noxious Weed Control Board and a local beekeeper association has already secured a grant to replace knotweed with native bee forage and would like to be involved with the pilot project.

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

Tim Miller said that the Noxious Weed Committee would be meeting soon, and that he expects that the Committee will only need to meet twice this year to discuss the small number of requested designation changes. Though some discussion surrounded changing members, the Committee decided to retain its current members at this time. Alison shared that the Committee will be discussing removing species and reevaluating the monitor list. Tim hopes to gain coordinator input on these issues.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Alison said that the Legislative Committee would be meeting the following day (May 20th) at 1:00 pm. Wes explained that Alison would be sending out a request for information from counties and that the Washington State Association of Counties is working to get information from every county to discuss the current state of the noxious weed control boards throughout the state.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Anna said that the WSNWCB Facebook page has been a great tool. She noted that she has been sharing the posts Alison and Kittanya have made and can't believe how many people have reshared it from her friend group. She also thanked Alison for pursuing having the Coordinator's Handbook re-written as it is outdated.

Tim asked Jenifer how the flowering rush control efforts were going. Jenifer explained that Diquat has been an effective treatment if you can ensure sufficient contact time. In rivers and ponds, divers are doing handpulling or tarping. She also shared that Imazapyr is effective on plants just breaking dormancy before the water comes up, though this must be repeated two years in a row. She also noted that biocontrol research is going well and that there has been a good level of funding this year.

Dirk shared his concerns regarding the costs associated with Class A eradication grant requests. After discussion, Alison suggested that Tony, Dirk, and any other interested parties attend a weed tour through counties requesting grants to see the infestation first-hand. She suggested that visiting the garlic mustard site in Skamania County would be a great start.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS

None.

MEETING EVALUATION

The July meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board will be held July 21st, 2016 at 9am at the Natural Resources Building at 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia.

VOTE	<i>Bill</i>	Moved to accept adjourn the meeting at 10:28 A.M.
	<i>Wes</i>	Seconded the motion
	<i>Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 10:28.



Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB



Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB



Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary

WSNWCB