

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Meeting  
9:00 a.m. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
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 May meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Draft rule of conflicts of interest.

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Bill Agosta

## Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Chip Magnuson	Jennifer Andreas
Bill Agosta	Eric Bell	Ian Burke
Carey Caruso	Greg Haubrich	Randy Johnson

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Dave Heimer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wendy Descamp, Washington Department of Agriculture
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero
- Chris Stewart
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kela Hall-Wieckert, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Pamela Wolf

## Board Member Comments

- Jennifer Andreas – She is getting closer to releasing flowering rush biocontrol in Montana and looking for sites to release in Washington.
- Ian Burke – There has been an up-tick in reports of poverty brome (sterile brome) in crop fields around Eastern Washington.

## Office Report

- Mary and Anne attended many meetings, including a couple with WSDA plant services staff to discuss the quarantine/prohibited plant list and process.
- Anne worked on the usual publication requests, website updates, answering questions from the public, and general education and outreach tasks.
- Anne and Mary received the reprints of the Western Washington Field Guide and Gardenwise booklets.
- Anne finished up graphics and brochures for WSDA's apple maggot program and a Spanish-language print of the tree-of-heaven brochure with WISC.
- Anne worked on the noxious weed list process for this year, including written findings for invasive beach grasses, reviewing the monitor list, and preparing for the Noxious Weed Committee July meeting.
- Mary went on a field trip with the botanist from Gifford Pinchot National Forest and a freelance reporter, to look at holly around Gifford Pinchot.
- Mary worked on a public records request from this same reporter, with the attorney general's office.
- Mary has been working with counties on Class A and B contracts, questions about enforcement laws, and general correspondence.
- Mary continued general administrative tasks, such as end of fiscal year budgeting and bill payments.

## Budget Report

- There were no major expenses or anything out of the ordinary in spending since May.
- Mary will get the final FY 2024 numbers around August, as well as the final expenditures from the end of FY 2023.
- Mary finished up the paperwork for the Class A and B designate grants.
- Mary is planning on moving forward with buying new seed packets to start sending out in fall.
  - She expects the cost to be the same as before, with the state board paying for \$15,000 worth of seeds, and partners contributing an additional \$10,000.
- The state board received the flowering rush grant funds, and will distribute the funds to the county boards, since the state board was just the application agency.

## State Agency Updates

### WDFW - Dave Heimer, Noxious Weed Coordinator

- Dave stated that this presentation is a 10,000-foot view of the last couple years for what WDFW has been doing with their weed control tasks, and how weed control fits into the agency.
  - Dave has 2 permanent staff directly reporting to him, and a few field crew and seasonal crew members.
  - They support wildlife areas around the state with weed control and technical assistance.
    - Different areas have different weed and restoration priorities.
    - The wildlife area staff mostly do weed control, but Dave's team will assist as available, especially with grants adding on projects.

- Dave went through some project summaries, as examples of what they have been doing recently.
  - Controlling Spartina in South Skagit Bay.
    - The area is now all native marsh species, with a few spot treatments for individual spartina detections.
    - There are only 1.12 acres of spartina left.
    - The cost of control was high, so their goal is to keep spartina levels low.
    - There is a similar story in Willapa Bay.
  - Canada and bull thistle control in a burned area near the Teanaway fire.
    - They are using Earthcorps and Washington Service Corps crews as well.
  - In Swanson Lake area, they are controlling Medusahead and cheatgrass with various herbicide treatments and follow-up replanting.
    - They are working with Rock Creek Conservation Area and Pheasants Forever on this, which is all part of an elk migration project.
  - At Scotch Creek they were treating 1,000-5,000 musk thistles a day, and now are down to 300-500 a day, with a lot more ground being covered each field day.
  - In Skagit County they used drones to survey, map, and spray invasive cattails.
    - They used a drone vendor from the tri-cities area to come in to map and treat difficult to reach and fully inaccessible infestations.
    - The vendor was able to spray 73 acres total of cattail, which would have taken 2-3 weeks to reach just the accessible infestations by foot and boat.
    - Plantings will happen next.
  - At Oregon spotted frog sites, they have been mowing reed canary grass to make paths for the frogs from ponds to creeks, but now are using imazapyr and planting low-growing species.
  - They have been working to form, promote, and with existing lake management districts.
  - They did a study on knotweed to see if Diquat is effective when injected early in the season.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Randy	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 25 <sup>th</sup> meeting.
	Allen	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Discussion Topics

### Elections

- The Southeast region, which used to be Jerry Hendrickson’s seat, is still open, so elections will be held again this fall and winter.
  - None of the other (electable) board members are up for election this upcoming year.
- All positions that are elected by WSDA, currently Greg Haubrich, are still seated.

Quarantine list

- Mary and Anne have been meeting with plant services staff to discuss the quarantine list/prohibited plant list.
  - The board can't change the prohibited plants list but can petition WSDA for additions.
  - WSDA would prefer to get petitions from professional groups like the noxious weed control board, and tends to accept their petitions, especially Class A proposals.
  - The plant services staff do enforcement on the list, with nursery inspections.
    - Noxious weed boards help with reports.
    - There are also hay bale and mulch inspections that play into the list enforcement.
  - Emily questioned why any listed noxious weeds are being sold, especially in underfunded areas.
    - The WSDA must go through a rule-making process to accept any petition, and that includes economic assessments.
    - Some weeds on the noxious weed list are not sold by anyone and would just waste resources if they were on the prohibited plants list.
- Right now plant services are doing the rule making process for English ivy and spotted jewelweed.
  - The board will also recommend some recently listed species for the list:
    - Turkish thistle – listed as Class A in 2021.
    - Hanging sedge – listed as Class B in 2022.
    - Green alkanet – listed as Class C in 2022, but even gardening groups highly recommend against it being sold or planted.
- Bill proposed that the board could have a standing agreement that their staff will make a petition for all Class As and Bs to be put forward to WSDA, without a vote of the board each time.
  - Randy thought that this is a good step because the board and coordinators aren't doing the enforcements, and the WSDA can then decide which petitions they accept and move forward.

<b>VOTE</b>	Allen	Moved for all Class As and Bs to be automatically put forward in a petition to WSDA plant services, without a vote of the board.
	Randy	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Greg abstained, the rest in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Rule making

- The Ethics in Public Service Act applies to transactions, but not to rule making.
  - The board can have its own rule about vote recusal on the noxious weed law.
- In May the board wanted to consider a noxious weed rule about recusal from voting if the species proposed relates to a board member's business.
  - Bill worked with the Attorney General to draft up the wording for such a rule.
  - Mary sent out this draft wording to the board for their consideration.

- If the board wants to consider this rule to add to the noxious weed law, a hearing will be needed.
  - It can happen on September 6<sup>th</sup>, for the board to vote on the rule on the September 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
  - If the board does not want to consider this rule, the discussion today will be the end of this process.
- Bill asked if the board wants to consider this rule.
  - Randy stated that as a public official, he sits on a lot of boards. He felt that even the perception of having a conflict of interest is very important to the public's trust of government, and transparency.
  - Bill and Mary received several comments from the public and boards about the holly vote in 2022, which Bill felt reflected quite poorly on the board.

<b>VOTE</b>	Randy	Moved to consider the draft ethics rule.
	Allen	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- The draft rule now must be reviewed by the State Ethics Board, for their consideration and comments. After that:
  - The public hearing will happen on September 6<sup>th</sup>, and the public can comment and write in for that.
  - The next day the board will vote on whether to adopt the rule at the meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Strategic planning

- The current 5 goals are the same as they have been for over 10 years.
- Mary asked if the board wants to consider going over and updating the strategic plan.
  - Mary suggested a committee to strategize goals.
  - Bill offered that strategic planning could go do the legislative committee.
  - Mary stated that the legislative committee would be good because it also has county coordinators, and they would have good input.
  - Mary added that the education committee can go over the education and outreach portions of the strategic plan.
- Both the legislative and the education committees will meet before the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and cover strategic goals planning.
  - Randy thought the goals are appropriate but would like to get input from the committees.
  - Ian added that the plan should have financial goals and should align with the budget.
    - Chip agreed with Ian on this.
  - No motion was needed.

## Future meeting locations

- There was interest in having future meetings be hybrid in-person and online around the state, with the attendees in-person able to go on a field trip.
  - At the November meeting the board will plan their 2024 meeting dates, including the ones that will be traveling dates.
  - Counties, WSU extension offices, and the WSU Pullman office are all potential meeting sites, depending on their interest in hosting.
  - Members of the public from that area of the state will be especially invited to attend.
  - The field trips would showcase a special project, site, or species in the region.
- State Representative Fitzgibbons is meeting with interested board members on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - This will be a virtual meeting.
  - Up to 4 voting board members can attend.

## Committee Updates

### Noxious Weed Committee

- The committee had a presentation and discussed European, American, and hybrid beach grasses with Andrea Thorpe and Nate Johnson from Washington State Parks.
- The committee also discussed the monitor list purpose and goals, as part of its review.

### Education Committee

- The education committee has not met since May and will next meet on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Legislative Committee

- The legislative committee has gone through WAC 16.750
  - They have made the wording better match the RCW, which was updated in 2020.
- Mary will send out the “track changes” version of the new WAC wording for the board to review.
  - At the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting the board will vote on if these changes should move forward to the November hearing.
  - At the September meeting the board can also decide if they want to postpone or deny these changes or have an earlier hearing to further the changes.
  - The meeting after the hearing is when the board can vote on final acceptance of any changes.

## Coordinators Forum

- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz: They have been busy. They haven’t had to enforce on any class A species after finding an infestation.
  - They have been having some pushback from their county on enforcement and property rights and were told they will need to use a civil infraction process.
  - Later in July they will be having a free tansy pickup and hoping for more than the 2 tons they picked up last year.
  - They have been working with Mt. Saint Helens Monument on weed control.

- Emily Stevenson, Skamania: They recently found their first infestation of giant hogweed. There is around 600 square feet that they are working with the landowner to control.
- Mike Murphy, Thurston: It is peak tansy monitoring season on roadsides and private properties.
  - They made a dive contract for Elodea with just their county, not with Lewis County like in previous years.
  - There are some rough chervil on highway 99 by the airport.
  - They will be doing outreach at the Thurston County Fair at the end of July and early August.
  - They haven't had to do any enforcement in a while, as they have adapted Cowlitz county's voluntary agreement method.
- Eric Bell, Adams: The grant they received for rush skeleton weed has helped the project, and they could use more funding for it. The landowners with rush skeleton weed were appreciative.
  - They met with BNSF staff to look at weed control needs and options along the railroad lines.
  - They have had 4 enforcements for rush skeleton weed and some for dalmatian toadflax. After a couple of enforcement letters are sent, they hire an applicator to treat the plants, then bill the property owner.
- Wendy DesCamp, WSDA: The department of agriculture was working on their end of fiscal year noxious weed contracts with counties, for class As and Bs.
  - Wendy has been attending the noxious weed committee in place of Greg Haubrich.

## Public Comment

- Chris Stewart: Stated that she would like recognition of alternatives to herbicides to be in budgets.
- Cathy Lucero: She felt that Dave's presentation was fabulous. She also stated that for strategic planning and budgets, the shared weed mapping between agencies and counties would be good to have more development. It is understaffed and it would be excellent to have working map software.

The next board meeting will be on September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:43

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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

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