

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Special Meeting 10:00 a.m. July 8th, 2024

Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at PSE Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility and Renewable Energy Center, located at 25905 Vantage Hwy, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Strategic plan recommendations
- 2024 draft strategic plan

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alaine Sommargren	Eric Bell	Jennifer Andreas
Alison Halpern	Ian Burke	Ken Bajema
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Katie Buckley, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Ray Willard, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board

Strategic Plan Workshop

The board discussed how to update, what to add, and what to remove of the strategic plan, in these sections:

- To monitor, document, map, and classify noxious weeds in WA.
- Educate the citizens of WA about noxious weeds, IPM, and laws to become better stewards of our state agriculture and natural resources.
- Promote and support all county noxious weed control boards and weed districts.

Open Public Meetings Act Training – Working lunch

The board and attending audience members watched a video on the Open Public Meetings Act

- County weed boards also need to do this training and follow the open public meeting act.
- Certification lasts for a few years.
- Certificates were signed

Strategic Plan Workshop

The board discussed how to update, what to add, and what to remove of the strategic plan, in these sections:

- Develop a statewide integrated weed management plan.
- Maintain successful working relationships with government land management agencies and stakeholder groups.
- Maintain a legal and professional Board and Staff
 - The code of ethics was reviewed and signed by each board member.

Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on July 18th, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Meeting
9:00 a.m. July 18th, 2024

**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.
- Strategic Plan draft.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alison Halpern	Ken Bajema	Marci Miller
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	
Carey Caruso	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
- Abbi Haley - Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Adam Pflieger – Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Betsy Crysel – Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Bob Bower – 4 B’s Holly Farm
- Cyndi Soliz – Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Danika Davis – Greys Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold – Lincoln 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
- Jim Rummel – Holly Hill Orchards
- Laura Sanders – Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols – Pend Orielle County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Madelyn Loy – Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Murphy – Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sabrina Gilley – Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Seth Luginbill – Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird – Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler – King County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Wendy DesCamp – Washington State Department of Transportation
- Wes Glisson – Washington State Department of Ecology

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 23rd meeting.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 23 rd meeting.
	Alison	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Comments

- Jenn – Summarized her recent knotweed work, funding status, and that starthistle was blooming early, due to heat.

Upcoming Board Elections

- Carey Caruso was officially reappointed to her position as Eastern Washington Public Interest Representative
- 2 positions will be up for election during the winter.
 - Both are 4-year positions, to start in January 2025
 - The 2 positions are:
 - Southwest Washington district, currently filled by Ken Bajema
 - The Weed District position, currently filled by Allen Evenson.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized the last few months of their work, including meeting attended and led, presentations given, interviews given to publications, filling seed and publication requests, answering questions and assisting the public and counties, trainings, and budget management.

Financial Report

- Mary summarized the financial report, which did not include the final numbers for the end of the Fiscal Year in June, but no large amount was spent. Some notable line items include a reimbursement from Department of Ecology, Class A and B grants, and wrapping up the financial year.
- Numbers for the 2025FY, which began on July 1st, were not released yet.

State Agency Updates

WSDA – Alison Halpern

- Alison gave a summary of some of the projects she has been working on. Highlights include managing the funding requests package, trapping spongy moth in Skagit County, Japanese

beetle detections near Pasco, and that she was part of a plant pathology lab tour. Environmental DNA is being used in this lab to identify aquatic weeds present in an ecosystem.

WSDA – Wendy DesCamp

- Wendy gave a summary of the projects she has been working on, highlights include wrapping up several year-end projects, reporting, funding agreements, spartina treatments, and GIS group just received full staffing.

Strategic Plan

Update and Vote to Accept

- Mary and Anne created draft action items along with goal timeframes, to go along with each Strategic Plan item.
- The board discussed steps for creating a gravel pit inspection program, and having an annual workplan. These subjects were not needed to be complete for a vote at this meeting.
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VOTE	Ken	Moved to accept the updated strategic plan
	Allen	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Alison, Allen, Carey, Ken, and Marci – Aye None – Nay All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- Anne summarized the previous Noxious Weed Committee meetings, in which the committee is considering and reviewing information on:
 - Feral holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), round leaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and a designation change request for shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) for Pierce County.
 - Stakeholders are an important part of this process, especially at the hearing in November.

Education Committee

- Anne summarized the July Education Committee meeting, including topics such as: organizing free pesticide courses for early November, creating a nuisance plant list, priorities for increased publication funding, updating the strategic plan, and receiving boot brushes from the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Budget Committee

- Mary summarized the budget committee meeting, including that they decided they will meet once a year, they are updating the expenditures sheet

Class A and B Designate Grants

Proposals

- Cowlitz
 - Priority species: thistles, false brome
 - Huge acreage of brome, as well as very large infestations of the thistle species
 - All class A
 - \$5000 requested
 - Has full match
 - Will take less than the full amount requested, but the false brome would be difficult with how large of an infestation they have.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM in partnership with agencies and private landowners
- Skamania
 - Priority species: Garlic mustard, shiny geranium
 - \$5000 requested
 - Has full match
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - \$3500 to a Class B (shiny geranium), \$1500 to a Class A (garlic mustard)
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM in partnership with landowners
- Franklin
 - Priority species: Dalmatian toadflax
 - Scattered infestations
 - All class B
 - \$5000 requested
 - Undetermined match
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with agencies and local government
- Island
 - Priority species: Garlic mustard and lesser celandine
 - Small infestations
 - Grants would lead to complete eradication for the celandine
 - \$5000 requested
 - Undetermined match, but some from the landowners
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - 3800 to garlic mustard, and 1500 to lesser celandine.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with landowners
- Mason
 - Priority species: Perennial pepperweed, shiny geranium, lesser celandine
 - Several smaller infestations known (mostly in areas likely to be vectors of spread, like roadsides and campgrounds), but likely more.

- All Class B's
 - \$5000 requested
 - Full match, including with a WCC crew
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with agencies, municipalities, and landowners
- Yakima
 - Priority species: Oriental clematis and Mediterranean sage
 - Scattered infested areas, leading to a large acreage
 - Down to the last few acres of clematis along the river, in hard-to-reach areas
 - 80 acres left, out of an initial 3000 acres of Mediterranean Sage
 - All Class As
 - \$5000 requested
 - Undetermined match
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with WDFW and private landowners
- Chelan
 - Priority species: Wild four o'clock and garden loosestrife
 - Small infestation acreages
 - All Class A's
 - \$5000 requested
 - Undetermined match
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - Other notes in the proposal: WSDA partnership
- Thurston
 - Priority species: Floating primrose
 - Large acreage across all of Chamber's lake's perimeter
 - Public boat launch area is most infested
 - 1200 pounds removed in 2023, and didn't make a dent
 - No lake management district currently
 - Janet would like if the property owners could form a district, and then they could pay a small tax and pay for future treatments. Janet can help, Ben Peterson could help. Clallam currently working on it.
 - All Class A's
 - \$1000 requested
 - Thurston will cover anything not given by the board
 - Could use more funding, especially for a lot more time to manually control
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with agreements from landowners.
 - Chemical, except for working with landowners who want to provide help with manual control
- Skagit
 - Priority species: Garlic mustard
 - A few acres spread across a large acreage
 - All Class A's
 - \$5000 requested

- \$3867 match plus volunteer time.
 - Will take less than the full amount requested.
 - Other notes in the proposal: IPM with Skagit Land Trust
- Biocontrol – Jennifer Andreas
 - Provided a funding report from May-June 2024:
 - 8 agents for 6 weeds, over 149 total releases across the state
 - Weed districts, counties, tribes, agencies, municipalities, other partners
 - Long term monitoring plans for pre and post release on several species in several locations.
 - Supplies, mostly for shipping, but also safety equipment and other items
 - Yakima, Sue, says they really appreciate the work the biocontrol has done.
 - The biocontrol goes to counties all around the state, and is very helpful to agencies, municipalities, private landowners, and counties.

Discussion

- The board discussed the amounts to give to each program. Class B’s may receive no funding.
 - \$41,000 total requested amongst 9 projects
 - \$24,000 available total, including to biocontrol
 - To just fund As, would be \$25,000, with nothing for biocontrols
 - 95% would use 24,000
- \$11,000 from the NWCB’s supply budget could go to these grants, rather than seeds and other items. Especially since \$11,000 is not enough to get a significant or worthwhile amount of seed packets anymore. Additionally, the mandate to educate on pollinators, is not specifically to provide seeds.

VOTE	Janet	<p>Moved to fund in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cowlitz - 5000 ▪ Skamania - 3500 ▪ Franklin - 0 ▪ Island - 3800 ▪ Mason - 0 ▪ Yakima - 5000 ▪ Chelan - 2000 ▪ Thurston - 1000 ▪ Skagit - 5000 ▪ Biocontrol - 2500
	Allen	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	<p>Alison, Allen, Carey, Janet Ken, and Marci – Aye</p> <p>None – Nay</p> <p>All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.</p>

Coordinators Forum

- Heidi, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board – forest service work, state parks work. Trained seasonal staff. Hawkweed, rough chervil, knotweed. Education and outreach.
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Orielle County Noxious Weed Control Board – Contracts and flowering rush.
- Adam, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board – Early work started due to temperatures. Knotweed.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board – new infestations of rush skeleton weed, wild basil, myrtle spurge, egg leaf spurge (landowners controlling those), false brome. Giant hogweed continued treatment. Fairs outreach. Tansy free disposal collection day.
- Madilyn, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board – knotweed, lake management district treatment, outreach and education.
- Tom, King County Noxious Weed Control Board – garlic mustard expansion, poison hemlock outreach. Residential eggleaf spurge control.
- Mike, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board – early season inspections were finished. Variable leaf milfoil treatment. Elodea survey. Tansy inspections and right of way control. Knotweed coming up on Deschutes, on other rivers, and for private landowners. Elodea and parrotfeather work in Chehalis river soon. Thurston County fair.
- Sue, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board – fair outreach, purple loosestrife.

Public Comment

- Each commentor has 3 minutes to make comment.
- Bob Bower, 4 Bs farm. Holly Grower – Expressed his worries about the listing process for holly, exemptions for commercial holly growers, that the board will need to do an SBEIS and that he will have more than \$1000 in damages, that other states may disallow the sales of noxious weeds, trees on the landscape will still produce seed, there is no difference between feral hollies an the plants on their farms, it will cost people a lot of money to control their holly plants, that DNR leaves holly’s for birds, and that birds depend on holly trees.
 - He requesting the minutes from committee meetings and Attorney General interactions.
 - Meeting minutes and recordings are available in the google drive link which will be provided to Bob and anyone who requests it.
 - Attorney General correspondence falls under attorney-client privilege, and the AG will have to determine what can and can’t be shared.
- Jim Rummel, Holly Hill Orchards, holly grower – Expressed worries that all holly orchards would lose all revenue, as well as groups that buy holly from the growers to sell to others, that all parts of the holly supply chain should be protected with an exemption, holly trees can be drowned with water for more than a week for easy control, a lot of holly seen is not Ilex aquifolium, what point does native species become non-native due to climate change, there is a small cost to control holly, and a listing would put them out of business.
- Ken Bajema, Columbia George Holly Farm – Expressed that Oregon does not list holly as a noxious weed, and that if holly was listing, Bob would be forced to compete with Oregon holly sellers.

The next board meeting will be on September 19th, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:38

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB