

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Meeting
10:00 a.m. July 15th, 2021
Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx Only due to Covid-19 Restrictions

Handouts provided for meeting:

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Ken Bajema	Brad White
Bill Agosta	Carey Caruso	Steven Seefeldt
Dirk Veleke	Janet Spingath	
Jerry Hendrickson	Randy Johnson	

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
- Charles Monson, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Andreas, Washington State University Extension
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jim McKeirnan, Garfield County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Naedene Shearer, Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Scott Watson, Whitman County Noxious Weed Control Board

Board Member Comments

- Grant County is very busy keeping up with roadside spraying. Allen Evenson has also been working on inter county weed district 51. Letters were sent out, asking residents if the district should be kept or dissolved. Only 10% responded, but most said to dissolve the district, but many were also interested in being board members. On July 20th there will be a meeting to discuss dissolving the district, sending out ballots to track official responses, and Mary will attend the meeting to help with legalities.
- WSDA is dealing with a large Japanese beetle infestation in Grandview, Washington.

- In Asotin County, everything has been blooming about a month early
- Steven Seefeldt will retire from WSU NW WA Research and Extension Center on November 6th.
- Janet Spingath received two Weed Warrior nominations. One is from San Juan County, for Ron Leman, who has removed thousands of scotch broom at a Lafarge Preserve, a county park. The other is for the Lakes High School FFA chapter, in Pierce County, for learning to ID weeds and working to rejuvenate a historic orchard at Fort Steilacoom Park.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to reward both nominations for Weed Warrior.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Anne and Mary will send a letter and certificate to each county board, so that they can award
- There are no elections, and all currently elected members are carrying over to 2022. We are waiting on Jennifer Parson’s position to be filled at the Department of Ecology, to see if that individual can be appointed to an advisory position. Carey Caruso has been approved and appointed for her third term on the Noxious Weed Control Board, in the Eastside Public Interest Representative position.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 20th meeting.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 20 th meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

State Agency Updates

Agency

- Update

Office Reports

- Between the end of May and early July Mary has attended and led meetings, continued administrative and support work for the board and counties. Meetings she has attended include the Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Response Group, WISC Board meeting, Community Herbicide Resistance Initiative, Pollinator Task Force Habitat Subcommittee, and the Noxious Weed Assessment Billing Meeting.

- As a result of the Pollinator Task Force meeting, the state Noxious Weed control Board now has 1300 pounds of seed in their storage unit. This will be distributed to open space projects in the next few years. This is in lieu of the individual Bee-U-Tify seed packets, which were not made this year.
- Mary wrapped up the biannual budget, including sending supplies and materials to counties.
- Since the last meeting Anne has taken her pesticide license test, made draft written findings for the Noxious Weed Committee, finished and printed the updated Garden Wise booklets and a new magnet, as well as answering questions, assisting counties, and filling publication requests. Anne will send the new booklets and magnets out to the board and county coordinators.

Financial Report

- For FY21, all spending and salaries were pretty normal, except there was no travel.
 - Mary got supplies for the office, as well as stamps.
 - The largest expense was publications, where \$400 was spent on magnets and \$25000 was spent on Garden Wise.
 - There were \$3294 in Attorney General fees, for phone calls on Jefferson County projects, and a Flowering Rush Issue in Chelan County.
 - \$3000 went to Jennifer Andreas' WSU biocontrol program.
 - Tools, supplies, and road signs were bought to support counties.
 - There was a 15% reduction held back, and not spent, because of COVID, but has not been removed yet. That money will probably go to balance across the board, and our budget will probably not be reduced by that next year
 - For the next bienneium, we don't have a budget yet, but it will likely be about the same as before.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- Anne ran a meeting of the Noxious Weed Committee on July 13th.
 - Hanging sedge was recommended for a class B designate listing.
 - Rough chervil was recommended for a class B designate listing.
 - Wild basil was recommended for a class B designate listing.
 - At the May meeting, Green alkanet was recommended for a class C listing.
 - Crack willow was tabled until the committee gets more background information from Yakima County and from Yakima County Flood Control Zone District.
 - A survey will be put out to counties about the class B designate recommendations above, as well as common tansy, so see which counties would have them designated, if listed at that level.
 - The listing for wild carrot is recommended for a wording update to allow for sale of the garden/cultivated carrot subspecies.
 - The next committee meeting will be on September 8th at 8am.

Legislative Update

- RCW 17.10-SHB 1355
 - Mary ran the first committee meeting, on how to bill WSDOT for weed assessments, last week.
 - The committee has discussed a state wide assessment rate. Mary will survey the coordinators to see if they would feel comfortable with that. Currently, the authority is on the county level, not the state level, and the counties may not want their authority reduced.
 - Assessments will be billed by parcel and by road mile, depending on if the site is along a right highway or is a parcel, like a gravel pit.

Discussion Topics

Douglas County

- Mary reached out to all of Douglas County's neighbors, to find if there were any weed problems spilling over, and none were aware of any. There are some weeds on the borders, but that doesn't mean the plants are coming in.
 - Mary also looked at all the species that were designated and selected in the neighboring counties, and compared those to what Douglas County is managing, and didn't find any species that stood out as needing control.
- An idea is to have a survey of Douglas County weeds, and Mary made a draft budget for one.
 - Greg said that the survey team should be two people, rather than one, and that funding would be difficult.
 - Bill stated that there might not be a need for a survey, based on the neighboring counties reports.
 - Janet would like more data.
 - Dirk knows there are weeds growing there and that a survey would be good.
 - Ken made an argument that the county should do a survey, to show they are not having any weed problems, and don't need a formal Noxious Weed Control Board.
 - Mary stated that money for a survey can come from the state board's travel budget, as she doubts there will be much travel in FY22.
 - Dirk stated that a spring or summer survey would be best, to have as many species blooming as possible.
 - Greg proposed that May and June 2022 would be a good time to do a survey.
 - For the September meeting, Mary will put together a more formal survey proposal.

Class A Projects

- These were skipped last year to restart the timing so they have almost a whole year to use funds
 - \$15000 is allocated, and \$22000 is being requested.
- Mediterranean sage project from Columbia County, for \$4000. Board score = 7
 - Naedene Shearer reported that this project would treat sage at certain sites.
- Milk and slenderflower thistle project from Cowlitz County, for \$2900. Board score = 9

- Jennifer Mendoza reported that this project is mostly for smaller farmers, including a soil producer.
- Garlic mustard project from Skamania County, for \$2500. Board score = 10
 - Emily Stevenson reported that it has been funded in past years, and now needs continued support, to stay up on it and conduct surveys.
- Garlic mustard project from Island County, for \$2628. Board score =7
 - Seth Luginbill was not present to report on this project, so it will not be funded.
- Mediterranean sage project from Yakima County, for \$5000. Board score = 7
 - Sue Bird reported that this project is Yakima’s priority. They have more availability to spray and survey more land for this project.
 - Sue would rather have more funding for this project, but is ok with split between the two projects.
 - Working with tribal land owners to treat on and off reservation, all at the same time, as it shows up.
- Oriental clematis project from Yakima County, for \$5000. Board score = 8
- Janet suggested that the board supports all, but Island County’s projects, and reduce the award to Yakima county, by the amount over budget they are.

VOTE	Ken Bajema	Moved to fund the Columbia, Skamania, and Cowlitz counties class A projects in full, and to the Yakima County class A projects for \$,5600 to use between the two projects as they see fit.
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Yakima will get \$5600 to use as they see fit, on either project, while Columbia, Cowlitz and Skamania’s projects all get fully funded
- Jennifer Andreas and biocontrol project with WSU is not a class A project, but was still in this funding pool.
 - Jenn reported that the funds have been used exclusively for travel for release and monitoring of biocontrol.
 - For just giant knotweed, Jenn has 9 release sites on the east side of the state, in addition to other species.
 - This project is especially important in fire areas to push back the invasive weeds going into these disturbed areas, where the fires killed off the biocontrol insects.
 - It is working well, and for some species, relatively quickly.
 - In past years, this project has been funded between \$3000 and \$5000, which is used across the whole state, in whatever county requests assistance.
 - The work is done mostly in May and June.
 - Jenn is doing work in Douglas County.
 - Jenn’s work is 95% grant and project funded, while only 5% is from WSU.
 - Mary suggests \$5000 be funded for Jenn, from the state board’s travel budget and attorney general fees.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to contribute \$5000 to the WA State Bio Control Program managed by Jennifer Andreas.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- The funded projects will receive their funding when the FY22 budget is released, likely in August 2021.

Coordinators Forum

- Jason reports that San Juan County has just finished working with Youth Conservation Corps, removing scotch broom on public lands. They are still trying to fill a technician position, which has been open for a month, and on and off for a year.
- Naedene reported that Columbia County has finished a large yellow star thistle spraying project, and has released biological control.
- Charles Edmonson is the new coordinator for Lewis County. Later today Mary will be attending his first board meeting.

Public Comment

- None.

The next board meeting will be on September 23rd, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB