

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m. January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx Only due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of November meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Bill Agosta

## Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Ian Burke	John Magnuson
Bill Agosta	Janet Spingath	Ken Bajema
Brad White	Jennifer Andreas	Randy Johnson
Carey Caruso		

- Welcome to John Magnuson. He is the new board member for Northeastern Washington which is the counties: Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Douglas, and Chelan.

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Evan Emrick, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Francisca
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council
- Justin Collell, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Katie Buckley, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Madelyn Loy, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Ray Willard, Washington Department of Transportation
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Todd Davis, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Wendy DesCamp, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Wesley Glisson, Washington State Department of Ecology

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

<i>VOTE</i>	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting, with changes, as discussed.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Board Member Updates

- Allan Evenson has a board meeting coming up on February 21<sup>st</sup> and is looking for speakers for pesticide credits.
- Bill Agosta reported that San Juan County has had a great improvement to their financial situation and funding the county weed control board.
- Janet Spingath reported that Lakewood is planting a non-native tree, Forest Green Oak, a species from Hungaria, alongside the native Garry Oaks. Janet asked how a plant gets allowed to be planted, and brought into the US with any pests that might come with it,
  - Brad White answered that there is an inspection process to bring any plant into the US. Some plants must be put in an extended quarantine, to express pest systems, and the process is not an open door.
- Randy Johnson reported that Clallam County’s new coordinator is Christina St. John, who has replaced Cathy Lucero. Their next board meeting will be on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Officer Elections

- The Noxious Weed Board officer elections happen on odd numbered years.
  - They will happen again in January 2025.
  - Each position needs nominations, and if there is only one nomination for any position, no seconds are needed for any nomination. That nomination automatically wins.
  - If there are multiple nominations, there will be a voice vote, and the winner of the majority will be elected.
  - Election winners take office at the end of the board meeting.
- Randy nominated Bill Agosta for the position of Chair.
  - Bill accepted this nomination.
  - There were no other nominations, Bill is elected to the position of Chair.
- Janet nominated Allen Evenson for the position of Vice Chair.
  - Allen accepted this nomination.
  - There were no other nominations, Allen is elected to the position of Vice Chair.
- Randy nominated Janet Spingath to the position of Board Secretary.
  - Janet accepted the nomination.

- There were no other nominations, Janet is elected to the position of Board Secretary.
- Randy expressed his appreciation for all volunteers for the board officer positions.

## Office Reports

- Anne gave many presentations, mostly for end of year pesticide credit courses.
  - Including a large free one with WISC and the Education Committee
- King County and WISC both have new education and outreach folks. Anne met with Maria Marlin from WISC, and Rahel Stampfer from King County
- Anne reported that she has been continuing to fill publication and seed packet requests, answering questions, and updating the website and social media.
- Mary attended several meetings, including ones for the Pollinator Task Force, and Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Project
  - She also worked on the updated Flowering Rush Contract and grant application.
- Mary worked on the paperwork for the board member elections, though the seat for SE Washington is still open.
- Mary worked on several reports and listing filings, including the final draft of the WSDOT weed assessment report.

## Financial Report

- Mary reported that there isn't enough funding to get new Bee-U-Tify seed packets until after the fiscal year starts in July. Which will get it to us right on time for fall planting.
- The printing budget will be used on refilling the publications we are low on, largely Western Garden Wise and Western Field Guides
- Mary and Anne both wrote professional development plans. Some funding could be spent on items for this, like a grass ID class for Anne and maybe Mary. This will depend on the updated strategic plan and what the budget committee show should be prioritized.
- The Natural Resource Building is moving a lot of people around, making a few touch down spots, rather than many cubicles. NWCB should need 1 to 2 cubicles, or 1 touch down spot plus a storage space for publications.
  - This will hopefully reduce costs, as we currently use 3 cubicles.
  - The board can consider if they would like to get a separate office, perhaps in Chehalis, or partnering with a county weed board or a WSU Extension Office
  - Brad stated that there is no problem with the NWCB moving offices, there are just some basic safety standards that DES and Facilities will need to confirm at potential sites.
- Equipment can be bought before the end of the fiscal year at the end of June. A large printing blotter for the office or equipment for county weed boards are both options.
- Class A and B designate, and biocontrol grants have already been allocated, they are just being spent out now.

## Salary adjustments and step increase schedule

- Anne is on a step adjustment salary increase annually.
- Mary is not on a step adjustment increase and will get numbers together to present at the March meeting. She has not received an increase in salary in 4 years.

## Legislative Update

### WSDOT and noxious weed assessments

- WSDOT requested digital billing for weed assessments, however, many counties don't have the software for that.
- The local county weed boards will need to work with their county assessors to see if a digital bill can be put together.
  - This can be as simple as an excel sheet.
  - WSDOT will be fine with whatever electronic billing methods work for counties to create and send to WSDOT.
- The assessment for parcels can be sent to WSDOT at a different time than the bill.
  - Parcel information will need to match between counties and WSDOT.
- Road mile assessments were sorted out as well. The assessment costs will need to be in line with what the adjacent land use assessment fee is.
- John Magnuson, who is on the Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board, stated that the timing of assessments versus the weed treatment needs to be figured out. He stated that this also deals with assessments and control by municipalities.

### Current legislative bills

- Membership for the pesticide registration committee went through hearing, but Senator Dent was not sure if it would move forward.
  - Mary thought this bill would be good to support, if it moves forward, because there was some concerns about how this large committee was put together. The NWCB would have a representative as one of the 10 advisory members.
- Mary was not sure what was going on with the Washington Pesticide Application Act, if it was moving forward, and didn't have much information about it.

### Feral definition in WAC 16.750

- In November, the feral definition was voted to be approved, but was attached to the holly listing, which didn't go through.
  - The AG wanted this definition removed from the code, because the holly listing didn't happen, and they do not want it to be floating in the law.
- Janet asked if the definition can still be used or added in the future.
  - Bill said that it can always be added if needed in the future.

<b>VOTE</b>	Allen Evenson	Moved to remove the feral definition from the Noxious Weed Law
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### 2023 WAC 16.750 updates

- There is a process that must be gone through for any updates to the WAC.

- Bill requested the legislative committee go through the WAC and potentially make updates to the law.
- The last time this was done was prior to 2019, before Mary started as the Executive Secretary.
- The board directed the legislative committee to review the WAC for potential changes.

## Discussion Topics

### Committee Updates

- Due to board member changes and officer elections, all committee members were updated.
  - The Chair and the Vice Chair must be on all committees.

<b>VOTE</b>	Randy Johnson	Moved to replace Ken on each committee and replace him with Allen.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- The Noxious Weed Committee is now Marty Hudson (Chair), Bill Agosta, Allen Evenson, Jennifer Andreas, Tom Eler, Emily Stevenson, Greg Haubrich, Todd Palzer, Cathy Lucero, Ian Burke, Ken Bajema, and Wesley Glisson.
- The Budget Committee is now Allen Evenson (Chair), Bill Agosta, Randy Johnson, and Brad White.
- The Executive Committee is now Bill Agosta, Brad White, and Allen Evenson.
- The Legislative Committee is now Todd Davis (Chairman), Bill Agosta, Allen Evenson, Laurel Baldwin, Steven Burke, and Randy Johnson.
- The Education Committee is now Janet Spingath (chair), Bill Agosta, Allen Evenson, Carey Caruso, Ian Burge, Jennifer Andreas, and Justin Bush.
- The Pollinator Committee is now Carey Caruso (chair), Bill Agosta, Allen Evenson, Emily Stevenson, Loretta Nichols, Dirk Veleke, Judy Blanco, Katie Buckley, and John Magnuson.
- The Douglas County Survey Committee is now dissolved, as they completed the survey in 2022 and made their report to the board.
- Janet reported that the Education Committee has had Anne make seed packets and information sheets for legislators and their staff, to help educate that the NWCB exists.

### Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Project – DOE funding

- An MOU was created that included many organizations, municipalities, and tribes, to continue to treat flowering rush in Lake Roosevelt.
- In the last biennium, \$30,000 was applied for, as part of this grant.
- For this new biennium, the application was for \$70,000 for the NWCB. Additionally, Ferry County and Stevens County also applied for funding to join together.
  - This would also add the Spokane River to the surveying and treatment.
  - The previous survey believed they found the epicenter of flowering rush along the Spokane River

- Mary sees this project as a great project and excellent success story.
  - Janet said that this could be a great success story for the Education Committee to make a brochure or other presentations for in the future.
  - Bill added that though flowering rush is really localized in the state, this is an excellent success story.
- Justin Bush commended the board and the board's staff on the work on the Flowering Rush Project, because it really takes everyone working together to be successful.
  - He thanked Mary Fee specifically for her work with flowering rush
  - Having more survey data will help getting funding with the Army Corps of Engineers
  - This is one of the neatest collaborations he has seen in a few years.
  - Mary says NWCB wrote letter of support for funding flowering rush control staff.

### Biennial Report

- The biennial report will be finalized by Mary before the end of January, and sent to legislators and county weed boards.
- The strategic plan hasn't been updated recently, and Mary recommended it be worked on at the March meeting.

### Coordinators Forum

- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County – They are hiring for their second full-time field inspector. They had their January board meeting.
- Justin Collell, Clark County – They are wrapping up their knotweed grant. They are waiting to hear back from a lab on DNA analysis to confirm variable leaf milfoil at 11 sites. This could be the first ever hybridization between Western (native) and variable leaf (invasive) milfoil. So hybrids are out there. They are working on listing this hybrid as a Class A.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – They are preparing for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop, which will happen (in-person) on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Stevenson, WA.
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Orielle County – They are looking at hiring 2 seasonal positions, one of which will be full time. They also have 2 board positions to fill.
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County – They are advertising the coordinator replacement for Marty soon. Marty will be doing his last weed quiz at the workshop with Emily in Stevenson. He has worked in weed control for 32 years and is now retiring.
- John Magnuson, board member for Spokane County – requested that everyone please introduce themselves when they speak, as he was on the phone and doesn't know everyone yet.
- Evan Emrick, Skagit County – Maddy Loy was hired as their coordinator in November.
  - Maddy stated that their board meeting was this night, to update the county weed list.
- Tom Erler, King County – Rahel Stampfer is their new communications specialist. They will have their public hearing on January 25<sup>th</sup> for the county weed list update.
- Ray Willard, WSDOT – They are waiting for the assessments to come in. Once the first assessment proposals is in, the group can look at it and the process. That discussion should move forward as the process and assessment proposals roll in.

## Public Comment

- None

## Executive Session

Per RCW 42.30.110 1(g) – Personal Evaluations

- The executive session is closed to the public, and only open to board members and staff. The meeting will reconvene, after the staff evaluations have been completed, only to adjourn the meeting.

The next board meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m., as a hybrid meeting in person in Lake Chelan at the Coordinator’s meeting, and online via WebEx.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

---

Bill Agosta, Chairman  
WSNWCB

---

Janet Spingath, Secretary  
WSNWCB

---

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB