

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board March Meeting
 1:00 a.m. March 13th, 2022

Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan,
 104 W Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

Handouts provided for meeting:

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

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alaine Sommargren	Carey Caruso	Ken Bajema
Alison Halpern	Erik Bell	Marci Miller
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Attendees of the Washington Weed Coordinators Association Conference

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the January 18th meeting.

VOTE	Alaine	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 18 th meeting.
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried. Alison abstained, as she was not yet a member at the January meeting.

November Meeting Minutes corrections from Ken Bajema

- The board reviewed the additions and changes to the November meeting minutes Ken provided to Mary, which were stated at the meeting.
 - The board discussed these proposed changes.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to accept the updated minutes from the November 1 st board meeting.
	Ken	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried. Alison and Alaine abstained, as they were not yet members at the November meeting and were not present.

Board Member Comments

- Allen – Spring weather has started.
- Alaine – King county updated rules and regulations, and were adopted in January. Alaine is planning on visiting all the counties weed boards that she is representing.
- Alison – Is excited to represent WSDA and be back working with the NWCB.
- Ken – Stevenson had a large pesticide training in February.
- Janet – Worked the flower and garden show in February. She liked King County NWCB’s materials. Outreach at the capitol went well. The education committee is starting to talk about better common names.
- Eric – They hired 2 seasonal weed inspectors, so they will be staffed for the season.

Committee Appointments

- Alison is replacing Greg as WSDA’s representative on the Noxious Weed Control Board, and his places on committees.
 - Alison is now on the executive committee, budget committee.
 - Wendy DesCamp is still on noxious weed committee representing WSDA

Office Reports

- The board reviewed:
 - March 2024 Office Report, with verbal update by Mary and Anne
 - Budget as of February 2024

Financial Report

Budget Request 2025-2027

- The board reviewed the 2025-2027 budget increase concept paper submitted to WSDA

Bee-U-tify Seed Order

- Mary worked with Katie Buckley, and the WSDA Pollinator Health Program helped fund the Bee-u-tify seed order, which is arriving in late April.

Publication Funds

- The board learned about the funding available for publication printing, the publications needing reprints, and the funding needed to keep up with demand as well as print new publications.

VOTE	Alaine	Moved to use the \$30,000 available to re-print Western field guide, Western GardenWise, and Eastern field guide, including \$10,000 leftover from Bee-u-tify seed funding.
	Alison	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

State Agency Updates

Washington Department of Agriculture– Alison Halpern

- Alison gave the board updates about several projects WSDA is undertaking, the main topic being:
 - The need for an MOU between WSDA and NWCB to clarify roles to improve support.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to have the Executive Committee write a draft MOU WSDA
	Alaine	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

WSDA– Wendy DesCamp

- Wendy gave the board updates about several projects WSDA is undertaking, including:
 - BLM, Spotted Lanternfly/Tree-of-heaven, and Biocontrol funding.
 - New WSDA employees who were recently hired or will be hired soon
 - Flowering Rush
 - County-level weed distribution map update
 - NPDES permit

Department of Ecology – Wes Glisson

- Wes gave the board updates about several projects his division at the Department of Ecology undertook in the 2023 season, including:

- New infestations of a few plants, including Floating primrose willow, European watermilfoil, yellow floating heart, and curly leaf pondweed
- Flowering rush management activities
- Aquatic invasive plant management grants
- 2024 season planning

Washington Invasive Species Council – Stephanie Helms

- Stephanie gave the board updates on several WISC projects, including:
 - Invasive Species Awareness Week webinars and outreach booth in late February
 - Boot brush project in sagebrush steppe areas
 - WDFW funding for clean drain dry units
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs partnership for webinars and trainings
 - K-12 invasive species art contest

WSDA Pollinator Program – Katie Buckley

- Katie gave the board updates on a few projects the WSDA pollinator program is working on, including:
 - Gave the weed board \$40,000 for seed packets this fiscal year only.
 - A pollinator and noxious weed report will be finished by the end of 2024
 - 2 significant pollinator bills went into law during the 2024 legislative session

Department of Natural Resources – Todd Palzer and Brian Burgess

- Todd and Briand gave the board updates on the 2023 season at DNR. Some major projects they undertook were:
 - Green Crab control
 - Spartina control
 - Lots of work with WCC crew

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Dave Heimer

- Dave updated the board on WDFW's 2023 season of invasive species projects, including:
 - Cattails and reed canary grass treated by drone
 - Diquat study on knotweed
 - Flowering rush control
 - Habitat restoration for Oregon spotted frog
 - Spartina management
 - Variable leaf milfoil treatment
 - Getting the pesticide advisory board running
- Dave also noted that he and his staff have seen feral holly being a problem on a lot of forest lands.

Department of Transportation – Ray Willard, PLA, EPC

- Ray gave the board an update on the needs, hurdles, and projects his division is undertaking, including:

- That they are severely underfunded to keep up with maintenance needs and have been for over 10 years.
- Wildfire prevention
- Drone treatments of weeds
- Encampment movement and area restoration
- Updating the landscape asset management system

Discussion Topics

Flowering Rush Waiver for Treatment

- WSDA needs a waiver from the Bureau of Reclamation to treat flowering rush on Lake Roosevelt, and asked the NWCB to hold this waiver.
- The board discussed the legal and logistical issues of doing this.
- Mary will work with the Attorney General, WSDA, and the board to fill out the most appropriate paperwork

VOTE	Alison	Moved to have Mary work with the AG, WSDA, and the board to hold the waiver, as needed
	Alaine	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Move to May meeting

VOTE	Allen Evenson	Moved to move the discussion of travel reimbursement forms, RFP for Class A and B Eradication projects, Code of Ethics update, and strategic planning to the May meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Coordinators Forum

- Eric Bell, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board – Pesticide test costs more, due to it moving online.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board – They have hired 2 inspectors. They need help funding for false brome and a few Class A species of thistles.
- Konrad Kauer, Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board – They got a new office manager.
- Charles Edmonson, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board – They are hiring a new education specialist. They are going to work on Knotweed and Egeria densa in 2024.
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board – Have a new hire.

- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board – Was brand new at her position, so she was just figuring out budget and NPDES application.
- Craig Hintz, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board – They lost an inspector.
- Dale Whaley, Douglas County Noxious Weed Task Force – Started work on rush skeleton weed.
- Larry Hudson, Okanagan County Noxious Weed Control Board – Has started working on a lot of grant agreements, wildfire revegetation. They need more field techs, but just got one started.
- Christina St John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board – It was a warm winter on the peninsula, so they had been treating poison hemlock since January. They raised their assessment and were able to hire a new inspector. They have started renewing their lake management district.
- Jeff Nesbit, Pacific County Noxious Weed Control Board – Have been focused on green crab rather than weeds, but knotweed, spartina, Scotchbroom and gorse work had started.
- Seth Luginbill, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board – Their seasonal staff started in March. They are working on partnerships to reach lands that need treatment. They did their first enforcement. Poison hemlock has started already.
- Jeff Knutson and Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board – They are hiring a new office manager. They will use seasonals instead of an inspector, for probably the next couple years.
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board – Their staff has grown. They started working with Mary to redraw their weed regions. They started work on poison hemlock, shiny geranium, and tansy.
- Todd Harris, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board – They could use more staff. They started spraying roads and getting cost shares up and running.
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board – Now have several grants and agreements in place, including a robust cost share program and herbicide trainings. They removed a lot of flowering rush. They hired new staff, but still have 2 open positions.
- Kiley Smith, Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board – They were short-staffed over the winter, so she was working with agencies and crews to get projects done. A specialist has started, plus a couple technicians later in the season.
- Nate Goodman, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board – It is only him for the whole county, but he is spraying and learning.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board – The county budget approved 2 new staff hires. The Columbia River Exotic Pest Workshop went great.
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board – Has interviewed for seasonals.
- Maddy Loy, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board – Has interviewed for seasonals. They have started forming a lake management area.
- Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board – They have lost two long time board members and are having a hard time finding replacements. Has done some hiring for field inspectors. They have 8 priority weeds to focus on this season. Grants are helpful, as their funding is assessment based. They have not done a lot of enforcements yet.
- Rochelle Osborne, Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board – Thanked the board for handling the flowering rush control funds. They are ready for applications once the snow melts.

- Mike Murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board – They are hiring for a permanent position and seasonal positions. Spurge laurel inspections, gorse inspections, and lesser celandine treatments started.

Public Comment

- Dale Whaley asked why Russian thistle isn't on the noxious weed list.
 - The board discussed that it is naturalised and widespread, so there isn't a budget that could handle it.
 - Clallam county is starting to educate on it, and would like it to be listed as a Class C

The next board meeting will be on May 23rd, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

VOTE	Alison	Moved to adjourn the meeting
	Alaine	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:37

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB

