

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board January Meeting

9:00 a.m. January 23rd, 2025

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 9:01 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alaine Sommargren	Carey Caruso	Marci Miller
Alison Halpern	Ian Burke	Randy Johnson
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer
Bill Zimmerman	Jennifer Andreas	

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee – Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster – Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Ashlie Arthur – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero
- Dave Heimer – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Emily Stevenson – Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach – Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes – San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza – Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Collell – Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols – Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Lori Peterson – Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Nick Johnson - Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Okanogan County
- Rahel Stampfer – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sayward Glise – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Steven Burke – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Susan Bird – Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tricia Maclaren – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wes Glisson – Washington State Department of Ecology

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 6th meeting.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 6 th meeting.
	Alison Halpern	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Comments

- Janet – was worried about lake levels, due to how dry January had been.
- Todd Palzer – Dave Upthegrove was sworn in the prior week, as head of DNR, and is starting a funding freeze, despite DNR not being a cabinet agency.
- Jennifer – has been raising knotweed biocontrol psyllids, and getting ready to start the flowering rush biocontrol project.
- Ian – summarized the two weed conferences coming up in the next couple months. Both large ones are happening in the Pacific Northwest, which is rare.

State Weed Board Election Results

- Weed District board position – one nominated, Allen, who got 10 votes
- SW region of the state – 2 nominations, Bill Zimmerman and Ken Bajema. Bill won with 11 votes, to Ken's 8 votes

Officer Elections

- Chair –

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Nominated Allen Evenson to be board chair.
	Allen accepted the nomination.	No other nominations.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Vice chair –
 - Ian had been vice chair, but was not a voting member.
 - The vice chair would ideally be a voting member, to be a tie breaking vote in the case of the chair being absent.
 - The Attorney General said it is allowed for a non-voting member to be vice chair, but advised that it be added to the law.

VOTE	Alison Halpern	Nominated Janet Spingath to be board vice chair.
	Janet accepted the nomination.	No other nominations.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Secretary –
 - The WAC says that the secretary takes minutes as their primary duty, however, Anne has been taking minutes.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Nominated Carey Caruso to be board secretary.
	Carey accepted the nomination.	No other nominations.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Office Reports

- Anne summarized her education and outreach work, including presentations, planning meetings, answering questions, sending publications, and sending seed packets.
- Mary summarized her administrative work, including meetings, working on a proposed state bill, grants, fiscal management, and preparing paperwork for a hearing in March.

Financial Report

WSDA Allotment Procedures by Nick Johnson and Lori Peterson

- Lori summarized the biannual budget process, funding, allotments, costs, and other relevant topics.
- Likely due to the large state budget shortfall, the publication funding request was denied in the Governor's proposed budget.
 - The senate or house budget may still pick it up, and she recommended putting the request forward again for the 2026 supplemental budget.

Budget Reports

- Mary summarized the September and October financial report, as that was the most recent available. Some highlights were:
 - Salary spending was on track to be over budget, but Anne went to 80% for the winter, which may help.
 - Travelling has been frozen, which made mailing publication costs higher
 - Facilities, DES training, central services, and attorney general spending occurred as usual.
 - The website payment was the largest expenditure.
- Anne summarized the printing budget. The highlights are:
 - We have around \$24,000 budgeted for publication printing.
 - Publications we are out of:
 - Western GardenWise
 - Eastern Field Guide
 - Full Circle
 - Publications we are low on:
 - 2 months left of Western Field Guide

- 5 months left of Toxic Plants to Horses and Livestock
- 10 months left of Noxious Weeds in Washington
- A priority to get with the funding available are:
 - 1 year worth of the 2025 weed list (\$500)
 - 4 months worth of Western GardenWise (\$8000)
 - 4 months worth of Western Field Guide (\$8000)
 - 10 months worth of Eastern Field Guide (\$8000)
- The pollinator program may be able to get the Full Circle printed.

State Agency Updates

WSDA by Alison Halpern

- Alison summarized the last few months of her WSDA work. Some highlights are:
 - Sandison has remained as director for WSDA.
 - Alison was given guidelines on how to best participate in bill writing and giving testimony.
 - A budget reduction exercise was due again. Travel is to be especially reduced.
 - WSDA's budget request was denied in the governor's budget, and will go to the senate and house, but will still need to be balanced.

Committee Updates

Education Committee

- Anne summarized the recent and future activities that the education committee completed and are working on. These primarily were:
 - The Spanish and English pesticide credit courses in December
 - The Flower and Garden Show with WSDA and King County in mid February
 - Invasive Species Awareness Week in late February
 - Lakewold Gardens in-person herbicide training course in the spring or summer.

Discussion Topics

Holy Hearing

- There will be a public hearing on potential *Ilex aquifolium* listing on March 11th.
 - Mary will discuss this process with the holly growers.
 - The CR102 for this hearing will have information from growers, conservation groups, and others.
 - Normally the SBEIS in this paperwork does not show restoration costs, but it was decided that this one would.
- The board meeting will be on the following day, on March 12th.
 - The board may make a listing less restrictive, but not more restrictive, without new filing.
- Alison will be having a stakeholder meeting with the holly growers, a board member, listing proponents, and Mary.
 - This meeting may happen in early February.

- They will look at holly sales and holly on the landscape, regardless of listing status. Some topics will be:
 - Education and outreach.
 - Funding for showing holly as a commodity in Washington.
 - Funding for holly control and removal.

SB 5018

- Senator Wilson sponsored an addition to the weed law that would allow counties to have an at large member on their board.
 - The language, as written, forces the counties to redistrict, make 4 regions, and force them to have an at large member.
 - This would be an undue burden on counties which already have full boards or set districts.
 - It also requires each county board member to have 10 signatures from community members, to ensure the nominee is in the district and has support.
 - Originally, members were voted in.
 - Alison cautioned this signature language
- Mary provided neutral testimony for this bill.
 - Supported having an at-large member and signatures, but did not support forcing weed boards to redistrict.
- February 12th is the deadline for changes to the law.
- Heidi, from Mason county, stated that they always have trouble filling positions, and would like an at large member, but does not want to redistrict, as Mason County's districts are laid out very well in regards to geography and agriculture.
- Mary will schedule a legislative committee meeting to discuss this topic.

July Meeting

- Thursday July 17th is WISC's quarterly meeting. Mary asked if the board would like to have the July meeting be on July 18th, or Thursday July 24th
 - General board consensus was that Thursdays are preferential, and none are opposed the 24th
- July's meeting will now be on Thursday the 24th.

Coordinators Forum

- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County – Approves of the senate bill for an at-large member.
- Steve Burke, King County – They have initiatives regarding fruiting invasive trees. They are doing hiring. They are setting up for successful field season.
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County – Wrapping up 2024, and preparing for the 2025 season.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County – Supports the bill and signature portion, but does not want to redistrict. They are hiring a seasonal.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – They have 1 open board seat, and may have 2 or three soon. The Columbia River weed management district meeting is happening in February.
- Wes Glisson, Department of Ecology – Looking forward to the 2025 season and working with counties.

- Justin Collell, Clark County – Roundleaf bittersweet was found in Clark County. They have one vacancy on their weed board.
- Sue Bird, Yakima County – They are treating tree-of-heaven. Their board is full, but supports Tod Davis’ emailed statement to coordinators and the board.
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County – They are hiring a 6 month seasonal position, which may extend based on a forest service contract. They held their weed list board meeting. They are sending notifications as postcards to landowners. The mild winter has grown large lesser celandine, Shiny geranium, perennial pepperweed, and spurge laurel are the other early priorities. They are going to work with neighboring counties and WSDOT on these species too.

Public Comment

- Cathy Lucero – stated that she hopes any negotiations with the holly growers will be brought to the board.
 - Mary clarified that the holly stakeholder group is not making any listing language, and is just to support growers and conservation.

The public hearing will occur on March 11th at 1 p.m., via webinar and in person.

The next board meeting will be on March 12th, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:59

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB