

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board January Meeting
 9:00 a.m. January 22nd, 2026

Hybrid Online via Zoom 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 Zoom and in person:

Allen Evenson	Eric Bell	Randy Johnson
Alison Halpern	Janet Spingath	Ron Tebow
Alaine Sommargren	Jennifer Andreas	Todd Palzer
Bill Zimmerman	Marci Miller	Wes Glisson
Carey Caruso		

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Adam Pfleeger, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Avery Bowron, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero, Noxious Weed Committee
- Charles Edmonson, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Christina St. John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Darla Dolph, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Seth Luginbill, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Laura Sanders, Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sofia Sherman, Chehalis Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area

- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Theresa Noel, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tricia MacLaren, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 5th meeting.

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 5 th meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Comments

- Alaine – announced that she will be the coordinator for King County starting in March, and that this is her last meeting as a board member.
- Janet – said that the Chambers Bay dam is being removed to restore salmon habitat and migration.
- Marci – expressed concern about the lack of snow and moisture the East side of the state had received this winter.
- Randy – was concerned with budget cuts at state and county levels.
- Jennifer – was preparing for field season, and was excited for several new biocontrol species
- Todd Palzer – was waiting for legislative action to know where they were with the budget.
- Allen Evenson – was organizing the Weed District 3 meeting.
- Wes Glisson – was preparing for the field season.

Appointments Update

- Wes Glisson was appointed to replace Ian Burke, and fulfil the rest of Ian’s term as a scientific advisor member on the board.

Roberts Rules Training

- There were no requested topics for the Roberts Rules of Order training, so Marci asked for questions from the board.
- There are no rules on the formatting for meeting minutes, just rules for how they are written, based on the organization using them. All attendees who participate should be listed.
 - Professional titles should be used. Last names do not have to be used if there is a list of attendees at the beginning of the minutes
- The chair can not make a motion.
 - Motion is made first. Followed by a second. Then discussion.
 - Friendly amendments can be made for simple mistakes to the motion. Full amendments must be made for actual changes.

- No discussion can occur until a second has happened and the chair has put the motion to the floor.
- Only one motion can be on the floor at a time.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized their work over the last few months, including meetings, presentations, weed list updates, and general administration like answering questions and fulfilling publication requests.

State Agency Updates

WSDA – Alison Halpern

- Alison was promoted to Acting Assistant Director for the Plant Protection Division, and Greg Haubrich has stepped into the position of noxious weed coordinator for WSDA.
- Alison stated that she will still be doing policy work, especially during the ongoing short legislative session.
- Alison summarized house bill 1976, which would give a brochure on aquatic invasive species with every aquatic-related purchase of animals or plants in Washington.
- Alison promoted to acting assistant director for plant protection division, and Greg Haubrich is now the noxious weed coordinator for WSDA.

WSDA – Greg Haubrich

- Greg summarized what he has been working on since taking on his new (old) position, including catching up on the work that fell behind since Wendy left and the sunflower broomrape infestation in Yakima County.
- Catching up on what fell behind without Wendy
- Sunflower Broomrape, and appreciates the work Yakima County is doing

Financial Report

- Mary summarized the financial and budget reports, including expenditures for the Emergency Class A listing of sunflower broomrape, and the Department of Ecology grant the board received.
- The board discussed printing the 2026 weed list now or after the March meeting to include sunflower broomrape on the list. They also discussed that the sunflower broomrape emergency listing only lasts 120 days, which would have it run out on February 12th.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to do a new emergency listing for sunflower broomrape and to print the weed list after the March hearing and meeting.
	Bill	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Committee Updates

Education Committee

- Anne summarized what the education committee was working on, including two webinars, upcoming outreach events, in person training, and Douglas County outreach.

Douglas County Committee Update and next steps discussion

- The board discussed outreach and weed issues in Douglas County.
 - Janet knows several people and groups that could help do outreach on the ground, who we can provide material and assistance to.
 - Several members expressed frustrations on what weeds they have seen in Douglas County and on the borders of Douglas County
 - Mary summarized what funding could be available and what control requirements are in Douglas County.

Committees Review and New Nominating Committee

- To fill Alaine’s board seat, Mary will send nomination forms to all board members in that district, get those back, send ballots out, then count the votes.
- Allen updated the committees to be as follows:
 - Noxious Weed Committee
 - Emily Stevenson accepted Allen’s appointment of her as the chair, due to Ian leaving.
 - Emily Stevenson (chair), Allen Evenson, Janet Spingath, Jennifer Andreas, Tom Erlen, Todd Palzer, Cathy Lucero, Wes Glisson, Marci Miller
 - Budget Committee
 - Emily Stevenson (chair), Allen Evenson, Janet Spingath, Randy Johnson, Marci Miller, Bill Zimmerman
 - Executive Committee
 - Allen Evenson, Janet Spingath, Randy Johnson, Marci Miller

VOTE	Bill	Moved to accept the executive committee changes
	Ron	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Vote in favor, no opposition, Alison abstained, motion carried.

