

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board May Meeting  
9:00 a.m. May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia,  
WA 98504, Room 259**

Handouts provided for meeting:

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

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Allen Evenson

## Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx and in person:

|                   |                  |               |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Alaine Sommargren | Ian Burke        | Ken Bajema    |
| Alison Halpern    | Janet Spingath   | Marci Miller  |
| Allen Evenson     | Jennifer Andreas | Randy Johnson |

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Christina St. John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jade Jarvis, Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wendy Descamp, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Wesly Glisson, Washington State Department of Ecology

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and Special April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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| <b>VOTE</b> | Janet Spingath   | Moved to accept the minutes for the March 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting and April 16 <sup>th</sup> special meeting. |
|             | Ken Bajema       | Seconded the motion.   |
|             | <i>The Board</i> | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.   |

## Board Member Comments

- Allen – Added kochia as a required weed for control for Grant County Weed District #3. Puncturevine started growing for the season.
- Janet – Dissected leaf blackberry has started to be noticed as a problem around Pierce County
- dissected leaf blackberry starting to be noticed as a problem.
- Jennifer – Was able to start some biocontrol releases early.

## Office Reports

- Mary and Anne organized or attended several meetings, including WISC, Noxious Weed Committee, Education Committee, Washington Vegetation Management Association, among others.
- Anne and Mary gave several presentations, including to WCC crews, and organized and held a day-long in-person herbicide training at Lakewold Gardens.
  - Anne led an outreach booth at Wolf Haven International’s Prairie Appreciation Day
- Anne and Mary received large orders of publication reprints, and Anne continued to fill publication requests.
- Anne and Mary received the new boxes of pollinator seed, and began to send out large orders to counties and organizations.
- Mary and Anne continued to answer questions and provide support on weed law, weed enforcements, plant ID, plant control, and other topics.
- Mary has been following up with WSDA on her previous funding increase application

## Financial Report

### End of Year estimates

- Mary updated the board on the budget updates for the previous few months.
  - This included the major expenditures of publications and the Class A, B, and biocontrol grants.
- WSDA paid for the pollinator seeds this year.
- Alison requested having the budget committee meet before the end of the 2024 fiscal year, which culminates on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Printings

- Anne updated the board on the amount of publications left, versus the need from the public.
  - Many publications are running low, and several will run out before the end of 2024.
  - An increase in publication funding would be needed and used to keep up with current demand and inflation

## Salary Adjustment

- A salary adjustment discussion will happen at the budget committee meeting, and will be brought before the board at the July meeting for their decision.

## State Agency Updates

### WSDA, Alison Halpern

- WSDA has performed several spongy moth control treatments.

### WSDA, Wendy DesCamp

- The GIS department was hiring and updating the county weed distribution maps.
- Flowering Rush treatment in Lake Roosevelt didn't occur in 2024, due to water levels.
- Tree-of-Heaven treatment has started in high priority areas.

## Committee Updates

### Noxious Weed Committee

- Anne and Ian updated the board on the Noxious Weed Committee meeting. This included discussion of:
  - New species additions
    - The attorney general will look at the information previously provided, as well as newly provided, to the committee on feral holly, and determine if the committee can consider the listing proposal.
    - The committee already determined this information to be new or previously unseen or unreviewed.
  - A Class B designation change for one county
  - A brief monitor list update
  - The possibility of a nuisance plant list on the website, for educational purposes only.

### Education Committee

- Anne updated the board on the Education Committee meeting, which discussed:
  - The Lakewold gardens training
  - The nuisance plant list for the website
  - New publications and using QR codes on them
  - Using updated and better common names
  - Boot brushes and other outreach materials
  - Providing free herbicide trainings later in the year

## Discussion Topics

### Travel Reimbursement forms

- Mary summarized how board members need to fill out the travel reimbursement form, and how they must register as a state vendor to get reimbursed.

RFP for Class A and B Eradication Projects

- Mary reviewed the RFP for Class A and Designated Class B Eradication Projects for the 2025 Fiscal Year.
  - The funding will be available from July 2024 to the end of June 2025 for fall or spring treatments
- The board would like to see reports of how the grant was used, with the culmination of the grant in June 2025.

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| <b>VOTE</b> | Marci Miller     | Moved to start the gran process, by releasing the RFPs to counties |
|             | Janet Spingath   | Seconded the motion.   |
|             | <i>The Board</i> | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.                       |

Code of Ethics update

- Mary showed and summarized a code of ethics for the Noxious Weed Control Board from 2012.
- Ken stated that he is concerned about unintended consequences from this code of ethics, and committees following Roberts Rules of Order.
  - The board discussed these concerns.
  - Committees are advisory to the board, not board activities, and non-voting board members can't vote during board meetings.

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| <b>VOTE</b> | Ken Bajema       | Moved to ask the Attorney General about committees being under the code of ethics. |
|             |                  | No seconds.  |
|             | <i>The Board</i> | No aye votes, motion fails.  |

|             |                   |   |
|-------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>VOTE</b> | Alaine Sommargren | Moved to use the code of ethics with wording about voting added to the code.          |
|             | Randy Johnson     | Seconded the motion   |
|             | <i>The Board</i>  | Aye: Allen, Alaine, Alison, Marci, Janet, Randy<br><br>Nay: Ken<br><br>Motion passes. |

WSNWCB strategic planning update and Open Public Meetings Act training

- The board will hold an in-person half day meeting in Central Washington to revise the Strategic Plan and to have the board go through an Open Public Meetings Act training for the other half of the day.

**Coordinators Forum**

- Christina St. John, Clallam County – They have a new full time weed inspector. They are finalizing forest service contracts, hiring seasonals, and forming a lake district.
- Sue Bird, Yakima County – They have been doing treatments, including with drones, and enforcements.
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County – They are hiring new full time staff and seasonals, and have started treatments.
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County – Had field techs mapping. They installed their boot brush stations from WISC. They are experimenting with preserving weeds in silica to make them look freshly picked, for ID classes.
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County – They have been doing Lake treatments, Class A and B grant treatments, giving out seeds, and hiring.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – Finished spring treatments, and has started rock pit inspections at low elevations and working with landowners.
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County – Started spring treatments, river system, treatments, and held a public meeting for weed list updates.
- Wes Glisson, Washington Department of Ecology – Working with Thurston County and Pierce County on variable leaf watermilfoil

**Public Comment**

- None

The next board meeting will be on July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

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| <b>VOTE</b> | Ken Bajema       | Moved to adjourn the meeting.                |
|             | Janet Spingath   | Seconded the motion.                         |
|             | <i>The Board</i> | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried. |

The board meeting adjourned at 11:06

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Allen Evenson, Chair  
WSNWCB

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Janet Spingath, Secretary  
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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB