

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board May Meeting
9:00 a.m. May 19th, 2022
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.

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

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allan Evenson	Jerry Hendrickson	Kevin Hupp
Bill Agosta	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer
Dirk Veleke	Jennifer Andreas	

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cameron Archie, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan Island County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Collell, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed and accepted, with minor grammatical changes, the draft meeting minutes for the March 16th meeting.

Board Member Comments

- Allan Evenson reported that Weed District 51 is dissolved into the county weed control board. There was not enough community support to stay a district.
- Jerry Hendrickson has had a lot of rain, which will soon mean a lot of weeds.
- Janet reported on the watershed course she taught to middle school students, and that Anne came and gave a presentation to the class. It was a big success.
 - Janet also said there is a lot of green alkanet in Steilacoom, and that one of their council members, Nancy Hendrickson's control of it in a marsh is going well.

- Jennifer Andreas is having difficulty hiring and keeping staffing up. Rain is also making biocontrol release and monitoring hard. However, Knapweed and knotweed biocontrol releases have been going well.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne have continued to support the board, county weed control boards, agencies, municipalities, and the general public with information and administrative support on noxious weeds and laws in Washington, through attending meetings, responding to emails, responding to calls, sending out publications, and other admin tasks.
- The pollinator seed project is going well. Mary reported that she is distributing the 25 pound bags to county coordinators around the state, to give out to local landowners who fill out an application on their noxious weed control plans.
- Anne described the classes and workshops she has led, focusing on noxious weed ID and control.

Governor's report on Public Meeting Act changes

- State work will be more digital in the future, so there have been changes to the Public Meeting Act.
- The public needs better access to public meetings, which are often virtual or hybrid with in-person. Meeting links should be posted on the internet going forward, and was started with this May meeting.
- The NWCB will continue to have virtual meetings for the time being. Especially due to the current COVID spike and that many of the board members are in more danger of COVID related complications
- Recordings will be made each meeting, and kept for 6 months
- Headsets as well as Jabra speaker/microphones are available for the board. Requests can be made to Mary. Board members need to give these back to NWCB staff when they leave the board.

Financial Report

- There is \$20,000 extra in the NWCB's budget than expected. This must be spent by June 30th.
 - \$5000 will be spent on postage, especially since we are planning on having pollinator seed packets again in FY2023.
 - There are a few office supplies that are needed. One of which is a new computer with graphic design capabilities, for the Education Specialist's use. This computer will cost around \$3,500
 - Jennifer Andreas could use around \$1000 for supplies for her biocontrol project.
 - Boot brushes could use around \$5000, and would be freely given out to coordinators and the public.
 - \$5000 in herbicide could be used for coordinators.

VOTE	NAME Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to approve the end of year expenditures
	NAME Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- There were some expenditures made since the last meeting.
 - The update to Anne’s salary error was completed.
 - Benefits cost less than were budgeted.
 - There was some travel, to Lake Chelan for the coordinator’s conference.
 - Materials that were bought were 4 pallets of weed disposal bags, to be distributed to the counties.
- There are a few items that will be paid for before the end of the fiscal year.
 - A large printing of field guides is being worked on by a local printer.
 - Rentals and software subscriptions will be paid before the end of June
 - Class A and biocontrol grants from FY2022 will be spent out by the end of June.
 - The Douglas County survey will be finished and paid out by the end of June.

Committee Updates

Douglas County Survey Committee

- Mark Eylar and Dale Whaley have started surveying, and will finish before the end of June.
- There was an April meeting that went over maps/locations and species to survey.

Education Committee

- Janet and Anne reported on the May education committee, including the mission, messaging, target audience, priority species, and priority projects. Some of these are making a 2 page, waterproof, quick ID sheet for those who do water recreation and those who work with aquatic species or on aquatic habitats.
- Dirk requested that the committee help increase public support for pesticides.
 - The committee focuses on IPM messaging, including herbicide use
 - Mary can assist with the science and economic wording for the benefits and safety of herbicide.
 - Kevin described a booklet on herbicide use put out by The Nature Conservancy, which we will get ahold of some copies.

Noxious Weed Committee

- Anne reported on the May noxious weed committee.
 - Once there is more information gathered, the committee will move forward on considering the crack willow, holly, and creeping bamboo proposals
 - A few species were agreed to be added to the monitor list
 - A few species were agreed to be recommended to be un-designated in certain counties, as requested by those counties.

- Full notes on the noxious weed committee meeting can be requested to Anne

Discussion Topics

Class A Grant RPF

- Proposals for Class A grants for FY2023 are due to Mary by July 1st.
 - All applicants must be present at the July 14th board meeting to answer any questions on their proposal, in order to receive funding.
- Every year we have an overage to our budget, so Mary proposed increasing the amount available for these grants from \$15,000-\$20,000.
 - This can also be expanded to include funding for Class B designates and selected species.
 - Each project can get a maximum of \$5000 per project, but counties can have multiple projects. Usually there is one project per species.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to expand the Class A grants to be allowed to be used for designated and selected Class B species in future years, and to increase the amount of money available from \$15,000 to \$20,000
	Allen Evenson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Flowering Rush Project

- Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Working Group received a \$30,000 grant, administered by the NWCB
- Justin Bush and Mary helped organize the work on the ground done this year.
- There was a survey the week before control
 - Over 200 acres were surveyed.
 - The lake was at historically low levels, due to high drawdown, which helped see what was happening
 - The most infestations were on the South and East areas of the lake, especially an 80 acre area slightly downstream of where the Spokane River comes in.
 - In the future, null surveys, where there are no flowering rush, would be good to do.
- Treatment and control happened the following week
 - Partially in cooperation with the Colville tribe. Future work will be done with both the Colville Tribe and hopefully by Spokane Reservation as well.
 - Even though there was high levels of uncertainty and low amounts of resources, 119 acres were treated.
 - All but one person was accepting of herbicide being used. There was a discussion with the one objector, and they ended up accepting the herbicide use.
- Some coordinators are going on a boat to survey in late May, and Todd requested that they survey the East side of the river.

Coordinators Forum

- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County – With Jennifer Andreas and Wendy DesCamp he released biocontrol thrips and surveyed for survivors from last year.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz – They are currently working on the Class A project. A weed district board seat is open, and they are working at hiring technicians.
- Kevin Hupp, - appointed Joseph Shea as president of coordinator association and thus Joseph is also now an advisor on the NWCB board.
 - He and his staff attended the WISC and WDFW aquatic invasive species inspection training. Now they will help at future satellite inspection stations, even if decontamination can't happen at those sites.
 - Pollinator seed is great to have for projects. They might use it for a demonstration plot with some confiscated bee hive structures.
 - They are starting social media to reach more people
- Joseph Shea, Skagit – They are having trouble hiring seasonal staff. They tried to get it higher paid and union, but it was not accepted by the county commissioners. He would appreciate everyone point folks looking for jobs to him to fill these seasonal positions.
- Justin Collel, Clark County – They are short staffed, but are doing training.
 - He is the only one certified for weed free hay and mulch inspections. There are 11 producers in Clark County, one of which is larger than the others. He does 10 to 20 inspections a year.
 - Garlic mustard is their big push now, and the plants are now large enough for pulling and bagging instead of spraying. They worked with WSDOT to spray some sites. He is leading field trips to see some garlic mustard and slenderflower thistle to his staff.
- Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County- Their flowering rush program pretty close to full funding for the year. It is too cold to be sprouting yet though. Early treatment can happen with a diver soon, in harder to reach areas. Contracts will be in place before water goes down in August. She will likely be bringing in another staff member to help managing this project.
 - She is also having trouble recruiting for their field inspector positions. Ultimately, they want one more, in addition to the one they have currently.

Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on July 14th, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:20

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB