

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting  
9:00 a.m. March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Hybrid Online via Zoom and in person at Chelan County Fire Hall, 232 E  
Wapato Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of January meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Holly testimony.
- Holly (2025) written findings.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Allen Evenson

- Alison motioned to add a discussion of a holly working group to the meeting agenda. No seconds were made, and no vote was held.

## Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Alaine Sommargren	Carey Caruso	Jennifer Andreas
Alison Halpern	Eric Bell	Marci Miller
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer
Bill Zimmerman		

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Alison Bachner
- Andrew Fraser
- Andrew Lea, Wahkiakum County Weed Control Board
- Anne Hayden
- Ashley Shattuck
- Ashlie Arthur, King County Weed Control Board
- Becky Chaney, Washington Native Plant Society
- Cathy Lucero
- Charles Edmonson, Lewis County Weed Control Board
- Chris Atkins
- Daniel Sorensen, King County Weed Control Board
- Dave Heimer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Dylan Mendenhall, Kitsap County Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Weed Control Board
- Erin Haley
- Harvey Martin

- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Weed Control Board
- Maria Winkler
- Mathew Martin, King County Weed Control Board
- Sayward Glise, King County Weed Control Board
- Seth Luginbill, Island County Weed Control Board
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Weed Control Board
- Steven Burke, King County Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Weed Control Board
- Virginia Lohr

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 23 <sup>rd</sup> meeting.
	Alain Sommargren	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Board Member Comments

- Carey – discussed the catastrophic bee keeping losses occurring.
- Todd – discussed how his program is working with state budget cuts
- Eric – Adams County is having a spring pesticide class, if anyone needs credits.
- Jennifer – was getting ready for her field season and hired two people.

## Committee Member Appointments

- Noxious Weed Committee – Marci Miller will be in place of Ken Bajema
- Legislative Committee – Marci Miller will be added
- The Vice Chair and Chair are all on all committees, but do not necessarily attend them.

## Office Reports

- Anne summarized her work over the past few months, including outreach events, planning education activities, attending meetings, giving presentations, updating the website, answering questions, and sending publications and seeds.
- Mary summarized her work over the past few months, including attending meetings, coordinating partners, administrative work, and tracking and testifying on bills.

## Financial Report

### Budget

- Mary summarized the fiscal report up to January 2025. Some highlights include:
  - Administration overhead cost went up
  - A \$75,000 grant was received for flowering rush, but can only be used if the federal funding also comes through for the local partners.
  - Was looking like the board will be in the green by \$5000

### Publications

- Anne summarized the amount of publications left and how many we may be able to get with available funds.
  - The Pollinator Program will give around \$40,000 to print:
    - Western GardenWise, which should get us about a year and a half of this very popular publication.
    - Full Circle, which should get us a few years of this moderately popular publication.
  - This leaves around \$24,000 of our printing budget
    - This will fund around 9 months of Western and Eastern Field Guides
  - We are also running out of:
    - Toxic Plants to Livestock and Horses, which we have about 8 months left.
    - Noxious Weeds in Washington, we have a few months left, but it isn't very popular and can be retired.
    - Tree-of-Heaven brochure, but WISC has a lot we can get.

### Class A Grant Funding

- The weed board will get their 2026 budget in August, and Mary is not expecting a deficit.
- The board gave a consensus approval that they want to give funding to the Class A grants and Biocontrol program.

## State Agency Updates

### WSDA

- Alison summarized what work the WSDA have been doing in the last few months, including:
  - Budget issues like: budget reduction exercises, hiring and travel freezes, federal funding freezes and firings, and that the state budget would be released after March 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Policy bills working their way through the house and senate.
  - There was a spongy moth population in the Lakewood area.

## Committee Updates

### Education Committee

- Anne summarized the work that the education committee will be working on in the upcoming March meeting, including:
  - Pesticide training at Lakewold Gardens.

- How outreach events have gone.
- Publication printing and needs.
- Spanish webinar planning.
- Weed curriculum.
- Jennifer brought up the topic of the new accessibility requirements for state agencies, which are going into effect April 26<sup>th</sup>. She stated that old materials and media is fine, but all new materials going forward need to be accessible. There are trainings available on this, which Anne will take, as no one on the board or staff was aware of this.

## Discussion Topics

### English Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*

- Mary summarized the SBEIS review, some highlight are:
  - The SBEIS does not usually include control costs, but were included in this case.
  - There was insufficient data on how a listing would impact holly growers, so it was assumed to be a disproportionate impact on small businesses.
  - Mary did discuss the SBEIS with a few willing holly growers on the phone, and that they did not notice specific ups or downs associated with the listing attempts in 2022 or 2010. Rather that the industry has always gone up and down, with the popularity of plastic holly.
  - Mary talked with NY, CA, British Columbia, and others who import holly from Washington. They all stated that they can still import it as long as it is not on their local weed lists.
  - Oregon may list holly if Washington does, but likely as a non-regulated Class C.
  - The costs that are usually included in an SBEIS are the costs to control a regulated species.
- A discussion on an education campaign was brought forward by Alison.
  - This campaign would be on how to control holly, the difference between feral and grown holly, the benefits of holly, and the harms of holly.
  - Anne stated that common holly is a better common name than feral, wild, or English holly, as following with modern and updated common name guidelines by the scientific community and professional science communicators.
- Mary gave direction on how to make motions, and that exemptions can be added, as they would make the proposed listing less restrictive.
- **Alaine motioned to add common holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, to the Washington State Noxious Weed list as a Class C**
  - **Bill Zimmerman seconds the motion**
  - Discussion:
    - **Alison suggested: wild holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, as Class C except where grown commercially or in managed landscaping.**
      - She stated that this would help agricultural and conservation fears, that the WSDA would prefer it not be listed, and that this would add a distinction between wild and grown holly to bridge across significant differences.

- **No seconds.**
- **Janet suggested: Common holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, as Class C, where escaping cultivation.**
  - She stated so that “wild”, “managed”, and “commercial” don’t have to be defined, or get confused with land management.
  - **Bill Seconds this amendment.**
- A discussion on common name was held.
  - There is a broad movement away from place names for common names, that “wild” gives the wrong connotation, and that the holly growers are concerned with the term “English holly”
  - **Janet retracted her amendment suggestion.**
- **Alaine changed her amendment to be Common holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, as Class C**
  - **Bill Seconds**
- A discussion on the exemption language was held.
  - Allen suggested giving exemptions to commercial growers only, though Janet was worried that commercial growing may restrict hobby farmers and folks without a business license. Mary added that wild carrot has an exemption for where commercially grown, but gardeners are still able to grow carrots.
  - Bill expressed concern about abandoned holly farms being sources of invasion.
  - Class C has no regulator aspect, unless a county selects it, so putting an exemption protects growers if a county selects holly for control.
- **Alaine changed her amendment to be “except where commercially grown”**

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine Somargren	Moved have “common holly” be the common name, and exemption language to be “except where commercially grown”
	Bill Zimmerman	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	A roll call vote was held.  Yes: Bill, Marci, Carey, Janet, Alison, Alaine, Allen  <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b>

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine Somargren	Moved to list common holly, <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , as a Class C, except where commercially grown.
	Bill Zimmerman	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	A roll call vote was held.  Yes: Bill, Marci, Carey, Janet, Alaine, Allen

	No: Alison
	<b>Motion passed, 6 to 1.</b>

- Alison began a further discussion on a holly working group.
  - She stated this working group has been growers, a buyer, a conservation group, 2 board members, 1 board staff, and a staff member from WSDA.
    - 2 meetings were held in February.
  - Holly growers want to contribute to research, such as on varieties, seed viability, and control.
  - Some outreach options are: conservation districts collect holly from abandoned holly farms, a webpage on the NWCB site, education on control, benefits, and invasiveness.
  - Future funding is likely needed for more targeted campaigns, events, materials, or media.

<b>VOTE</b>	Alison Halpern	Moved to have the board support a holly working group
	Bill Zimmerman	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Yes: all  No: none  <b>Motion passed.</b>

## Coordinators Forum

- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County – They are now fully staffed, and knapweed was already in the rosette stage.
- Charles Edmonson, Lewis County – They are hiring a field technician. They have started work on rush skeletonweed and poison hemlock.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – Asked for an increase in the class A grants, as treatment and labor costs are going up.
  - Mary asked if counties would be willing to have a decrease in publications in exchange for more grant money? Emily said she would discuss it.
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County – He is interim, and the permeant coordinator position was being reclassified and posted soon. They have started hiring seasonal technicians and controlling poison hemlock.
- Eric Bell, Adams County – They are going to hold an herbicide license recertification training in the next year, due to regulations and requirements for license renewal changing. He felt positive about the listing of common holly.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County – They had a busy winter season, and now have a new hire. They had started some inspections, and are going to send out postcards to those who got letters about weeds last year.

- Steve Burke, King County – They have been hiring, training, and building capacity. They reached thousands of folks at the NW Flower and Garden Show. The county appreciated the common holly listing, as it will greatly increase opportunities to control it.

## Public Comment

- Cathy Lucero – Thanked the board for listing holly. She suggested for any holly promotion to be moved to the education committee, as WSDA has controlled the working group and they can give more direction to the state weed board. She also felt it is perilous to promote a particular industry, and was surprised to see WSDA vote on holly, as she has only seen them abstain on votes like this in her 30 years of working with weeds in Washington.
- Tom Erler, King County – Thanked the board for their hard work on holly, and agreed with Cathy on her comments. He also finds the illustrations done by Anne Schuster to be very helpful for outreach.
- Dave Heimer, WDFW – Wanted to remind everyone to look at the Bulletins Live 2 for pesticide use and endangered species.
- Becky Chaney, Native Plant Society – Commended the board on their diligence during the long holly process, and Anne on her written findings.
- Alison, WSDA – Wanted to address the comments made during the public comment, about WSDA voting and participation. She believed that WSDA voted no in 2010, and that she discussed this with the director, and wanted to amend language. Other discussion was had.

## Executive Session

- 11:00 executive session starts for 15 minutes, only board and Mary attend this portion.
  - The executive session covered the performance review for Anne and Mary.
- 11:30 executive session ended and the public meeting resumed.
- 11:30 The Board discussed Mary's salary. This issue will be discussed further at the July meeting.
- 12:00 Meeting Adjourned.

The next board meeting will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 12:00

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Allen Evenson, Chair  
WSNWCB

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Carey Caruso, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB