

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting
9:00 a.m. January 18th, 2024

Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia,
WA 98504, Room 259

Handouts provided for meeting:

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

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alaine Sommargren	Greg Haubrich	Ken Bajema
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Marci Miller
Carey Caruso	Jennifer Andreas	Todd Palzer

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Abbi Haley, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Allison Halpern, Washington Department of Agriculture
- Cathy Lucero
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Gerry Saw, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- George Kass
- Grace Stiller, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Katie Buckley, Washington Department of Agriculture
- Madelyn Loy, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mark Systma, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wendy DesCamp, Washington Department of Agriculture

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 1st meeting.

- A couple typos to correct

- Ken stated that he had changes, corrections, and additions to make to the November meeting minutes, and will email them to Mary to send to the board to appraise.
 - They are all part of the conflict of interest section of the minutes.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept typo corrections, but move approval of minutes until the board has reviewed Ken’s proposed changes, corrections, and additions.
	Ken Bajema	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Comments

- Allen – Winter had finally hit.
- Ken – The gorge was iced in with a very high wind. Their February weed board meeting will have the hearing, to update the county weed list.
- Carey – winter has arrived
- Janet – Lakewood had two days of winter, and then went back to normal. The summer 2023 scotch broom pile fire raised interest in managing weeds around the Lakewood area.
- Todd Palzer – Their department has been able to fill the NW region position. The new staff person came from a long tradition of noxious weed control. It was the middle of the legislative session, and DNR put in a couple supplemental funding requests to the legislature.
 - Mary stated that the NWCB can add testimony for DNR’s seasonal crew needs for noxious weed control, if that would be helpful.

Board Updates

Vice Chair

- Bill Agosta retired at the end of 2023, so Allen, as the Vice Chair took the Chair position, until the next election, in 2025.
- Allen nominated Ian Burke to the position of Vice Chair.
 - Mary had researched if a non-voting member can be vice chair, and it is allowed. The position does not give him a vote, Ian will just take over incase the chair can’t ever participate.
 - There are still 9 voting members, with Ian keeping his non-voting scientific advisor roll.
 - Mary sent out an email to the Attorney General’s office to make sure this is all legal, but hadn’t been answered yet.
 - Ian accepted this nomination prior to this meeting, but was unable to attend.

VOTE	Allen Evenson	Moved to appoint Ian Burke to Vice Chair position.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.

<i>The Board</i>	<p>Ken abstained from voting, he stated he needs to think about this before making a decision.</p> <p>The remainder of the board votes in favor, motion passed.</p>
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Office Reports

- Anne gave many presentations for the end of the pesticide license credit period.
- Anne organized or attended several meetings, including the education committee, the monitor list review subcommittee, and with King County to organize the NW Flower and Garden Show.
- Mary organized or attended several meetings, including several Flowering Rush funding meetings, the Washington Invasive Species Council, and the Pollinator Habitat subcommittee.
- Mary and Anne continued to answer questions from the public, counties, and agencies.
- Anne continued to fill publication requests and pickups, update social media, and work on the website.
- Mary continued working with WSDA on budget and administrative tasks.
- Mary worked with county weed boards to update their county weed lists with hearings.
- Mary worked on several projects, including the filing of the 2024 noxious weed list, a large flowering rush control grant application, and the board election process.
- Katie Buckley updated on the pollinator committee.
 - She was following a couple pollinator-related bills. One on habitat and one on a restricted use herbicide.
 - Was working on an extensive noxious weed report, and will have finished by the end of 2024. This report will have detailed information on how noxious weeds and their control impacts pollinators.

Agency Updates

WSDA – Greg Haubrich

- Legislative session has dropped a few bills on WSDA, even though it is a short session
- Alison Halpern joined the WSDA as the legislative liaison.
 - She used to work for the noxious weed board, first as the education specialist, then as the executive secretary, before she left for the Conservation Commission.
 - Alison is excited to be back with the WSDA, and with the plant protection division.
 - She took the position to help the division with rule making as the legislative liaison.
- Autumn Dryden started as the new division coordinator, after Deanna Painter retired in August.
- Wendy started working with county weed boards to update the county level distribution maps of weeds.
- WSDA will be receiving funds from the Department of Ecology to do biocontrol research on potential biocontrol research for parrotfeather.
- Wendy was working on getting funds from federal agencies to upgrade GIS mapping support for counties.

- The new NPDES permit won't be ready until 2025, so all previous permits will continue to be used until then.
- The rule-making process for updating the quarantine list had started. They were researching adding Ivy species the list.

Financial Report

- The financial report from WSDA for November was not complete by the time of this meeting
 - The differences that can be expected from the November report will be a change as to what was allocated, versus what has been spent, and what was left unspent.
- Printing publications hadn't occurred yet.
- The travel expenses from the November meeting and conference weren't completed yet.
- Admin and facilities expenses, like copiers, were split between different programs at WSDA.
- Some funding for training was spent, for WSDA/Department of Enterprise Services trainings.
- Some charges were for the Attorney General and the Ethics Board to review the conflict of interest rule update.
- Mailings of publications and ballots accounted for some spending.
- Anne proposed an idea of getting rid of the storage unit, and storing publications at the Knotweed Program building to save money for publications and seed packets.
 - The Knotweed program said they have space that they have allocated or could be allocated to our publications, or even for our office space.
 - The current storage unit does not allow entry between 9pm and 7am, which can make loading and unloading before and after events difficult, with additional days and mileage needed for fleet or rental cars. The storage unit is also not available if the electricity goes off, for several hours to at least half a day after power is restored.

Pollinator Seed Packets

- Seed packets will cost around 35 cents a packet, with Eastern packets costing less, and Western packets costing more.
- The weed board has \$24,000 available for seed packets.
 - There wasn't much more available in the budget
 - Katie said she would check if the pollinator program has any funding to put towards more seeds.
 - Wendy said her program may also have funding to put towards seeds.
 - Mary will ask counties if they can contribute to their seed packet needs.
- There were a couple seed mix changes requested, to make the seed even more native.

Discussion Topics

Committee Members

- Allen proposed to leave committees the same, with only the addition of Ian to all committees, because the vice chair and chair have to be on all committees.
- Allen added Greg Haubrich to the Executive Committee, to replace Brad White.

Flowering Rush Project Funding

- In the past, flowering rush management funding has come from boat tabs.
- This project would get funding from the federal Department of Reclamation.
 - This funding would go to the Columbia River Basin, including Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.
 - Also the Columbia Basin CWMA (Coordinated Weed Management Area).
 - There will be 2 parts of the application:
 - Part A: Research and development, like researching using drawdown to control flowering rush.
 - Part B: On the ground survey and control, using known management methods.
- The initial application was due on January 24th.
 - There is a year long process for the entire application.
- There are 2 categories for partners:
 - Partners like the state and county weed boards, who are people doing on the ground projects or who might be reached out to for information.
 - There has to be at least one partner who is providing power or electricity, like Bonneville power.
- Mary was waiting for budgets, cost share information, and letters of support from partners.
 - Todd said he will write one from DNR
 - There is a 35% match needed, but quite a few smaller project grants and already in-process projects can count as match.
- NWCB will be the lead and coordinator for the grant.
 - Alison stated that the board would need legislative authority to do so, and that there could potentially be up for federal audits, if the amount granted is over \$600,000
 - Mary said she wasn't sure if the board has legislative authority, and will check.
 - The board will likely hire a coordinator for the project.
 - Janet was concerned that the board hasn't taken on a project like this before.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to go forward with the funding grant project
	Allen Evenson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Strategic Planning

- Mary proposed going over the strategic plan at the March meeting, which will be held along with the Coordinator Conference in Chlan, WA.

Coordinators Forum

- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County – They haven't been able to fill Bill Agosta's position on their board yet. They still have enough for a quorum when no one is out sick.
 - The county has given them more funding, so they hired a new staff person.

- Mary stated that the forest service is willing to put forward board members, in counties with forest service land, which probably doesn't include San Juan, or at least Bill's former region.
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County – They updated their supplies for 2024, and started advertising for 2 seasonal inspectors.
- Madelyn Loy, Skagit County – January 18th was the weed list update board meeting. 2024 prep for early spring weeds began.
- Rahel Stampfer, King County – They have begun their summer hiring process.
 - They have filled out their NW Flower and Garden Show assistance and supply needs.
- Mike Murphy, Thurston County – They had their public hearing for their updated weed list.
 - They started working on a 2024 grant for milfoil contractors, knotweed along the Chehalis river, and floating primrose on Chamber's lake.
 - They started working with property owners on management of lesser celandine and a few other species.
- Gerry Saw, Snohomish county – They have narrowed down their applicant pool for a full time inspector and control technician. They received 30 applications, 5 of which will be interviewed.
 - Snohomish has some funding for seed packets, as they help bring people to outreach booths, and connect with the local beekeeper association.

Public Comment

- None

Executive Session

RCW 42.30.110 1(g) – Personnel Evaluations

- Only members of the board and board staff are allowed to be present for executive sessions.
 - Began at 10:09am.
 - Back to the open public meeting at 10:35am.

Board Member Discussion

- Janet welcomed the two new board members.
- Alaine asked if any board meetings are required to be in person in a place that would require travel.
 - Mary replied that the March and November meetings are usually in Chelan and Wenatchee, as well as online.
 - All meetings are held in a hybrid way, with at least a physical presence at the NRB in Olympia, Washington.
 - There may be some meetings with field trips around the state in the future.
 - Board members get reimbursed for travel, per diem (food, etc.)
 - This includes government rates at hotels.

The next board meeting will be on March 13th, at 1 p.m., via webinar and in-person at Campbells Resort in Chelan Washington

The board meeting adjourned at 10:39

Allen Evenson, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB