

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting  
9:00 a.m. July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
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 9:06 a.m. by Bill Agosta

## Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allan Evenson	Janet Spingath	Jennifer Andreas
Bill Agosta	Jerry Hendrickson	Ken Bajema
Brad White	Joseph Shea	Todd Palzer

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
- Betsy Crysel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kodie Wight, Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Naedene Shearer, Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- There was one typo. When fixed, they can be finalized

## Board Member Comments

- Bill Agosta – In June, the Seattle Times had great article interviewing Janet Spingath on invasive weeds. It was a well done article, and very good outreach for controlling weeds
- Jerry Hendrickson – It is warm, and there are lots of noxious weeds growing. Thistles really like warm weather.
- Ken Bajema – Grass and weeds are growing, due to it being warm and sunny.
- Janet Spingath – Her interview with the Seattle Times happened right after a board meeting, so she had all her noxious weed information ready at her fingertips.
  - She is volunteering at a weed awareness day at Fort Steilacoom. Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board gave her handouts for the event, and there will be lots of noxious weed specimens right near her outreach table
- Joe Shea – Poison hemlock increasing in Skagit County. Joe led a presentation on it, there was a front page article on poison hemlock on the Skagit County Herald and also a video on King 5. As a result, their office is getting 20 to 30 calls a day on poison hemlock. A Radio segment will be coming out soon too.
  - Joe is leaving for another position, with Skagit County Parks. August 15<sup>th</sup> will be his last day. He has a seasonal who will transition to fulltime to help fill his roll's duties.
- Todd Palzer – DNR is hiring a new position on the west side. The position will be 60% invasive plant duties, and 40% green crab control duties.
- Other business:
  - Dirk Veleke retired at the end of June and has resigned from the board. An election to replace him will be in the fall. Kevin Hupp took his position as the chairman of the Douglas County Survey Committee
  - The Coordinators Association will decide on a member to replace Dirk.

## Office Report

- Mary attended many meetings, including the Washington Invasive Species Council's June meeting.
- Anne organized and led a few outreach and education events and presentations, including a BioBlitz at Patrick Vance Dunn Memorial Prairie.
- Mary and Anne continued activities like general administrative support, responding to inquiries, and sending outreach materials, as well as other items, like noxious weed disposal bags and herbicide to counties.
- Mary is still coordinating counties and WSDOT to get the road weed assessment billing correct
- The end of fiscal year budget will be sent to Mary soon, once all receipts are finalized, which Mary is working on currently.
- Mary worked on new budget coordination. This budget will run for the next two fiscal years, until June 2024.

## Financial Report

- The end of year numbers look accurate and almost all of the budget was spent.
- Some of the final costs haven't been billed yet, but Mary has estimates for those in her budget numbers

- Because there was extra funds, from none of the travel budget being spent, so we bought the noxious weed disposal bags for the counties.
- Some funds were spent on supplies from office depot and a few hundred boot brushes to give out to counties and other groups.
- Some supplies were bought for Jennifer Andreas and the biocontrol project
- A few counties will be receiving herbicide that was bought at the end of June.
- The Douglas County Survey happened in May and June, with a little more aquatic work left to wrap it up. The funds designated to that will be billed in the near future.
- All the Class A grants' paperwork are coming though from billing.

## State Agency Updates

WSDA – Brad White

- Greg Haubrich has committed some funding to some of the Class A and Class B Designate grant projects, to free up some funding for the other projects.

## Committee Updates

Douglas County Survey Committee – Kevin Hupp

- The committee tried to meet before the board meeting, but that didn't end up happening in time. So he didn't have a full update for board, just a few preliminary pieces of information from Dale Whaley and Mark Eyler, who were doing the survey
  - Scotch thistle and rush skeleton weed are primary species to note being seen. The historic populations still exist, with some increasing in size and others decreasing
    - The Scotch thistle is around Highway 17 mostly
    - The large rush skeleton weed populations were found in the China Creek area
  - The historic yellow star thistle population in the Moses Coulee area has greatly reduced in size, but is still present
  - There are a few limited populations of spotted knapweed
  - Dalmatian toadflax is spread throughout the county, with the burn scar area around Highway 17 having the largest infestations
  - Russian knapweed is also throughout the county
- A final report will be given at the September meeting.

Education Committee

- Anne and Janet will be working with Dan George, starting in late August, to see about making a noxious weed curriculum and getting it into clover park school district.
- There has been no Education Committee meeting since last board meeting, and the next meeting will be on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Noxious Weed Committee

- Crack willow will not be recommended (to the board) to be listed by Noxious Weed Committee.
- There will be an English Holly special meeting in mid to late August, to review new information, before making a decision on whether or not to recommend holly to the board.

- Preceding this meeting, there will be some field trips to a holly research site, and maybe a holly restoration site and a holly farm.
- English Ivy will not be recommended (to the board) for up-listing from C to B, due to its populations in Washington being more in-line with Class C species than with Class B species.
- Douglas County designation requests will occur after Douglas county survey data back, likely in the next meeting of the Noxious Weed Committee, which will be on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Discussion Topics

### Class A and B Designate Project Grant Awards – Discussion and Decision

- There is \$20,000 in funding available for Class A and Class B Designate grant projects.
  - \$23,000 was requested between all projects
  - WSDA will fully fund Asotin County’s Knotweed project, for \$2000, and Cowlitz County’s Thistle (Turkish, slenderflower, and milk thistles) project, leaving \$18,000 needed to fund the remaining projects
- Due to there being enough money to cover all proposals, Bill decided that it is not necessary to go over each proposal in detail, and that this time was just to raise objections to any of them.

<i>VOTE</i>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to fund all projects
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Naedene Shearer spoke up, said Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board put in a proposal but can’t see it listed on the shared screen.
  - Mary started looking, but wasn’t able to find it.
  - Bill asked Naedene to summarize the project, and that it can be discussed at the September meeting.
    - Mary was worried that is too late to make the decision for the planning and starting of a project
  - Naedene’s summary of the project was:
    - The project will continue treating 4 of the 5 areas with Mediterranean sage, as well as using a drone to survey all the sites, and would be for \$5,000.
    - The drone will be especially useful to survey the largest site and the steep areas with a lot of native trees and plants.
    - Ground spraying and digging will happen at those steep and vegetated sites.
    - Funding is especially needed, because the landowners can’t help financially, but willing to help in other ways, like marking plants.
    - Columbia County is able to budget \$5000 towards surveying and herbicide application, plus \$300 for the cost of herbicide. Additionally, any of Naedene’s time for the project will be allowed to be budgeted for it as well, so that is county funds.

- There is \$2000 left over from the funded projects. Mary asked Naedene if at least this would be helpful. Naedene replied that it would be.
  - Sue Bird, offered to give \$1000 from each of Yakima County’s 2 projects, totaling \$2,000 to be given towards Columbia County’s Mediterranean sage project.
  - This would leave \$4000 total for the project.

<b>VOTE</b>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to transfer \$2000 from Yakima County to Columbia County, giving \$4000 to fund Columbia County’s Mediterranean sage project.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### Flowering Rush Project

- Flowering Rush is a Class A species, which impacts riparian areas and fish habitat, especially in the Columbia River and in Lake Roosevelt.
- A few years ago, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board received \$30,000 in funding from Washington State Department of Ecology, to get flowering rush surveyed and treated in Lake Roosevelt.
  - This funding went to resources for Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Colville Tribe, Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board, and Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board to coordinate and conduct the survey and treatment.
- A lot of time went into planning and coordinating this project.
  - The survey and treatment was put off for a few seasons, due to pandemic restrictions on the number of people who can be in a boat at one time
    - This is why not all the funds ended up being spent out.
  - Mary coordinated a Memorandum of Understanding between all the participating groups.
  - A federal pesticide license was required to use herbicide on tribal lands, but luckily the noxious weed coordinator from Ferry County has that certification, and was in the boats when treatment was happening in those areas.
  - The work had to be done when the water level was at its lowest. The dam operators could only give a couple weeks’ notice of when drawdown would happen. Luckily the drawdown was historically low during the survey and treatment.
  - The use of ATVs helped speed things up, rather than hiking when the water was low.
- The flowering rush didn’t occur much past 15 feet below the high water line.
  - The young flowering rush was a bit difficult to ID, but once the surveyors got their eye for it, the survey went well.
  - The Lincoln County side was surveyed afterwards, and flowering rush was present on that side, all the way to the dam.

- Flowering rush was really only present on a particular sandy medium, and not in more rocky areas.
- A lot of treatments were done in a short time.
- A post-treatment survey was done in late May, while the water was still down.
  - Plants were browning and dying back very nicely.
  - In June, after the water went back up, Todd Palzer went back out to look at the status of the largest infestation sites.
    - He found that the rhizomes were really impacted, especially on the plants not covered by water.
  - Hangman Creek and the Spokane River were probably where all the infestations originated from.
    - There is a private koi pond, not on DNR land, and Stevens County is willing to take action with the infestation there.
- At the September meeting the board will discuss applying to this funding source again, to continue this project
  - The application process with the Department of Ecology for this funding is open on a rolling basis.

## Coordinators Forum

- Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board: Her board pulled out support for the Flowering Rush program. DNR will work with the county on how to continue flowering rush work in other ways.
- Betsy Crysel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board: – 10:06 – yellow star thistle and Scotch thistle.
- Allen Evenson, Grant County Weed District #3: Goathead (puncturevine) is a particularly bad problem right now, and seems to be the worst in Weed District #3 out of anywhere in the county or immediate area. Allen is going to try to have a meeting with Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board to get on the same page about dealing with the goathead.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board: A program called Forest Youth Success received funding to do tree-of-heaven surveys around county, contact landowners, and map the trees using iForm. Forest Youth Success is also planning creative ways to do public outreach on tree-of-heaven and other invasive species.
- Joe Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board: His county is currently focusing on Spartina and knotweed control.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board: Her county is currently facing new infestations of Turkish thistle, giant hogweed, eggleaf spurge, and milk thistle. They are working hard to get these species under control. There was an article in a local newspaper on these new Class A infestations in Cowlitz.
  - The county is having some tansy disposal days in late July and August.
  - Jennifer has been working on how assessments will be done and how to bill for them.
  - There were two very large tree-of-heavens, which the county's Parks and Rec will be controlling soon.
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board: All the new flowering rush found with the Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush program was an epiphany to Kevin.

- Quite a few tree-of-heavens were found around the county, so Kevin is working on finding grant funding for chainsaws and chippers. He researched pheromone traps for spotted lantern flies, but none have been developed yet.
- Kevin has accepted a position with Wilber Ellis, replacing Jerry Ellis. He is training his replacement, who will also be willing to take his place on the committees Kevin currently sits on.
- Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board: Cathy is retiring in early September. She already has a successor set up, who has a background in native plant restoration.
  - Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board has no coordinator or staff, and Pat Grover at Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board is retiring soon too. Cathy was worried that Clallam County is going to be just about the only Noxious Weed Control Board actively working on the Olympic Peninsula, besides Grays Harbor.
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board: Marty is hoping to retire next year, but Klickitat doesn't have the funding to hire someone to start training this year. 2023 will have some more funding, from the assessment cost increase starting.
  - The Army Corps of Engineers will be doing some diving to remove a few spots of flowering rush
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board: They are currently focusing on controlling knotweed and purple loosestrife on the Yakima River system.
  - They have started working on a tansy ragwort project with the US Forest Service
  - Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board will have a booth at the county fair for the first time since before Covid.
  - They did a drone herbicide application on oriental clematis, in difficult to reach areas, and it has been very exciting to see.
- Kodie Wight, Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board: They are currently focusing on knotweed control with willing landowners.
  - Asotin County has also been doing assessments and mapping of Mediterranean sage, and there is a lot of it.
  - They have also been working on assessing and controlling star and Scotch thistle. A lot of this work has been with landowners spraying their infestations, as part of a cost share program with Asotin County Conservation District.

## Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:25

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Bill Agosta, Chairman  
WSNWCB

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Janet Spingath, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB