

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

9:00 a.m. January 17, 2019

Natural Resources Building, Room 259 and

Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting
- November 7, 2018 Draft Minutes
- November 2018 Office Report
- December 2018 Office Report
- January 2019 Office Report
- December 2018 Budget Report
- Class A, printing, and special project funding
- 2019 noxious weed list

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Janet Spingath	Rod Gilbert (WebEx)
Bill Agosta	Ken Bajema	
Dirk Veleke (WebEx)	Carey Caruso (WebEx)	
Jerry Hendrickson	Tim Miller	

Others present:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wendy DesCamp, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council
- Dave Heimer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Todd Palzer, Washington Department of Natural Resources
- John Geist, Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Bill Wamsley, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
- Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
- Duane Lane, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
- Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
- Patricia Grover, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 7 regular meeting.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 7, 2018 regular meeting.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Tim gave an update on the Grant County Noxious Weed Conference with Wendy. Tim commended Wendy for her presentation.
- Janet gave an update on the city of Steilacoom’s knotweed eradication. At this time no knotweed has been found. Janet wanted to recognize Jess Stone for her dedication to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day knotweed project and her efforts in Pierce County.
- Ken mentioned the Skamania County training day on Feb. 28th. Credits for pesticide license holders will be available and typically there are 80 to 100 attendees.
- The Board discussed holding off officer elections until after position 2 and 4 elections are completed. Bill questioned the legality. Mary explained that Brad had spoken with the Attorney General’s office and this procedure was the recommendation.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to postpone officer elections
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE REPORTS:

Mary reported that her first day was December 3rd and highlighted the following from the office report:

- She has met with WSDA’s Human Resources and Payroll.
- Attended the WISC meeting on Dec. 13th.
- Prepped for and hosted the WebEx Special State Weed Board Meeting on Dec. 28th regarding board member elections.
- She met with Deanna Painter and learned about the WSDA and Board budgeting process. She also met with Gloriann Robinson concerning the WSDA rule making policies and the procedures for updating WAC 16-750.
- She has been working on the biennial report and board handbook.
- She will be presenting at the Columbia County Annual Meeting.

Wendy highlighted the following from the office report:

- She spent time preparing and helping with the November noxious weed list hearing and board meeting. She also presented a talk at the WA State Weed Association conference.
- She submitted the CR-103 regarding WAC 16-750 noxious weed list updates to the state registrar as well as submitted the 2019 state weed board meeting dates.
- Wendy visited Walla Walla and Okanogan counties Dec. 5 and 6.
- She also updated the noxious weed files and weed list on the website and for printing.

- For January, she has been catching up and helping Mary.
- She is working on the Garden Wise updates for the upcoming reprint.
- She has also been coordinating with counties for sharing publications.
- Tim asked about the Garden Wise updates. Wendy explained that funding was awarded from the WSDA Nursery Advisory Group and new species are being added to the booklet.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES:

Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture provided the update:

- WSDA rolled out the public weed data map viewer. Weed names show up on points when you scroll in at 2 miles. The viewer has a measuring tool for weed area and additional updated background maps from 2018 to choose from. The viewer also has a print widget and drawing palate. The link to the viewer is here: [Public Weed Data Viewer](#) and it is also available on WSDA's website under the "Plants, Insects" tab. If you have issues with it please contact Greg.
- The Noxious Weed NPDES permit is being reviewed by Washington State Department of Ecology to add aminopyralid and topramezone as well as changes to surfactants. Cathy Lucero was a big help with monitoring. The public comment period is closed and the permit should be out for use in April.
- The WSDA entomology program is looking at the distribution of tree-of-heaven in Washington due to concerns with the invasive species spotted lanternfly that prefers it as a host plant.
- He was invited to California to speak at the California Invasive Plant Council Symposium. There were about 450 people in attendance. Instead of county weed programs most of the work is done by CWMA's.
- Many attendees at the Western Weed Coordinators' Meeting expressed concern about old world Bluestem. Might need to add to monitor list here.
- He reported on the general concern across the western states about the efficacy of noxious weed control by railroads.
- With Federal government shutdown, there is little indication of future control grants or budget for this year.
- Forty to fifty people, including many ranchers and farmers, attended the Foster Creek-Douglas Conservation District CWMA. This group may serve as a mechanism to renew discussion of a county weed board in Douglas County.

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council provided the update:

- 2019 is the year for emergency preparedness. WISC is working with city, state, and federal responders on the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Plan funded by the U.S. Dept. of Interior. Invasive mock rapid response drills have taken place with field activity focused on decontamination stations and closing boat launches.
- Northern pike have been identified about 12 miles from Grand Coulee Dam. If they cross the dam, these fish will have a direct impact to salmon populations. He mentioned coordinating with the Flowering Rush Project as flowering rush provides habitat for northern pike. The Governor's office is considering rapid response if the pike move below the dam.

- March 29th is Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop in Bellingham
- February 28th is the 8th Annual Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop in Stevenson, WA.

The Board and audience discussed:

- Janet asked if the boat inspection at WA boarder was permanent. Justin explained that the boat inspection station at Umatilla is permanent, but only open two days a week, with the goal being 7 days a week. Inspections focus on mussels, but include other invasive species if found.
- Cathy Lucero asked about the fire buffer project and the invasive component. Todd Palzer responded that it has not been funded yet.
- Tony asked about permitting for boats coming into the state. Justin replied that permitting is being publicized.

Ray Willard, Washington State Department of Transportation provided the following update via email, which Mary presented:

- She reported on the WSDOT's grading system. WSDOT strives to meet the goal of a B grade, which is 2.5% or less designated weeds along the roadway. For 2018, WSDOT was graded a C, which is 5% or less designated weeds along the roadside. Ray contributed the lack of reaching the B grade goal to lack of funding. Higher priorities, such as safety, came first. A budget increase would help address this issue.
- WSDOT is working on a 10 year plan that includes improving invasive species control.
- Scotch broom and blackberry were seen in Western WA, and Russian thistle and kochia in Eastern. Many of these sites were mowed but infestations grew back.

The Board and audience discussed:

- Ken questioned the distance of roadside applications.
- Cathy Lucero asked if more funding will be going towards weed control. Mary explained that Ray stated there will be a crew to survey roadsides and document what has been control and what hasn't, with the idea that this data will help improve the effectiveness of the WSDOT weed control program.

Dave Heimer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife provided the update:

- Their 2017 numbers showed 76% compliance for surveys in wildlife areas, with 8,610 treated acres. Dirk asked why the other 24% did not respond. Dave said some staff just do not respond. The survey is voluntary. Bill Wamsley questioned what the term access area represented. Dave explained that an access site can be a small parking lot or boat launch.
- WDFW is working on building an app for managers to survey, record treatments, and collect GIS data. The app utilizes Survey 123. Dave stated the app will help better track survey data.
- High priority weeds are: Dalmatian toadflax, purple starthistle, Phragmites, poison hemlock, mouse ear hawkweed, and Scotch broom.
- Wildlife management plans include weed plan and invasive species management. Management plans need to be habitat-oriented rather than species specific.
- We helped Mary Hudson complete a 2018 Eurasian watermilfoil project at Rock Creek in Klickitat County.

- 2018 Flowering Rush control: this was their fourth year working with Benton County and Ecology. Jenifer Parson collected data.
- Nonnative cattail project of the Skagit South Fork: they began control work on nonnative cattails to improve delta habitat for Chinook salmon. Brenda Clifton published a paper pertaining to ecological restoration and invasive plant species in tidal sites.
- He commented on the 20 million hole in their budget and potential staff cuts. He also mentioned a \$400,000 cut to WSDA's spartina control program which impacts WDFW via the elimination of trickle-down economics.

The Board discussed:

- Tony asked how much of their budget was from the General Fund. Dave did not know for sure, but noted that during the budget crises, general funding was reduced. Tony commented on funding for acquisition but not for maintenance. Dave replied that funding allocated for acquisitions cannot be allocated for other things, like weed control. Each property is supposed to be vetted before purchase. Justin Bush mentioned that acquisition has a onetime weed control budget. Cathy Lucero asked about the funds from fishing licenses. Todd Palzer replied that the Discovery Pass bypassed it and might be a funding option to revisit. Dave stated that about 40% of his budget is grant-funded.
- Tim asked if WDFW had an internal discussion about glyphosate and how they respond to the public. Dave said that some individuals have decided not to use it and that concern was more about the appearance of spraying rather than the actual herbicides used.

Todd Palzer, Washington Department of Natural Resources provided the update:

- He introduced John Geist, program manager for aquatic invasive species, lakes and rivers, and permit reviewing.
- Based on the governor's proposed budget, he is expecting to see a reduction in Puget Sound Corps project support. The initial request of 8 million is down to 5.1 million, meaning less contract funds. They will look for grants also.
- He also mentioned Todd Brownlee, who is the invasive species field operations technical specialist.
- He spoke about moving away from spartina control to a more rounded, all invasive species approach.
- Justin reported that ALEA funding goes to a variety of WSDA programs and money is being shifted. \$40,000 agricultural funding was reduced from the ALEA funding. WSDA funding also funds NPDES permitting and is imperative to maintain. Weed control is vital for Orca and salmon recovery. More water treatment is taking place and Department of Ecology permit processing is taking longer. Past treatments include King county, future surveys and possible treatments include Vancouver Lake.
- Todd reported that he did not have the core numbers yet but their annual report is nearly complete.

The Board and audience discussed:

- Bill Wamsley asked about a new division in forest protection and fire suppression.
- Tim spoke about fire control using a buffer and grass management.
- Todd explained that there is not just one main person for a DNR terrestrial contact. This might be a discussion to include at the legislative committee meeting to include a point person for state agencies.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mary provided the update.

- She adjusted the budget to reflect the 5% WSDA budget cut. The board reviewed the budget handouts.
- The board discussed having two more in-person meetings and to include travel expenses in the budget. Janet suggested having one of these meeting be a roving meeting to reach different parts of the state. Ken suggested visiting weed eradication sites. Mary will estimate costs and look at locations. Jerry suggested starting out rotating east and west maybe with one additional in-person meeting, then add a fourth one at a later date.
- The board discussed the budget for class A eradication projects.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to fund 3 projects at \$5000 each
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- The Board reviewed the RFP for class A eradication projects. Mary will send it out with the due date as February 22nd. Tony asked that applicants be present at the meeting to review their proposals.
- Mary provided a special projects budget spreadsheet to the board that included estimated funding for seed packets, toxic plant and garden wise booklets, and the Integrated Weed Control Project (biological control).
- Other funding sources were discussed. Justin Bush spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers funding. Tim suggested that Jenifer Parsons may have information on this and Department of Ecology funding.
- Wendy provided details about printing projects.
- The total for special projects, printing, and class A eradication funding is \$59,000.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to fund special projects, printing, and class A eradication funding as submitted.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mary provided the update.

- Mary will submit the semi-annual rule making.
- There will be a legislative committee meeting this afternoon.
- Mary has been monitoring the state legislative session and has not seen anything of note as of yet, but will keep the Board updated.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- The board discussed writing a letter to Governor Inslee. Mary mentioned Mike Mackey’s request for a letter from the Board concerning Eurasian watermilfoil in the Columbia River and salmon recovery. Dirk talked about his support of the letter and suggested Mary draft one. Mary will draft a letter for review and have it ready at the next meeting.

- Mary questioned the timing of the biennial report. Tony would like it to be out for the legislative session. Cathy Lucero noted this report was to communicate to counties the activities of the State Weed Board. Mary will finish it by the March board meeting, still in time for the session. Mary will also send out a survey to county coordinators.
- Mary provided a rough draft of the table of contents and first section of the state weed board handbook. The board discussed handbook topics including insurance and dispute resolution sections.
- The Board discussed extending the March meeting to include a workshop with coordinators. There will also be sessions at the Coordinators' Conference to discuss the coordinators' handbook. Marc will work on scheduling and agendas.
- The Board discussed approving travel reimbursement for the previous board meeting.
- The Board discussed the upcoming appointment for a member from the Washington State Association of Counties. Mary will send a letter to WSAC.
- Mary reported that the WSDA Task Force is on hold.
- Cathy Lucero spoke about the coordinator's handbook and some items that might be included.
- The Board briefly discussed RCW 17.10. Ken suggested removing the requirement to gather 10 signatures to be a member of a county weed board. He also stated that there should still be four board members engaged in the primary production of an agricultural product. Cathy Lucero explained that having 10 signatures is a way for the applicants to be vetted by the landowners they represent. Ken also suggested having one more county board member-at-large and only three designated to geographic regions.

COORDINATORS FORUM

- Bill Wamsley thanked the board for their letter of support for their assessment. He discussed some issues with calls regarding assessment. Cathy Lucero suggested having a written script for his assessor to use.
- Cathy Lucero discussed topics for the workshop with the Board at the coordinator's conference. She suggested having a conversation about the Board's and coordinator's goals and expectations.
- Cathy also discussed the coordinators handbook. She mentioned that if there is extra board funding at the end of the year, that there could be a need to contract with the Coordinators Association to help write the coordinators' handbook. Cathy also mentioned regional board retreats including county coordinators, county board members, and state board members. One other item could be county and state board member training.
- Cathy Lucero also presented a sample of the class A Italian thistle. She suggested that county coordinators could bring a high priority weed to the coordinators' conference.
- Cathy Lucero spoke about wild crafting of noxious weeds and how this can be managed or controlled.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS – There were no questions or comments.

MEETING EVALUATION

The next meeting would be March 13th at 1:00 pm in Chelan for the Coordinators' Conference. Mary would be requesting travel reimbursement for Board members from OFM.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm by a motion by Ken Bajema, seconded by Janet Spingath. All in favor.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB