

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board MONTH Meeting
9:00 a.m. May 25th, 2023
Hybrid online over WebEx and in person at the Natural Resource Building,
Room 259, at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98504

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of March meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx or in person:

Allen Evenson	Greg Haubrich	Ken Bajema
Bill Agosta	Ian Burke	Randy Johnson
Eric Bell	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Abbi Haley, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Becky Chaney, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Betsy Crysel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cameron Archie, Washington Department of Transportation
- Cathy Lucero
- Christina St John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Daniel Sorenson, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Collell, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kela Hall-Wieckert, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kiley smith, Gray's Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Madelyn Loy, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Naedene Shearer, Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Steven Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Susan Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Todd Harris, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the March 15th meeting.

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept the minutes for the March 15 th meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Comments

- Eric Bell’s seasonals are starting.
- Janet Spingath talked about how Anne Schuster gave a presentation to Lakewood Parks Commission on Noxious Weed Impacts.
- Todd Palzer is the interim point of contact for noxious weed coordinators in Western Washington, due to Brad White leaving.

Committee Appointments

- Janet Spingath is replacing Brad White on the budget committee.
- Rahel Stampfer is replacing Steve Burke on the legislative committee.
- Maria Marlin is replacing Justin Bush on the education committee.
- Skye Pelliccia is a new addition to the education committee.
- Ian Burke is replacing Marty Hudson as chair of the noxious weed committee.

VOTE	Allen Evenson	Moved to appoint Randy Johnson to the executive committee
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Office Report

- Anne gave many presentations, including to City of Lakewood Parks Commission, Washington Conservation Corps, Olympic Invasives Network, and a course at Green River College
- Mary participated in many meetings, including meetings with Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board and Lewis County Commissioners, Cowlitz County staff, and WSDA plant services.
- Anne ran an outreach booth at the Kitsap County Master Gardener’s plant sale because Kitsap County still doesn’t have a coordinator after 2 years.
- Mary prepared for and ran the Executive Committee and Legislative Committee meetings.

- Anne prepared for and ran the Education Committee and Noxious Weed Committee meetings.
- Anne continued to send publication requests, answer email and phone questions, and update website and social media.
- Mary continued to do administrative tasks, such as coordinate with WSDA, answer legal and enforcement related questions, and review Class A and B Designate grant applications.
- Anne and Mary organized, packed, and began moving office space in the NRB.

Financial Report

- There will be around \$5,000 left over at the end of the Fiscal Year in June, which is a lower buffer than previous years.
- The printing cost of Western Gardenwise and Western Field Guides will be around \$19,000, which is a little over the \$18,000 budget. This is to get a good whole-sale price on a large printing amount.
- There will be around \$8000 to spend on equipment, which can go to printing and other projects.
- Attorney General fees were a little more than usual. \$200 is used in most years, and \$900 is budgeted. A lot of these fees came from the holly proposal last year.
- Grants will be spent out before the end of June.
- Mary presented an expense report that was line by line, per a request from John Magnuson.
 - She asked if the board would like to see a report like this at future meetings.
 - The board thought it was beneficial and would like to see expense reports like this in the future.
 - People like it and would like to see it in the future.

Class A and B Designate Noxious Weed Grant Proposals Review and Vote on Funding

Cowlitz County – Jennifer Mendoza

- Weeds: Turkish, slenderflower, and milk thistles.
- \$ requested: 2,500.
 - Any would be helpful. Has already been paired down to get absolute priorities, but more would be helpful, because the ask has already been lowered to make more competitive
- Size of infestation: 70 acres.
- Other notes: Agencies and landowners are cooperating.

Skamania County – Emily Stevenson

- Weeds: garlic mustard and shiny geranium.
- \$ requested: 5,000.
 - Any funding is helpful.
- Size of infestation: garlic mustard – 8 acres over 50. Shiny geranium 15 acres over 30 acres
- Other notes: Non-profits, a landowner, and an agency are all providing funding.

Franklin County – Betsy Crysel and Todd Harris

- Weeds: Dalmatian toadflax.

- \$ requested: 3,250.
 - Any amount of funding would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: 20 acres.
- Other notes: This is a continuation of a project from last year.

Mason County – Kela Hall-Wieckert

- Weeds: perennial pepperweed.
- \$ requested: 5,000.
 - Any amount would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: less than 10 acres
- Other notes: Collaborating with State Parks, WDFW, and conservation district. Has a few crew days planned.

Yakima County – Sue Bird

- Weeds: Oriental clematis.
- \$ requested: 5,000.
 - Any funding would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: 96 parcels over 15,264 acres.
- Other notes: Dropping the request for Mediterranean Sage, as the project is almost done.

Columbia – Naedene Shearer

- Weeds: Mediterranean sage.
- \$ requested: 4,000.
 - Any amount of funding would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: 390 acres.

Thurston – Abbi Haley

- Weeds: garlic mustard, slenderflower thistle, eggleaf spurge, giant hogweed, lesser celandine, wild basil, and hanging sedge.
- \$ requested: 5,000.
 - Any funding would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: 34.27 acres over 47 sites.
- Other notes: Landowner cooperation

Skagit – Madelyn Loy

- Weeds: garlic mustard.
- \$ requested: 5,000.
 - This amount would get them to eradication, though any funding would be helpful.
- Size of infestation: 23 acres.
- Other notes: Skagit Land Trust has volunteers to help.

Funding notes

- Greg Haubrich will likely be able to purchase herbicide in June, before the end of the fiscal year, and some of this could go to counties, to help with funding needs.

- Greg would also have funds for any projects that can finish before the end of June, though no one has a project that close to being finished.
- \$34,750 has been requested.
 - \$20,000 is available.
 - \$14750 overage.
- Ken stated that all the projects have merit and suggested breaking up available funds between all the projects.
- Janet suggested that ones that have manual, rather than herbicide treatment needs, could be weighed higher, since Greg will likely have herbicide to provide.
- Ian stated that Class A projects could be prioritized over class Bs.
 - Allen and Janet were in favor of this.
 - Ken did not agree, and that all projects should be treated equally.
- Bill proposed that each would get around 57% of ask, to break the amount available up evenly amongst projects.
 - Allen supported this idea.
 - Eric asked if Class Bs and As are both getting the same percentage.
 - Janet stated that she would like if the funding was more targeted towards class As.
 - Class A projects get 60%, and Class Bs get 40% of ask.
 - Janet and Allen liked this modification to Bill’s proposal.
 - Mary will decide final amounts, especially for Thurston County, because theirs is a mix of A and B species.

VOTE	Ken Bajema	Moved to fund Class A projects at 60% and Class B projects at 40% of amount asked for.
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Discussion Topics

Quarantine List Petition

- There is a petition from the public to add spotted jewelweed to the prohibited plants list (quarantine list).
 - The board has no official power over the quarantine list, which is a list of plants that are not allowed to be sold in Washington State.
- The weed board needs to put together a petition to add species, like Class As from the last few years.
 - An informal email can even work, then we can later send information like written findings.
 - WSDA does SBEIS, hearing, and filing paperwork afterwards.
 - There are a few Class As, and maybe a couple others that need to be added to the next petition

- There is no deadline for a petition, it will just get in the rule-making line.
- The board can vote and discuss in July, but even just a consensus and no official vote is needed.
- Bill said Mary and Anne can put together the list, and have the board go through it.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- New species proposals moving forward:
 - Variable-leaf watermilfoil hybrids for Class A.
 - Cape pondweed for Class A.
 - European and American Beach Grasses for Class B or C.
- Designation change requests:
 - Shiny geranium to be undesignated in Pierce and Snohomish counties will need more input from those counties before recommendation can be put forward.
 - *Egeria densa* will be undesignated in Green Lake of King County.
- Monitor list updates:
 - Wild garlic and gray sedge were added to the monitor list.
 - Anne, Tom Erlar, Wesley Glisson, and Wendy DesCamp will go over the monitor list, because it has over 50 species on it, and see if anything should be listed or removed.

Education Committee

- Pesticide webinars:
 - We will put on another free pesticide credit webinar this December, but this year we will aim to do two, on entirely in Spanish language.
- Publications:
 - At the rate we are going through Western Field Guides and Western GardenWises, and the amount we can print with our budget, we will need to spend our printing budget on a reprint again next year.
 - We would need an increase in our printing budget to print things like an aquatic weeds guide or any other new publications.
- Legislative outreach
 - Next year we would like to have a legislative outreach day or week, with a table and outreach in the capitol rotunda.
 - It could coincide with Invasive Species Awareness Week, and we could partner with WISC and other agencies, in addition to county weed boards.
 - We can give out seed packets, and maybe other items or food.
- Curriculum
 - Anne will work with WISC's and King County's invasive species and weed curriculum and make a curriculum that teachers around the state can use to teach about noxious weeds.

Legislative Committee

- Met to update WAC 16-750

- Mostly updating verbiage to match RCW 17.10
- The changes made can be updated with the weed list update this year or next year, depending on when the legislative committee finishes going through the WAC.

Executive Committee – Rule Making Update

- In November 2022 there was a vote to add feral holly to the noxious weed list.
 - One of the voting members, Ken Bajema, grows English holly.
 - The vote was tied, and feral holly did not get added to the Class C list.
 - Ken was worried that a listing of feral holly would severely impact his business.
 - There was some concern then and some complaints and inquiries about a conflict of interest.
- Bill worked with the Attorney General’s office to look into what happened in 2022.
 - The Ethics and Public Service law governs the Weed Board and its members, as well as the main job of the weed board, which is to create and maintain the weed law.
 - The ethics portion of the of the law only applies to transactions, and not to rule making, because otherwise legislators would not be able to vote on many items.
 - A memorandum from 2010 makes this clear to the weed board.
- The board is allowed to make rules to add to the noxious weed law, including conflict of interest issues.
 - A rule here would cause a member to recuse themselves from voting on species they grow commercially.
 - It could be added to the WAC and would need to go through a public hearing and a vote of the board.
 - Bill and the Attorney General have drafted a rule for the board to consider at a special meeting in June, followed by a hearing and vote in September, to be in place for the November listing process.
 - If the board wants to consider this rule at a June special meeting, Mary can send the draft out.
- Bill asked if the board wants to consider such a rule.
 - Eric Bell stated that he is fine with the law as it is now but admitted that he is fairly new to the operation of the weed board.
 - Allen would like a conflict of interest to apply to everyone on everything, not just plants grown commercially.
 - Janet was in favor of this, because she runs an aquatic plant removal company and she said she could vote to add more aquatic species to the list, just to get more business.
 - Randy would consider the rule, because it would increase government transparency and help the public trust the government more.
 - Greg also thought it should be looked at.
 - The board’s consensus was that they want to consider the rule.
- There will be a June special meeting.
 - This meeting will need a quorum of voting members present.
 - Mary will schedule the meeting to work with at least 5 voting members and send out the draft rule.

Coordinators Forum

- Emily Stevenson – Skamania. Has a crew working on sites, as well as new equipment and a truck. They had been trying to get a new truck for 10 years.
- Steve Burke – King. Rahel Stampfer is their new communication staff. They also have a new chair on the weed board, Becky Cheney.
- Sophie DeGroot – Jefferson. They are working on poison hemlock, wild chervil, knotweed, knapweeds, and wild basil.
- Christina St. John – Clallam. They have a full crew and are working with Jefferson County to control Chervil on their roads to stop spread.
- Farren Reinbold – Lincoln. They only have one inspector this year, and no returning applicators. They are having trouble finding staff.
- Kiley Smith – Gray’s harbor. They have two new employees and two more seasonals, as well as a new truck. They are working on controlling poison hemlock, wild chervil, and tansy, while gearing up for knotweed season.
- Madelyn Loy – Skagit. They are bringing in three seasonal staff.
- Justin Collel – Clark. They have new field inspectors, and are hopeful to find all variable leaf milfoil infestations. These have been present in Clark County for more than nine years. They are hoping for a listing of hybrid milfoil as a Class A to assist with eradication.
- Jason Ontjes – San Juan. They are getting a lot of calls and complaints about Scotch broom. They are working on Malta starthistle eradication next year, with state parks. They have been working with USFWS to control blackberry and common groundsel in refuge areas.
- Jennifer Mendoza – Cowlitz. They did a false brome survey and are working on variable leaf milfoil with Clark County. There was a landslide on Spirit Lake Highway, so they couldn’t reach some weed treatment sites. They have had some issues with assessment billings.
- Jeff Knutson and Sue Bird – Yakima. They have been unable to hire a seasonal employee, additionally, Effie Shinn is still out of the office, so they are pretty short-staffed. They are deep in starthistle projects with landowners, as well as rangeland drone and ground treatments of scotch thistle.
- Kela Hall-Wieckert – Mason. Giant hogweed is their priority right now. They were able to hire a noxious weed specialist, and are looking for inspectors next, especially for treatments in national forests. They are partnering with State Parks on some projects. They are down 3 board members, so Mason County does not currently have a functioning board and are looking for primary agricultural producers in most parts of the county to fill those spots.
- Kitsap County does not have a coordinator or active board, and it has been that way for around 2 years.
- Betsy Crysel – Franklin. They are hitting the ground running this season, with projects with agencies, private landowners, and yellow starthistle control.

Public Comment

- None

Executive Session Personnel Performance Review per RCW42.30.110 (1g)

Salary Adjustment Discussion

- If the board approves a salary increase, WSDA will go to HR and make that increase.
- A 5% increase has been proposed for Mary Fee.
 - Mary is not on a class schedule increase in 4 years, because she is in a Band 1 WMS.
 - This means she can't go over 25% increase over the time of her employment.
 - Mary has only had cost of living increases, which are automatic for all state employees, while Anne has had step increases, because she is on a step increase schedule.
 - Past executive secretaries received increases under the Band 1 WMS.
 - WSDA has updated the pay for WMS employees, so they will stop losing good employees to private industry and other jobs.
 - Anything more than 10% would need justification. Just must be between the range for Band 1 WMS
- Discussion
 - Randy stated that he doesn't want to lose good, qualified employees, like Mary Fee.
 - Eric seconds this.
 - Janet stated that she wants Mary to receive more professional development training. Things like grant administration, technology, and other trainings Mary would like to have.
 - Janet would also like to improve communication with legislators
 -

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept a 10% salary increase for Mary Fee
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The next board meeting will be on July 13th, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:24

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB