

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting
9:00 a.m. May 20th, 2021
Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx Only due to Covid-19 Restrictions

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of March meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Class A Project Request for Proposals Draft.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Jerry Hendrickson	Steven Seefeldt
Bill Agosta	Ken Bajema	Jennifer Parsons
Dirk Veleke		Ian Burke

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Annette Pearson,
- Cheryl Spink, WSDA Plant Services
- Christie Turner, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Dale Whaley, Douglas County Noxious Weed Task Force
- Elizabeth Taylor, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Susan Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Seth Luginbill, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board

Board Member Comments

- Allan Evenson talks about how his board and helping Grant County Inter County Board of Directors for District 51, after some members left and passed away. They sent out a mailer to everyone in the district for nominations, and got 6-8 nominations back. Now the process to reform the board is starting

- Dirk Veleke talks will talk about looking for weeds in Douglas County later in the meeting.
- Jerry Hendrickson mentions that it is warm and they got a bit of rain the day before
- Ken Bajema is going to send Jerry some rain.
- Steven Seefeldt talks about how he finished his survey of reed canary grass on Ross Lake, for Cascades National Park, to put in a report.
- Jennifer Parsons mentions that her agency, Department of Ecology, is in the process of hiring her replacement for her retirement at the end of May. It will at the same job level as her current position, so it should be someone just as experienced in aquatic plants as she is, if the NWCB wanted to replace her with someone of similar experience for a scientific advisor.
 - Mary announces that the NWCB has got Jennifer a plaque to thank her for sitting on the board.
 - Bill and others also thank Jennifer.
 - Jennifer says being on the NWCB was a highlight of her career.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the March 11th meeting.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to accept the minutes for the March 11 th meeting.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Office Reports

- Mary describes how busy it has been in the last part of March through the middle of May.
 - Mostly working on RCW 1710, and attending legislative and agency meetings related to that.
 - Also worked on CR101 forms for regulations.
 - Anne and Mary have been giving support to counties.
- Anne describes a presentation and social media work that has been done.
 - Mostly has been working on redesigning and getting the updated GardenWise booklets printed. This time quotes were gotten, and the booklets should be in hand by June 30th.
 - New weed list for 2020 list printing was completed. The board directory was updated, and will be again soon.
 - Anne says she is starting to feel settled in, but won't really know what she is doing until a full cycle of a year has gone by.

Budget Report

- Mary reports that there has not been any major expenses in the budget so far.
- The only major changes from last year is that this year Mary has had some Attorney General fees, related to the listing proposals, hiring the education specialist position, and questions regarding county issues, mostly on who is responsible for treating flowering rush when it is not on a property.

- The Attorney General recommended getting the local stakeholders together and have them make an agreement, but didn't have a legal opinion on who is responsible for treating the flowering rush.
 - The AG said that in the past DNR has been able to say who is responsible.
 - Julie said she asked Todd Palzer from DNR about this opinion, and he disagreed with the AG that DNR should be able to help track the responsible party.
- Mary continues reporting that most of the remaining budget will be on printing the GardenWise. Mary tried to get the storage unit on this budget, but it can't be billed until July.
- Mary reports that there will be \$20,000 left over at the end of the year, and how to spend it will be discussed in the budget committee update.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- Marty Hudson discusses the proposals and recommendations from the previous week's committee meeting. They are:
 - New State Noxious Weed List proposals:
 - Hanging Sedge – *Carex pendula*. Discuss with Steve Burke about designation recommendation.
 - Rough Chervil – *Chaerophyllum temulum*. Approved for Class B recommendation.
 - Wild Basil/Basil Savory – *Clinopodium vulgare*. Approved for Class C recommendation.
 - Green Alkanet - *Pentaglottis sempervirens*. Approved for Class C recommendation
 - Crack Willow – *Salix fragilis*. Talk with Yakima NWCB, other counties where it is present, and other groups, to find political, legal, and historic issues, before continuing with class recommendation.
 - Common Horsetail – *Equisetum arvense*. Native, cant list
 - Listing designation changes proposals:
 - Common Tansy – *Tanacetum vulgare*. From C to B. Clallam County wants it designated to give more control options.
 - Wild Carrot – *Daucus carota*. Need to talk with WSDA about why it is on the quarantine list, and if it includes the farmed cultivar. If it does, is it because of private gardeners' messing with agricultural genomes?
 - Monitor list proposals:
 - Stinking iris – *Iris foetidissima*. Approved to be on monitor list, sponsored by Jason Ontjes from San Juan County.
 - February daphne – *Daphne mezereum*. Approved to be on monitor list, sponsored by Sharon Sorby from Pend Oreille County.
 - Virginia creeper – *Parthenocissus vitacea*. Approved to be on monitor list, sponsored by Sharon Sorby from Pend Oreille County.
 - Quarantine list requests:

- English Ivy – *Hedera helix*. Anne and Mary will focus on this, and Atlantic Ivy, for next quarantine petition to the WSDA
 - English Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*.
- The next Noxious Weed Committee will be on July 13th, at 9:00am.
- The following meeting will be in September
- Bill Agosta has appointed Wendy DesCamp to replace Greg Haubrich on the Noxious Weed Committee, and she attended instead of him at the previous meeting.

Budget Committee

- Mary reports that we haven't received the next biennium budget numbers yet.
- The committee voted to approve \$10,000 for class A grants for counties.
 - In the past they have had to be applied for and used between March and June each year.
 - For FY 2022, counties can start applying early in the fiscal year, and have until June 30th to utilize the funds.
- The committee also approved \$5,000 for a bio control program managed by Jennifer Andreas at WSU.
- Mary started the discussion again on the \$20,000 left to spend before June 30th 2021.
 - She sent out a poll to county coordinators to see what they could use.
 - Counties mostly want road signs, herbicide spray, basic equipment, software, and hardware.
 - A few counties have specific projects. That could use funding for projects
 - The budget committee proposes \$10,000 for county priority needs, and \$5000 for herbicide for counties.
 - The herbicide would be bought through Greg Haubrich.
 - The last \$5000 could be used for office supplies for Anne and Mary.
 - Especially for home office use, because WSDA is reducing its office footprint permanently, even at the end of COVID restrictions.
 - Mary goes in once a week to every other week, and Anne goes into the office once a week.

VOTE	Ken Bajema	Moved to accept the suggestions from Mary and the Budget Committee for the \$20,000 FY2021 left over budget.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Legislative Update

- Mary reports that SHB 1355 has passed, after some amendments and going between committees and legislative houses. Jay Inslee signed it on May 10th, and it goes into effect on July 25th. Some parts of this bill to note are:

- Counties now have the ability to control weeds on rights of way and green spaces, as well as assess these areas for costs.
- There will be a State Weed Board County Coordinator Advisor appointed by the Coordinators Association, to let us know what the coordinators are thinking.
- There was a reduction from 4 to 3 required board members required for county boards. Due to the problems with filling county weed boards.
 - As before, 50% of the members must be agricultural producers.
 - If a county legislative authority does not appoint a board member that has been recommended within 60 days, the county weed board can appoint a member.
- Forest land owners are required to control class B and C weeds along vectors of spread.
- State lands can be assessed, and will be required to pay that assessment.
 - WSDOT needs this assessment bill to be electronic, so a committee will be put together to figure out a process to bill WSDOT.
 - Must be solved by 2022
- County weed boards can only be deactivated if they have *no* class A or B weeds, and document that fact.
- Mary reports on some amendments that were made to RCW 17.10, to reiterate the benefit of noxious weed control and assessments.

Discussion Topics

Weed Free Gravel

- Joseph Shea discusses some meetings he's had about certifying weed free gravel, with various companies, agencies, and counties.
 - There is a need in Skagit County for weed free gravel certification, and maybe could exist at the state level, if there is a desire or need for that certification.
 - Some counties and agencies have their own certifications for weed free gravel.
 - 8 counties in Washington have gravel certifications.
 - If a project needs this certified gravel, but not many places have it, this can greatly increase project costs and time.
 - NWCB doesn't have the capacity on top of the Washington Weed Free Hay and Mulch Program (WWHAM) program. There is also not a legal framework for them to have authority or oversee it.
 - PISCES could be used to help facilitate the certification process.
 - Maybe the weed coordinator association in lieu of the state board, to oversee it.
 - Other hurdles include: which weed list to use, standards used, the need to be voluntary, etc.
 - Joe is not on a timeline for this project, just something to keep in mind as a future option.
- Mary thinks more counties would join in, if the program was already set up.
 - 8 counties in Washington have gravel certifications.
 - 14 counties are WWHAM inspectors.
- Bill reiterates that the state board does not have the authority to take charge of this, but does have the authority and the mandate to help the county boards with programs like this.

- Joe will come back in July to update the board on where he is.
 - He is going to report then on a meeting he has with all the counties on their ability to start a certification process.
- To use PISCES, an MOU would be needed. Each county might need an MOU and pay \$100 to be a signatory. The inspectors could then work through PISCES.

Douglas County Noxious Weed Task Force

- Mary introduces what is going on in Douglas County, about how they are the only county that doesn't have a weed control board. She then introduces Dale Whaley to talk about the Douglas County Noxious Weed Task Force.
- Dale gives the board an overview of the Douglas County Noxious Weed Task Force
 - Douglas County Commissioners asked the WSU Extension about how to educate about noxious weeds.
 - WSU Extension started the task force, made up of 7 individuals, based geographically in agriculture and urban areas. The force also includes staff from the extension office
 - The task force adopts all Class A state weeds, then selects from the B and C species to list, and this list is updated yearly
 - Has a website, because the focus is education.
 - Addresses complaints on a case-by-case basis.
 - Will notify landowners if something looks amiss.
 - The task force conducts projects, like a flowering rush survey and control project.
 - Dale has had several counties say that the task force gets more done than some county weed boards.
- Bill says it sounds like the task force acts very similarly to a county weed board
 - He then asks what the task force does with Class B Designate weeds.
 - Dale responds that they control weeds when there are small infestations.
 - They will request the landowner to control it, and the landowner will be required to control it.
 - Bill asks if they have authority to enforce someone to control it
 - Dale responds that they can go to the prosecuting attorney, and put a lien on a property.
 - So far just asking has worked.
 - Bill asks if there is monitoring or surveying of weeds around the county
 - Dale responds that there is a company with a contract to monitor and spray the right of ways.
- Mary asks about Poison Hemlock now being designated in the state, and if anything has happened with it in Douglas County
 - Dale responds that they have had one area of it coming up, and got herbicide to take care of the infestation.
- Dirk Veleke has some addition on Douglas County's weeds, based on what he has seen while doing surveys and treatments by his company.
 - He states that Douglas County doesn't have a lot of weed designated, but probably should have more designated.
 - Better surveys also needed.

- He knows that there has been Ravenna grass, skeleton weed, knotweeds, and other species are present in Douglas County.
- Dirk's connection drops out, so Mary continues his points from notes he provided to her.
- Mary recommends that next year we can make sure that the species neighboring counties have selected for control, will be selected for control in Douglas.
 - Bill adds that designation happens at the state level, and all counties must control designated species. Counties can choose additional species from the B list to select for control, but still must control all A, and Designated B species.
 - Dale responds that he works closely with neighboring counties.
 - He asks that other counties just let Douglas County know that they would like it reciprocated in listing and treated in Douglas.
- On the subject of why they are not just a board, Dale states:
 - The past county commissioners were ardently against a board
 - Bill and Mary recall that Douglas County was very interested in noxious weed control, but were concerned with big government.
 - Dale says that the county commissioners really like what the task force is doing.
- Dirk asks that if Douglas County had a fully funded board, and had RCW 17.10 behind them, with a decent budget, would it make a difference?
 - Mary thinks that the task force is limited on time and resources to cover the whole county.
 - Allan Evenson asks where the funding for the taskforce is coming from
 - Dale answers that it comes from the WSU funding, as Dale's job is to educate on noxious weeds
 - Dale states that if he had more money he would be able to do more, but still has less or the same amount of weeds as counties with large assessment programs.
 - The county gets some money from pest assessments, so the commissioners are ok with assessments generally.
- Dirk reiterates that a recent and very comprehensive survey is needed.
 - Mary recalls that the last one was done in 2008 or so.
 - Bill wants to pursue this survey possibility, to have a proposal ready for the July meeting.
 - Dale, Dirk, and Greg Haubrich should all be involved in getting more information on a survey.

Class A Projects and Request for Proposal

- Mary states that Class A projects weren't done in FY21.
- In the past, there was a tight timeframe, with only a month or two to use the funding.
- For FY22, Mary and the Budget Committee recommends the Class A Projects to have about 10 months to spend out funds.
 - June 1st the RFPs go out
 - Proposals would be reviewed at the July meeting.
 - Final grants announced and allowed to be spent out starting July 31st.
- There will be \$10,000 to spend on projects

- The proposal writers need to be present at the July meeting, to answer questions.
- Projects with matching funds, labor, equipment, etc, would be given priority.
- \$5000 limit for each proposal.
- The projects must be to control Class A species
- The budget committee recommended that an additional \$5000 go to the WSU-led biocontrol project.
- Ken would rather have \$15,000 go to the grants, so more money could go to counties.
 - Bill states that this would mean that the biocontrol project wouldn't have funding.
 - Ken would also like a report on the biocontrol project at the July meeting.
 - Mary will invite Jennifer Andreas to speak at the July meeting.
 - Jerry would like to keep the \$5000 going to the biocontrol project
 - Bill suggests that we could not decide on final amounts until the July meeting and we see what has been proposed.
 - Jerry agrees with this
 - Bill says this is ok, because we don't need this decided before the end of FY21.

Covered Load Update

- Mary summarizes the covered load emails and meeting she has had.
 - A few different entities had concerns about covered loads causing weeds on right of ways.
 - Mary had an informational gathering meeting in early May
 - Many stakeholders attended
 - There will be at least one follow up meeting
 - Surprisingly two legislators attended the meeting to inform her that they had a lot of concerns, politically amongst their constituents.
 - There are two different issues
 - Hay buildup contributing to noxious weeds?
 - Are the products being shipped with noxious weeds?
 - Any vehicle could contaminate the roadsides, not just hay and straw trucks.
 - Car and wild fires are an issue as well.
 - WSDOT noted that the buildup is seasonal, and will blow away.
 - The buildup could act as a mulch and slow soil erosion
 - More information needed. Survey, literature review, what are other states doing?
 - Ian and Steven are going to assist with the research
 - It all may be a moot point.
 - The legislators are against covering the loads for financial and industry reasons.
 - Mary added that the weed board may not have jurisdiction over covered loads
 - There may be a different solution, that isn't covered load.
- Bill is not convinced that the noxious weed board might be the group to be in charge of any program that might start.
 - Mary says we may drop off of the issue after the next meeting.
- Bill asks who is concerned about the covered loads

- Mary mostly received questions from south east Washington, if straw and hay was adding to weed problems.

Coordinators Forum

- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board. They are working though their garlic mustard season. The main problem right now is finding seasonal staff. They need 3 more staff, and hardly have any applicants. They are hosting an open house of their native plant garden, for World Bee Day.
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board. One state park had a report of yellow star thistle, but haven't found it after removing it last year. They also are having trouble hiring for their one seasonal staff position.
 - Please send Jason an email about any stinking iris seen.
- Joe Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board. They are also finishing up their garlic mustard season and having trouble filling seasonal positions. They are also 3 people short on their crew. He will be moving forward with a tax assessment proposal.
 - Mary says the board can provide a letter of support
- Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board. Whitetop and diffuse knapweeds have both been selected for control in their county, so they are busy going after those cases. They have a returning seasonal, so they don't need more crew.
 - She adds that she collaborates a lot with Douglas County and Dale on weed issues, especially flowering rush.
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board. It is dry, so they are doing some August activity already. He is very thankful for the revised RCW. Bill Wamsley is retiring. They will be finding someone to sit on their board soon.
- Susan Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board. They are seeing excellent biological control activity on diffuse knapweed, and are planning a release on knotweed in sensitive areas. They are working with the Yakima Nation on a purple loosestrife project.
- Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board. They are having a lot of complaints about knapweed around Goldendale. He sent out a lot of letters, and half of them responded. Their roadside staff person retired last winter, so they are rehiring a new roadside person. Their position will be with the road department, so it will be permanent, not seasonal. It has been hard to find candidates.

Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on July 15th, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB