

**Draft: Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
12:00 p.m., March 12, 2014
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via WebEx and hosted at
Campbell's Resort, 104 W Woodin Ave; Chelan, WA 98816**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft meeting minutes for January 2014 board meeting
- Office reports for February and beginning March
- Budget summary spreadsheet
- Class A Eradication Proposals
- 2014 State Weed Board directory

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Butch Klaveano (WebEx)	
Sarah Cooke (WebEx)	Bob Roth (WebEx)	
Dirk Veleke	Bill Agosta (WebEx)	
Brad White (WebEx)	Jenifer Parsons (WebEx)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
 Trish Durand, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Rochelle Osborne, Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Beki Shoemaker, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Debbie Ringler, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Dick Jacobson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Todd Davis, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Marc Eylar, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Janet Nelson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Dana Coggon, Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Dale Whaley, WSU Extension
 Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Sonny Gohrman, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Jennifer Andreas, WSU Extension
 Dave Maiden, Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Michael Scott, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Vic Reeve, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for January

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 2014 board meeting
	Butch Klaveano	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Bob Roth has been attending Cowlitz county NWCB's regular meetings, and they are working on revising their assessment rate. They will be hiring a few seasonal employees soon.
- Bill Agosta mentioned that the San Juan County NWCB had just bought a truck.
- Dirk Veleke had been on vacation.
- Brad White deferred to the WSDA update.
- Sarah Cooke had been working to help save a 20-acre, Category 1 bog. Her efforts paid off, and she hoped that the Snohomish county council would furnish money to save the property from development. Alison mentioned that she had read stories in the local papers that mentioned Sarah's work.
- Butch Klaveano did not have any updates.
- Jenifer Parsons did not have any updates.
- Tony Stadelman noted that tractors were already hitting the fields, now that spring weather was here. The sandhill cranes came back 10 days ago.

OFFICE REPORTS

Alison:

- Alison noted that both she and Wendy had been very busy.
- In February, she attended an aquatic invasive plant workshop hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto for Jenifer. The workshop was intended to address the issue of aquatic invasive plant policy and management, and they wanted to learn how different states dealt with invasive plants.
- She had been working with some county weed boards as they worked on assessment issues and planned to update the coordinators' handbook chapter on assessments based on what she was learning from others. Jefferson County was working on changing their funding source to assessment.
- She and Wendy had attended the WSDA Nursery Inspection program's public hearing to amend WAC 16-752, including the addition of species proposed by the State Weed Board.
- She had been invited to WSDA's honeybee working group meeting. She made a few good contacts and saw an opportunity for the State Weed Board to find common ground with the beekeepers by heavily promoting the planting of non-invasive pollinator species, especially after controlling noxious weeds.

Wendy:

- Wendy had coordinated and worked at the Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. The total number of attendees who stopped by the noxious weed booth was over 1,500. She had help

from 18 people at the booth, including Sarah Cooke, and pointed out that Beki and Debbie from the Pierce County NWCB program had to battle the crowds that were in Seattle for the Seahawks parade to be at the garden show.

- She had given a number of presentations, including last week's annual spring training hosted by the Okanogan County NWCB.
- She had attended the Northern Rockies Invasive Plant Council conference in Spokane, where she caught the second day of the Russian olive symposium and also attended the flowering rush symposium.
- Wendy had been updating the directory and the county weed board spreadsheets on funding and salaries.

WSDA UPDATE

Brad White provided the update.

- There were bills regarding cannabis that were still active; however, if they pass, WSDA will have very little involvement with recreational cannabis. The authority to regulate recreational cannabis would lie with the Liquor Control Board. WSDA would have indirect involvement in that its Weights and Measures Program inspected all scales used in commerce. Food products containing THC might be subject to food inspection requirements by the Food Safety Program, as are other food products.
- The initial bill addressing industrial hemp proposed direct WSDA involvement, as industrial hemp would likely be considered an agricultural product/commodity. The senate version of the bill was still alive.

The Board discussed:

- Tony asked if there were any fields producing seed for recreational cannabis. Brad noted that the desirable plant part for recreational cannabis was the immature inflorescence (bud). Therefore, only female plants were likely used and tissue culture propagation was used to clone proprietary strains, rather than growing seed crops of cannabis.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- Alison noted that there had not been much this session that involved noxious weed control. SB 6040, the WDFW invasive species bill, had made it to rules for the second reading, but the funding component had been stripped.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Sarah Cooke provided the update. There wasn't much to report, as the budget was on track. The cost for the storage units would be decreasing since they consolidated publications to one large unit. A \$5K payment had posted for the eastern WA field guides.

REVIEW CLASS A ERADICATION PROPOSALS

The State Weed Board had allocated \$10K towards Class A eradication projects and had received seven proposals from county weed boards. Alison had provided a spreadsheet that summarized the proposed projects and covered the recent history of eradication efforts of those infestations when applicable. The spreadsheet also included input provided by Tim Miller, who could not attend the meeting. The Board discussed:

- Whether \$2.5K would be effective for some of the projects, such as Thurston County’s project to eradicate shiny geranium, of which there were over 100 known sites.
- The efficiency and economics of using pick-ups and ATVs over backpack sprayers. It was noted by Beki Shoemaker, the Pierce County NWCB coordinator, that not every program had the means to purchase trucks and other major equipment, and in some cases, a backpack sprayer worked better, such as on small properties/infestations or in rough terrain.
- The recent explosion of existing shiny geranium infestations and discoveries of new ones in other counties, and the possible need to reclassify it as a Class B noxious weeds.
- The frustration of having so little money to use towards helping counties eradicate Class A noxious weeds.

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Moved to remove the two projects on shiny geranium and divide the money equally among the other five projects.
	Butch Klaveano	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Alison suggested that the Board consider other ways to use that limited special projects funding, such as a pilot project to provide landowners controlling their noxious weeds with seed packets of non-invasive/native plants for them to grow and maintain to help pollinators and to remind people to think beyond noxious weed control and what can be planted instead. Tony suggested that the Board revisit this idea in or after the July meeting and asked everyone to bring ideas forward to Wendy and Alison.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Alison noted that two coordinators on the Noxious Weed Committee had left – one had changed jobs and the other was on hiatus. She suggested that Emily Stevenson from Skamania County and Sasha Shaw in King County should be asked if they wanted to take the place of the absent coordinators. Alison also mentioned that the WSDA honeybee working group had asked about considering one of their members for the NWC. The Board was open to the idea for a year if there was follow-up from the working group, as long as the representative was open-minded and willing to work with them.

COORDINATOR’S FORUM

Vic Reeve from the Franklin County NWCB noted the disparity in funding levels between counties and stressed the importance of more consistency between programs. The Board and audience discussed:

- There was a big difference in funding levels between county weed boards funded through weed assessment and general fund.
- The State Weed Board did not have control over county budgets and that it was up to county commissioners to set funding levels, although the Board could provide support to counties seeking increased funding.
- The value of reviewing the weed laws with all county commissioners, such as at the annual WASAC conference.
- Inter-county noxious weed complaints needed to be sent to WSDA.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

None

MEETING EVALUATION

Next meeting will be May 22nd. It would be held through WebEx and hosted in Olympia.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Motioned to adjourn the meeting.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board