

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Meeting
9:00 a.m. July 18th, 2019
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via WebEx
NRB- Room 259,
1111 Washington St S.E.
Olympia, WA

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the June special meeting
- Office Reports
- Financial Report
- Biennial Allotments

The meeting started with a Forestry Tour from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Forestry noxious weed control strategies and planning were discussed during the tour. A corner section of forest land showing different stages of forest growth and management was visited.

11:30 Adjourned for lunch

1:30 Reconvened and meeting called to order by Vice Chair Bill Agosta

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Bill Agosta	Randy Johnson	
Dirk Veleke	Steven Seefeldt	
Brad White	Jenifer Parsons WebEx	
Ken Bajema	Carey Caruso WebEx	

Others present:

Mary Fee, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Greg Haubrich, WA State Department of Agriculture
Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)

Bill Agosta noted that a quorum was present. Bill introduced Dr. Steven Seefeldt and Commissioner Randy Johnson as new board members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the June 4th special meeting.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to accept the minutes for the June 4 th special meeting.
	Ken Bajema	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Dirk Veleke gave an update that Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board's Coordinator Mike Mackey retired, but is still active in conservation.

No other board member updates.

OFFICE REPORTS

Mary Fee highlighted tasks and events from the mid-May, June, and July office reports. Mary has attended the Noxious Weed Committee meetings, JBLM Prairie Tour, WISC meeting, RCW Senator Warnick and Representative Dent Legislative Staff Meeting, as well as other meetings. She also set up a room for kid's day at the Natural Resource Building. Mary worked on the strategic planning process with WSDA staff and WSNWCB Strategic Planning Committee. She continues to provide support in the form of phone calls and emails to landowners, county coordinators, and agency staff. She has attended the Okanogan, Grays Harbor, Ferry, and Cowlitz county noxious weed board meetings, and the Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area steering committee meeting.

Dirk mentioned Douglas County's lack of a noxious weed board. He stated that Mike Mackey met with the new commissioner, Mike Straub. Bill asked if any control work had taken place in Douglas County. Greg stated that the WSDA has worked on some projects in Douglas County including Flowering Rush and has also supplied Dale Whaley some herbicide. Dale does some mapping with Iforms, education, landowner contacts, and some control work. Greg also spoke about going to the Douglas County Task force meetings with Alison. Dirk questioned what could be done to encourage a Douglas County Noxious Weed Board without causing a feud between counties.

Wendy DesCamp highlighted tasks and events from the mid-May, June, and July office reports. She has given several presentations including the Mount Rainier presentation to park staff with Tim Miller. She gave an description of the JBLM Prairie Tour led by Rod Gilbert. She also helped with the Natural Resources Building Kid's day room. Wendy has been working on Noxious Weed Committee preparation and planning. Wendy has also been working on concluding the Ivy Report. She has worked on updating and reprinting the Western WA Field Guides and created new magnets. She continues to offer support and answer noxious weed questions via phone calls, emails, and Facebook. Wendy presented samples of Italian Arum and European coltsfoot. She also gave out Play, Clean, Go boot brushes.

WSDA REPORT

Greg announced that Plant Protection Program Manager, Dr. Jim Marra, is retiring. He also reported on the NPDES permit modifications on July 5th for allowing use of aminopyralid and topramazone. The updates also require some additional monitoring for surface water residue. He talked about having Wendy help with the monitoring through the WSDA budget. Greg did not have WSDA budget numbers but did receive the Forest Service grant. He also stated that there was a cut in ALEA funding for knotweed, loosestrife, and spartina.

Brad reported on Senate Bill 5552, the bee bill, pertaining to the pollinator task force. He asked for someone to volunteer to represent the noxious weed board and be appointed to the task force. Carey asked where the meetings would be held. Brad said they will be in different areas. Ken offered support of the task force and asked if Carey would be interested. Steven mentioned the blowback from beekeepers from the treatment of noxious weeds. Carey explained that the issue isn't so much noxious weeds but rather spraying bees directly and killing off target plants for pollinators. Brad listed other members of the task force. Bill and Brad discussed that the chair can appoint a representative. Joe explained that in his area most complaints about knotweed control programs come from beekeepers. Greg talked about the knotweed biological control review and that APHIS extended the comment period. Many comments have been from beekeepers. Bill asked Mary to follow-up on this task force. Ken suggested for Mary to go to the first meeting. Bill appointed Mary to the pollinator task force.

BUDGET REPORT

Bill reported that the budget committee met early this week.

Mary reviewed the financial spreadsheet for 2019/2020, the new biennium allotments for the next two fiscal years, and end of year budget. Travel funding was discussed. Bill asked about the justification for in-person meetings. Brad emphasized support for field trips with stakeholders. The start of the legislative session in January was noted. Ken agreed that it helped to meet in person. Randy suggested meeting with legislators in their hometowns before the legislative session. Bill suggested asking for an additional \$10,000 to cover travel. Ken recommended \$12,000. Ken asked about the process for an increase. Bill and Mary explained that there would be a proposal for the next legislative session of a budget amendment. Bill asked about the time frame. Brad thought budget amendments should be out by February.

Mary spoke about county noxious weeds boards' need for funding and possible solutions through the state noxious weed board. Mary discussed looking for additional funding sources such as tire tax or license plates. Mary asked the board if she could do some fact finding and potentially pursue other funding sources. Bill questioned if the board wanted to provide this kind of funding. In the past the board has not done this. Greg mentioned that this has been looked at in the past. Bill questioned how the funding would be administered. Randy explained that many counties have this need across a multitude of programs, so he wonders about the specific need. Bill noted that weed programs are permanently strapped for funding. Steven spoke about the grant cycle. Dirk spoke about the need for an adequately funding county assessment. Mary suggested focusing on education and outreach focused towards county commissioners. Randy agreed that the communication between weed boards and commissioners can be limited and varies greatly between counties. The board consensus was for Mary to utilize her time towards commissioner meetings and education.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

Jenifer Parsons gave an update on the proposed changes to the 2020 noxious weed list. South American sponge plant is being considered as a class A, and multiflora rose as a class C. There are proposed Eurasian watermilfoil designation changes and several class B designation changes for Ferry County. Nineteen class B noxious weeds are being reviewed. Five species are being added to the monitor list. Dirk asked if there were any proposed changes for crupina. Jenifer said there have not been any proposals submitted and no discussion.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Janet and Tony took copies of the draft changes of RCW17.10 to their legislators. Mary met with Senator Warnick's and Representative Dent's writing staff to discuss RCW 17.10 proposed changes. Bill asked if the WSDA is looking at it. Brad said no.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Reservations for the public hearing and meeting room for the November conference were discussed. The board consensus was to reserve the smaller meeting room.

The Weed Warrior Certificate and letter to Friends of the Columbia Gorge were discussed.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Jason Ontjes reported that he is working with ARCGIS collector and I-phones for collecting data.

Joseph Shea reported that he is working with the Seed Growers Association on brassica. He also reported on Skagit County's ordinance for noxious weeds and other species.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. for an executive session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii)- To discuss with the board's attorney general a legal matter posing potential legal risk or financial consequences for the board.

The meeting reconvened at 3:26 p.m.

Bill stated that there was no public report at this time concerning the session.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. by a motion by Randy Johnson, and seconded by Ken Bajema. All in favor.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB