

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board March Meeting  
1:00 p.m. March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Hybrid Online via Zoom and in person at Campbells Resort, 104 W. Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of January meeting.
- Office report.
- Budget report.
- Expense Report.
- Staff performance appraisal templates.
- Staff position descriptions.
- Draft strategic plan.
- Strategic plan deliverables.

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Allen Evenson 1:18

## Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Allen Evenson	Carey Caruso	Marci Miller
Alison Halpern	Eric Bell	Todd Davis
Bill Zimmerman	Janet Spingath	Wes Glisson

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Danika Davis, Gray's Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Elizabeth Brown, Washington State Attorney General Office
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Patricia Willebrand
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sofia Sherman, Chehalis Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Steve Scheele, Washington State Attorney General Office
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Members of the audience in person

## Agenda amendment

<b>VOTE</b>	Janet Spinghath	Moved to change the public comment section to the top of the agenda schedule, and add a succession discussion to the board member update section
	Marci Miller	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Public Comment

- None

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Marci Miller	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 22 <sup>nd</sup> meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Board Member Comments

- Eric Bell – he is retiring at the end of May.

### Position #3 nomination

- Alaine started her new job as King County Noxious Weed Control Board coordinator, and is no longer on the King county or state board.
- Mary sent out nomination forms, but none were returned, so she will send them again.

### Succession of board chair

- Janet explained her and Allen’s idea on a rotating board chair. The chair would be replaced with the vice chair after 2 years, and then remain on the board to help the chair and vice chair lead the board with their experience and support.
- Mary said this can be added to the WAC, if the board votes to move it to the November hearing at the September board meeting.
- Allen asked if any board member objected, and none did. Thus, Allen and Janet will continue to research this process

## Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized the work they have been doing over the last couple months, including meetings, presentations, Invasive Species Awareness Week, publications, social media, the budget, creating standard operating procedures, and trainings.

## Budget Report

- Mary summarized the financial report, including the budget and expenses. The largest expenditures were for salary, benefits, facilities, and the website payment.
- There will be \$9000 available for printing.
  - The less funding that goes to a single printing the less good of a bulk price we are able to get. Which is why, in 2025, we were able to get 1000 Eastern Field Guides for \$5000, at a cost of around \$5 a booklet, while we were able to get thousands more Western Field Guide at less than a dollar per booklet with around \$20,000, since Western Washington counties were able to help with the funding of those booklets.
    - This means for \$9000 of printing will get us much less of a booklet at a higher cost than when we had a printing budget of around \$20,000
  - Anne summarized the most popular or most expensive publication's stock:
    - Out of:
      - Protect Horses and Livestock from Toxic Plants booklet
      - Eastern Washington Field Guide
    - Approximately 1 year worth left of:
      - Western GardenWise
      - Western Field Guide
      - Noxious Weeds in Washington booklet (not very popular, the board previously voted to discontinue printing of this publication)
      - Tree-of-Heaven Spotted Lanternfly brochures
    - Multiple years worth left of:
      - Eastern GardenWise
      - Full Circle Booklet
  - Anne will make a schedule of printing with costs and priorities, with input from coordinators.
    - There will be a special meeting of the board to vote on it.
    - For now, Anne recommends putting the full \$9000 on the toxic plants to horses and livestock booklet, to try and meet the need of this popular publication while getting the best bulk value we can get given the limited funds.

## State Agency Updates

WSDA, plant protection department – Alison Halpern, Greg Haubrich

- Alison summarized the work she had been doing recently, primarily dealing with the legislative session coming to a close and the release of the draft budget. Several projects were funded, or partially funded in this budget.
- The sunflower broomrape quarantine paperwork is being worked on to keep the process going. She thanked Sue Bird and the landowner for their work and help.
- Alison also thanked Thurman Johnson for his work identifying and kicking off the Palmer amaranth issue in Safeway birdseed. Palmer amaranth has since been found in several brands of bird seed, and WSDA is working on this issue.

### Washington State Department of Ecology – Wes Glisson

- Wes summarized the aquatic plant management grant program he is helping administer.
  - Applications opened in the fall, and the organizations have been decided. The funds will go to control, early infestation management, implementation, or plan creation for management of aquatic Class A and B designate weeds. The funding comes from boat trailer registration fees.
- Wes also said he is in his early season planning and asked coordinators if anyone would like help with hand pulling of aquatic weeds, or doing surveys.

### WA DNR – Todd Palzer

- Todd summarized the past year and near future projects of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.
  - There was some budget uncertainty, with staff reductions. The Seagrass Crew was able to be maintained, and were looking into winter projects.
  - Spartina infestation around goose island grew a lot, but recently has had good process with surveys and control.
  - They are looking at reevaluating regions for capacity and resources. Some offices were relocated. The east side waters have never been adequately funded.
  - Funding looks low and tight in the future with uncertainties, but he is thankful to have dedicated partners.

## Committee Updates

### Douglas County Committee

- Allen and Janet talked about what the Douglas County Committee is working on, including finding volunteer groups to run events or restoration days, how to build interest in weed management in the area, working with East Wenatchee, and what long range plans look like.

### Education Committee

- Anne and Janet summarized what the education committee has been working on recently, including outreach events at the capitol building and the NW Flower and Garden Show, Douglas County outreach, in person herbicide training, and keeping everything in line with the strategic plan.

## Discussion Topics

### Sunflower Broomrape Class A listing

- Anne summarized information on sunflower broomrape
  - Sue bird added information as well.

<b>VOTE</b>	Bill Zimmerman	Moved to make <i>Orobanche cumana</i> , sunflower broomrape, a Class A weed in Washington.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.

<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
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### Survey results

- Jennifer Mendoza summarized the coordinator survey she sent out after the previous board meeting. There were around 29 responses. The survey was primarily about strengths and weaknesses of the board and staff, a program review, not an employee review.
  - Some sections included: confidence in the board and staff in various areas, what has been done well, what could be improved, what is the most valuable services, what could be added with funding, the board’s relationship with WSDA, and several other items.

### 2026 accomplishments and strategic plan review

- Did not occur

### Executive Session, RCW 42.30.110 1(g)

#### Personnel evaluations

- 2:45-3:45

### Coordinators Forum

- 3:45-4:07

The next board meeting will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 4:07

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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