

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting
9:00 a.m. March 16th, 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 9:00 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	
Bill Agosta	Jennifer Andreas	
Dirk Veleke	Ian Burke	
Jerry Hendrickson	Todd Palzer	

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council
- Katie Buckley, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Dave Heimer, Washington State Fish and Wildlife
- Ray Willard, Washington Department of Transportation
- Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Andrew Lea, Wahkiakum County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cindy Jennings, Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Gerry Saw, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Collell, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Shorn Sorby, Pend Oreille Noxious Weed Control Board
- Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Even Schmitt, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Collell, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Michael Yadrick

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed and approved the draft meeting minutes for the January 20th meeting.

Board Member Comments

- Dirk reported that Chelan County now has 2 new board members, after a tough search, so they now have a full board.
- Janet Spingath let everyone know about a presentation she and Anne will be giving to some middle school and high schools students
- Todd Palzer reported that DNR was successful in getting \$5 million in salmon recovery funding, \$2 million will go to invasive species control for restoration measures.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne attended many meetings, including Douglas County Survey meetings, Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Meetings, UW Botanical Symposium, WISC's quarterly meeting, and many others.
- Anne and Mary presented to Grant County NWCB.
- Anne helped organize and present for WISC's invasive species week presentation on riparian area weeds.
- Anne attended all days of the NW Flower and Garden Show in Seattle.
- Anne continued with general education and outreach activities, including sending out publications, updating weed guides, and other projects.
- Mary continued her administration work and support, including resolving budget issues, working with Victoria BC on Italian arum response, legislative discussions on Japanese eelgrass, working on the WSDOT assessment report and results, and many other projects.

Budget Report

- The financial report was pretty status quo, except for the update to Anne's salary, which put the board's budget over by around \$8000.
 - In exchange for that expense, the bee-u-tify seed packets are not being ordered unless we can find other funds with WSDA for that.
- There has not been much travel spent, and publication printings will start to be spent between now and the end of June.
 - The class A grants reimbursements will be paid by the end of June.
- The legislature has not allocated any additional budget to the weed board, beyond what they usually give.

State Agency Updates

WSDA

- Greg reported that they received around \$5.5 million for Japanese beetle eradication, from the supplemental budget.
 - As well as money for spongy moth eradication.
 - \$100,000 for tree-of-heaven and spotted lanternfly program

- Most of that will be used as match for \$75,000 from the Forest Service to go out and map tree-of-heaven in high-risk areas.
- Then work with the owners to remove tree-of-heaven from those sites
- There will likely be on-going funding for this program
- In 2021 there was 15% cuts due to COVID, and the invasive species program got most of those cuts. It didn't end up being removed from the budget.
 - The supplemental budget returned most of that, which will fill Greg's replacement position
- \$50,000 grant for parrot feather
- Past NPDES permits are going to be allowed to be continued until new permits are developed.
 - Greg has been talking with Department of Ecology to separate some of these permits out, to keep controlling invasive species in some areas if other permits get taken to court.
 - Electronic permitting has sped up the process a lot.

Washington Invasive Species Council

- Justin reported that WISC funding was extended for 10 years by the legislature
- This is a biannual reporting year for the council, so Justin was working on that report, through December 2022
- Since 2016, WISC have reached 2.6 million people on invasive species
- The day of this board meeting was WISC's new education specialist, Chelsea Krimme's, first day
- WISC had 2 upcoming response exercises, one on oak death.
- WISC had some upcoming professional development courses, and other trainings like SCUBA and boat decontamination.
- The flowering rush control cost sharing agreement has been in effect, and the 2022 agreement will be beginning soon.
- The supplemental state budget allocated \$8.6 million to European green crab response.
 - \$1.6 million of that will be going to RCO and WISC to control European green crab response agreements.
- There was also \$500,000 allocated for grants for aquatic invasive plant control
- In 2021 WISC had a citizen science census of tree-of-heaven in Washington. The trees have now been found in 26, out of 39 counties, up from being known in 18 counties.
 - WISC will be making the response plan for tree-of-heaven, with WSDA and their funding.

Pollinator Health Task Force

- Katie reported on some projects that intersect with noxious weeds.
 - There will be a report next year, on pollinator health in Washington, including information on noxious weeds
 - Katie is working on a report of environmental and economic impacts of noxious weeds on pollinator health
 - The task force may have funding to help with the bee-u-tify seed packets.
 - There is education and outreach to nurseries and consumers to encourage planting native plants for pollinators

Washington Fish & Wildlife

- Dave is pulling together the 2021 reports on herbicide use reported to them.
- Dave reported that it has been difficult to hire staff and seasonals, and hopes it will be better in the next year.
- They are working with a few counties on different noxious weed control projects in certain areas around the state, like knotweed control in Grays Harbor County.
- F&W have been training staff and holding trainings to teach how to run an airboat, especially to control European green crab.
- The agency may be hiring a sustainability coordinator with the goal of getting the agency be more sustainable.
 - The person they have been working with was educated more on herbicide use by Dave, after she had concerns and questions.

Washington Department of Transportation

- Ray reported that their IPM plans are well situated with funding and a proposal.
 - They are behind with funding for treating trees and weed control.
 - With inflation, over the last 20 years funding for invasive plant controls has gone down
 - IPM helps them make up for that funding gap
 - They are having to rehire and train 70 new staff to work on maintenance and preservation
- To help allocate resources efficiently, Ray has been using a geographic data dashboard, called HATS, with information on past and future planned treatments.
 - There will eventually be a resource that all states can use to decide how to manage their roadside landscapes.
- The board discussed having a motion to indorse WSDOT's plan for mapping and eradicating weeds along their corridors, to the counties and their NWCB coordinators.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to indorse WSDOT's plan for mapping and eradicating weeds along their corridors.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Secoded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposed, motion passed.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

- Todd reported on the operating budget of their Spartina & Flowering Rush, Lakes & Rivers In-Water, Riparian, and Washington Conservation Crew/Puget SoundCorps invasive species control projects.
 - Spartina could be completely eradicated with all the effort and funding they have put in so far.
 - Flowering rush is going to be the next big push after Spartina is controlled.
 - The in-water project focuses are elodea, parrotfeather, and yellow flag iris.
 - The riparian focus is knotweed and Phragmites.

- The WCC funding had been reduced by 40%, and the upcoming season has been reduced by a lot of working days. This is going to have a big impact on how much work they are going to be able to do throughout the state. Todd is hopeful next year will have higher funding.
- In 2021, there was some funding for projects around the state on a lot of different invasive weed control projects
 - They also provided 151 crew days to projects around the state, who worked on restoring 2,475 acres

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

- Emily Stevenson, from Skamania County, asked to be removed from the committee. Joseph Shea, from Skagit County will be replacing her.

Noxious Weed Committee

- Steve Burke, from King County, is having one of his staff, Tom Erler sit on the committee in his place.

Douglas County Survey Committee

- Mary reported on two meetings about the survey, one general planning, and one smaller, to discuss the on-the-ground survey
 - Dale Whaley and Mark Eyer will be conducting the survey.
 - The survey will be done a couple days in a couple weeks in May and June, to break up the flowering season.
 - Greg Haubrich and his staff will get the up to date GPS data to Dale.

Education Committee

- Janet reported on the first education committee meeting.
 - The committee went over the board's audience, message, partners, resources, goals, and brainstormed projects.
- Some audience priorities are agricultural producers, Spanish-speaking populations, elementary school students (4th-5th grade,) and governmental agencies and departments.
- Some goals are to identify education gaps and needs, what species and publications our neighbors have, and make more publications
- Twitter will be added to our social media resources, in addition to Instagram and Facebook
- We will work on projects like: a brochure on priority aquatic species, tree of heaven door-hanger, modifying curriculum from WISC, put on a free pesticide recertification course, and many others.

Discussion Topics

Victoria, British Columbia, Italian arum

- Bill summarized what has been happening in Victoria with Italian arum.

- In early February, the Horticultural Center of the Pacific, told a Victorian newspaper that there was a problem with Italian arum. They thought it was spreading from United States' counties.
- The newspaper put out an article saying that counties in the US were spreading arum to Victoria.
- A paper in San Juan County picked up the article, and added on that people from San Juan County were spreading arum to Canada.
- Jason Ontjes, the coordinator for San Juan County, had the idea to write a rebuttal article to the San Juan Islander. This helped end San Juan citizens from feeling bad about arum. Part of this article is that arum is only being spread locally in San Juan, and not being spread by boat or bird to more remote islands of the San Juans.
- The State Weed Board's British Colombian counterpart said that the claim that arum was coming from the US was ridiculous, and was embarrassed that we were having to deal with this claim. She pointed out:
 - Arum is a common garden plant on Vancouver Island
 - Arum is legal to buy in nurseries and online in Victoria and British Columbia.
 - She is putting together outreach materials on arum, to promote its control.
- In Washington, it is on our quarantine list, and thus not allowed to be sold by nurseries in or to Washington state
- Bill wrote to the Victorian newspaper's editor, and to the horticultural society, on behalf of the state weed board, pointing out that Washington has Arum, though several counties are working on controlling it. Washington and our state's counties would be happy to help them with their arum problem, though it will be difficult to control their arum until they stop planting it and being allowed to buy it.
 - Bill never got a response, acknowledgement, or apology.

Weed Free Gravel and Aggregate

- Joe updated the board on his progress on weed free gravel
 - Many counties and agencies are interested in working on getting a weed-free gravel certification going in our state
 - Joe also met with NAISMA on their weed free gravel certification
 - It may be time to change the certification from weed-free to some other wording, to avoid confusion if there is a bit of weed seed in these aggregate materials.
- Joe has no idea when this will all be coming together, state-wide. In Skagit County, they hope to have a program in the next two years.
 - Joe would like more input from agencies and counties before putting together a state-wide certification.

Coordinators Forum

- Jennifer, from Cowlitz County, just hired two inspectors, and they will be hiring field techs in the next month or so. They are looking to fill one more board position.
- Andy, from Wahkiakum County, their program will start up in April. Later this season, an aquatic application for Puget Island. They are meeting next week with their board and conservation district to coordinate their future efforts

- Cindy Jennings, from Steven's County, got a raise in their assessment. It is not as high as they would have hoped, but it will help. They just hired a new field manager, who is young and enthusiastic.
- Gerry Saw, from Snohomish County, will be hiring an assistant soon. She is hopeful to have them hired by the start of the season soon. Gerry has been reporting weeds along I-5 to WSDOT's regional office. She has respect for their staff working along the highway.
- Joe Shea, from Skagit County, just made an offer for a second full-time position, that they are hopeful to be accepted.
- Justin Collell from, Clark County, successfully applied for an early infestation grant program from the Department of Ecology, for a population of variable leaf milfoil. They are also trying to hire some staff, as they only have one field inspector right now.
- Laurel Baldwin, from Whatcom County, has several projects are on the calendar for this year, including a flowering rush project. Spartina work is continuing with Lummi Tribe. They may also be working with the Lummi Tribe on European Green Crab trap checking. 2 years ago 12 boot-brush stations were installed, 4 more are being installed along with more outreach to use them before and after trail use.

Public Comment

- Michael Yadrick is a certified ecological restoration practitioner in the Seattle-Tacoma area. He has been thinking about the way we use language and serve our communities. Heard a lot of language throughout this meeting, like Japanese eelgrass, Italian arum, and the change of name for gypsy moth to spongy moth. He also feels uncomfortable with the terms invasive and noxious, and how these species are policed parallels with marginalized populations, like people of color. Specifically with the tree-of-heaven and spotted lanternfly campaign and stopping the future threat. So many resources are going into stopping the lanternfly to protect, what Michael feels are capitalistic monocultures, and doesn't really help the community at large. He is also concerned that more of the public aren't speaking at this meeting, and wonders if his and our work isn't resonating with the public at large. He feels that there are some intuitional issues that are feeding into the inequalities we are seeing in our communities. Even decentralizing and using citizen science through apps is very similar to what police use on populations of color. He says that we should do some internal work and re-examine the methods and words we use, and not let bureaucracies run things the way they have been.
 - Bill thanked Michael and invited him to give us any suggestions he has here or in writing
 - Michael will send in some of his writing and research from his podcast.

The next board meeting will be on May 19th, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB