

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

March 12, 2012

Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Butch Klaveano

Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members Present

Butch Klaveano	Commissioner Jim DeTro
William Agosta	Joe Coombs
Jerry Hendrickson	Tony Stadelman
Mary Toohey	Bob Roth
Sarah Cooke	Kathy Hamel

Others Present

Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Bill Wamsley	Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Sue Winterowd	Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
Beki Shoemaker	Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
Justin Bush	Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
Angelica Velazquez	Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
Cathy Lucero	Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
Glenn Lebsack	Clark County Vegetation Management

Handouts provided prior to meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes for the November 2, 2011 board meeting
- Draft minutes for the January 23, 2012 board meeting
- Office reports for January and February
- Budget Summary January 2012
- Fiscal Year January 2012 report
- Class A Proposals
- Code of ethics cover letter
- WSNWCB adopted code of ethics, May 2011
- Revised code of ethics for the WSNWCB from Tony Stadelman

Butch introduced the new board member representing SW Washington. Bob Roth has served the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board since at least 2004. Butch suggested that Bob participate without voting, since he so recently joined the Board.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to accept the November WSNWCB meeting minutes as written.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Motioned to accept the January WSNWCB meeting minutes as written.
	Tony Stadelman	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Bob Roth: Cowlitz County NWCB coordinator Angelica Velazquez produced their annual report and presented it to their commissioners, where it was well received. The report was built around their goals and objectives and was available to anybody interested in a copy.

Jerry Hendrickson: In Asotin County they were already fighting yellow starthistle this year and were working with landowners to curtail it in their area.

Commissioner DeTro: Currently had 3” of snow in Okanogan.

Butch Klaveano: Yellow starthistle exploded in Garfield County last year, and the weed board was working out cost share program.

OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed office reports for January and February

Alison:

- January and February were full of travel and bad weather. The biennial report had been mailed out to all county weed board members, coordinators, and all county boards of commissioners or councilpersons.

Wendy:

- Weather was also a factor when she traveled to give presentations. The Flower and Garden Show at the Washington Convention Center in Seattle was a success, and Wendy thanked the surrounding county weed board staff who helped staff the booth.

The Board discussed:

- Updating county funding levels. Wendy had recently requested updated information from all the counties.

- Skamania County NWCB’s budget was substantially reduced, due to county budgetary shortfall. Justin Bush mentioned that it would impact staffing, but that the program was largely grant-funded, which keeps them afloat in the short-term.

WSDA UPDATE

Mary Toohey & Greg Haubrich:

- Legislature still working on budgets. At the time, there were no anticipated reductions for the WSNWCB budget. They were deliberating appropriation source for WSNWCB and some or all of Plant Protection program if it was not going to come out of general fund in the short-term.
- Annual Spartina report undergoing final review and would be available soon.
- Bridget Simon was back in Washington and would be working part-time for WSDA.

The Board discussed:

- The importance of board members talking to their legislators about the importance of continued funding of the WSNWCB.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alison: HB2413 (regarding pesticide drift on workers and community members) and its substitute versions never made it to either house or senate floor for a full vote this session. The WSNWCB provided testimony at all three hearings, and there were many in the agricultural and natural resource sectors who testified in opposition to the bill. Many legislators appeared very educated about pesticide safety and regulation and understood the negative impacts of the bill as originally written.

The Board discussed:

- The importance of continued discussions with legislators about existing safeguards with pesticides.
- Commissioner DeTro stressed the need to be vigilant about future versions of this bill. Okanogan County has the largest single proprietor of orchard fruit? in the world, and he was concerned that the bill would have significantly harmed the orchard industry in Washington.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison: Not much to report. The online meetings are being paid out of the education fund but were allocated in the state weed board fund, so both accounts are slightly off, but they balance out. GoToMeeting costs are being reduced by cancelling the toll-free number service during months when the Board is not holding meetings.

REVIEW OF CLASS A ERADICATION PROPOSALS

The Board reviewed the Class A eradication proposals.

Applicant	Target species	Amount requested
Chelan County NWCB	Common crupina	\$3,000

Clark County NWCB	Milk thistle	\$3,000
Cowlitz County NWCB	Slenderflower and milk thistles	\$2,493.60
Mason County NWCB	Giant hogweed	\$3,000
Okanogan County NWCB	Wild four o'clock	\$3,000
Skamania County NWCB	Garlic mustard	\$3,000
Stevens County NWCB	Mediterranean sage	\$1,500
Thurston County NWCB	Shiny geranium	\$3,000
		Total \$21,993.60

The Board discussed:

- There was a total of \$18K allocated for Class A projects.
- The benefit of having licensed county NWCB staff or contracted applicators apply restricted-use herbicides on noxious weed infestations.
- RFPs should be improved to provide better information (landowner, cost-share, infested acres, etc.)
- WSDA already had a USFS FHP intercounty agreement with Skamania County and could fund the \$3,000 garlic mustard project.
- The Board could reallocate \$994 from its budget so that all remaining projects could be funded.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to fund all the Class A Eradication proposals except Skamania County (which WSDA would fund)
	Bill Agosta	Secunded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion passed.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS CODE OF ETHICS (COE)

The Board reviewed its adopted COE and the suggested language submitted by Tony. The Board discussed:

- Sarah read through Tony's suggested text and was concerned that it only addressed fiscal conflicts of interest (COI) and would have an attorney determine what constituted a COI. That would take the power away from the Board and could also be extensive.
- Tony had taken the Board's COE and simplified the language to make it more concise. He expressed concern that there was no specific basis on what could remove a person from the Board. He did not mind continuing with the current COE while the Board continued to revise it.
- Butch created a temporary sub-committee of Tony, Sarah, and Alison to work on the COE before the next meeting.

COORDINATORS' FORUM

No comments

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Jerry complimented Alison and Wendy on the biennial report.

MEETING EVALUATION

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting dates. There were scheduling conflicts with at least two of the Board members, and the Board was open to changing the dates to better accommodate participation. Alison agreed to conduct a Doodle poll to find better meeting dates for May, July, and September.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to adjourn
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no one opposed.

The Board adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Butch Klaveano, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Tony Stadelman, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board