- Legislative Committee
 - Unchanged
 - Todd Davis (chair), Allen Evenson, Janet Spingath, Randy Johnson, Rahel Stampfer, Laurel Baldwin
- Pollinator Committee
 - Carey Caruso (chair), Allen Evenson, Janet Spingath, Emily Stevenson, Loretta Nichols, Judy Blanco, Katie Buckley, Bill Zimmerman
- Education Committee

- Janet Spingath (chair), Allen Evenson, Jennifer Andreas, Skye Pelliccia, the Washington Invasive Species Council’s future education staff person, an educator in the future
 - Douglas County Committee
 - Allen Evenson (chair), Janet Spingath, Ron Tebow, Larry Hudson, perhaps someone from Chelan County if they are willing

Discussion Topics

Action Item – Sunflower Broomrape, March 10th Public Hearing

- Mary and Sue Bird summarized the sunflower broomrape work and biology.

VOTE	Ron	Moved to have a public hearing on March 10 th for sunflower broomrape
	Alison	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Action Item – Personnel Evaluation Forms

- The board discussed the merits of two different personnel evaluation forms, Office of Fiscal Management’s one used by WSDA and a self evaluation form that board staff have used over the past few years.
 - Board members felt that the self evaluation form is good and helpful, as the board and WSDA don’t work with board staff very closely. Also that self evaluation can be hard for staff.
 - The OFM form is well used throughout state agencies and preferred by WSDA.
 - The board is leaning towards both.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to defer decision to the executive committee
	Randy	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Vote in favor, no opposition, Alison abstained, motion carried.

Chair Address to the Board

- Allen summarized some concerns that were brought to him and began a discussion.
 - Anonymous coordinators don’t have confidence in the board.
 - Allen is working with Jennifer Mendoza to send out an anonymous survey to all coordinators to get feedback.
 - Wes stated he would like if feedback for the committees were included on this survey.
 - There is concern that board staff are not fulfilling their hours.

- The board discussed if an increase in office time would be beneficial.
 - Mary stated that this is not feasible with her living distance from the office.
 - Anne described how her one day a week in the office goes for publications and how tight the space can be with all the publication needs. The space is one third what the board staff used to have, and is shared with all of plant protection.
 - WSDA and most state agencies have been moving towards full work from home for as many staff as possible, and board staff have been work from home since before Covid.
- The board decided that Mary would send a summary of her and Anne's work to the Chair and Vice Chair other week.
 - Ron expressed that he is happy with the current office report and is concerned that additional reporting will take time away from other tasks.
- Eric stated that he has not heard any complaints, as a board member and a coordinator. Additionally, if no one states the complaints, no improvements or help can be done, and Marci agreed.
 - Jennifer stated that she has had some complain who want to remain anonymous, as they are worried it will impact their Class A grant awards.
 - Ron expressed that the public get frustrated with weeds, which can pass up to counties and then to the state.
 - Janet put forward the idea that the board could have a suggestion box at the coordinators and weed conferences.
- Alaine thanked the chair for taking this matter seriously.
- Alen expressed his gratitude to the board for their time.

Coordinators Forum

- Eric, Adams County – has been dealing with vandalism and theft, and is concerned that it will increase.
- Jennifer, Cowlitz County – updated their county's weed list.
- Charles, Lewis County – was working on the coordinator's conference agenda and they have moved to a new office.
- Larry, Okanogan County – Was having their weed hearing to update the county weed list the following week. He will include sunflower broomrape at the hearing, as it is currently an emergency listing.
 - He expressed concern about weeds in Douglas county, if no one is looking for weeds, how can they control them.
- Sue, Yakima County – stated that she will be on medical leave next month and often over the next 7 months. They are working on Scotch thistle.
- Christina, Clallam County – their season had started early, due to warm temperatures. They have an Olympic Invasives Working Group every fall, which is well attended.
- Sophie, Jefferson County – due to the warm temperatures, they are starting their poison hemlock control early. She was keeping track of hb 1707 and 5018.

- Shaheen, Snohomish County – was working on winter projects, like mapping and reports to prepare for the field season. They started advertising to fill one board seat position. They were going to update their weed list next week.
- Rahel, King County – Alaine would be starting on March 2nd as the new program manager. Their staff were working on flood recovery and their seasonal staff was starting soon.
- Heidi, Mason County – has been prepping for field season, doing admin, updating fact sheets, making a calendar, and doing equipment maintenance. Their weed list will be updated in February. Tansy was either still blooming or already blooming.
- Sofia, Chehalis Basin CWMA – Encouraged everyone to look at the Chehalis Dam ecological impact statement and discussed her upcoming winter CWMA meeting.

Hb 1707 brought by Alaine

- Alaine summarized house bill 1707, which introduces more review of listing weeds that are also agricultural crops in Washington, and expressed that it seems to add redundancies to the current process.

Holly Working Group brought up in the moment by Janet

- Janet asked Alison for an update on the Holly Working Group.
- Alison stated that there was no news and that the group had not met since July. She had heard that holly growers had a good season.

Public Comment

- none

The public hearing will be on March 10th, at 1 p.m., via webinar and in person.

The next board meeting will be on March 11th, at 1 p.m., via Zoom and in person.

VOTE	Bill	Moved to adjourn the meeting.
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:51

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Carey Caruso, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB