

**Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
1:00 p.m. March 7th, 2018
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via WebEx
and hosted at Campbell's Resort,
located at 104 West Woodin Avenue, Chelan, WA, 98816**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting
- Office reports for January and February
- January budget report
- Summary of Class A eradication grant proposals
- Class A eradication proposals
- Right of Way (ROW) informal AAG opinion
- Leadership transition handout
- Employee Personal Development Plan forms

Meeting called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Janet Spingath	Tim Miller
Bill Agosta	Jerry Hendrickson	Jenifer Parsons
Brad White	Dirk Veleke (WebEx)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Greg Haubrich, WA State Department of Agriculture
 Jennifer Andreas, Washington State University IWCP
 Linda Brady, Adams Weed District #1
 Eric Bell, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Marilyn Sielaff, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Todd Harris, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Luis Esquivel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Vic Reeve, Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Konrad Kauer, Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Rachel Hutchens, Columbia County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Dave Maiden, Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Janet Nelson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Rochelle Osborne, Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Betsy Crysel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board

Holly Cress, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Allen Evenson, Grant Weed District #3
 Kiley Smith, Grays Harbor County NWCB/ WSU Extension
 Patricia Grover, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Mike Mackey, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Glenys Stadelman, Grant County guest
 Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Trish Maclaren, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Casey Gozart, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Samuel Leininger, Clackamas SWCD, OR
 Dave Mundt, Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Dick Jacobson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Todd Davis, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Marc Eylar, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Sue Winterowd
 Mary Fee, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Sasha Shaw, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Morgan Heilesen, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Joseph Shea, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Jim Knape, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Cevan Schmitt, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board

A moment of silence was held for Gene Little, who passed away on February 18.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the January 18 regular meeting.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to accept the minutes for the January 18 regular meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Jerry Hendrickson informed the Board that Andrew Wolfe would no longer be with the Asotin County NWCB due to a family illness. They already had six applicants for the coordinator position.

Tim Miller said he was glad to be at the meeting and Coordinators' Conference in Chelan this year; in past years, there had been a scheduling conflict with the annual Western Society of Weed Scientists (WSWS) meeting.

Jenifer Parsons mentioned that the Flowering Rush Summit in late February had been well attended.

Janet Spingath had been giving out field guides and brochures to local schools and noted that the dead cow featured on the poison hemlock brochure always caught the students' attention.

Tony Stadelman had recently returned from a 15-day trip through the Panama Canal.

OFFICE UPDATES

Alison Halpern reported that:

- She welcomed Kiley Smith, who was attending the meeting. Kiley was the Small Farms Educator for Grays Harbor WSU Extension and would soon also work as the Grays Harbor NWCB coordinator.
- She had taken many hours of sick leave in January and February due to a cold/flu virus.
- She and Wendy had worked on preparations for this meeting. Alison was pleased by the fast turnaround of the OFM board travel reimbursement form request.
- She had been tracking legislation.
- Almost every coordinator who was able had filled out her county weed board survey.
- The WSU-Spokane Flow Cytometry Core facility was willing and able to analyze their invasive ivy samples. She had contacted several facilities in Washington, Idaho, and elsewhere looking for a lab that had a flow cytometer and accepted external clients.
- The UW Botanical Symposium was coming up. She had been chairing the steering committee.
- She had received edits back from reviews of the draft coordinators' handbook. She thanked Anna Lyon, Mike Mackey, Julie Sanderson, Trish MacLaren, Morgan Heilesen, Beki Shoemaker, and Debbie Ringler for providing such helpful additions and edits. Alison was incorporating all the edits into a new draft, which she would be sending to the Coordinators' Association.
- There would be a run-off election to the special election to fill the State Weed Board Position 1 (Southwest WA), as the candidate receiving the most votes did not receive more than 50% of the total ballots. Alison was out of watermarked paper but would have the ballots mailed out once new security paper was ordered next week.

Wendy DesCamp reported that:

- The booth that the Board shared with WSDA at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show had been successful with over 1,560 visitors. This year, one of the WSDA entomologists took a few shifts to talk about a new insect pest. It was a nice collaboration that they will continue next year.
- She was still working on pressing and collecting sampling information for the invasive ivy study. They had received about 350 samples.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich reported that:

- He had sent out an RFP for USFS Forest Health Protection pass-through funding and had received sixteen proposals.
- He and Brant Carman had premiered the public platform of the online Weed Viewer in a WebEx meeting on February 13. He thanked Alison for scheduling the meeting.

Brad White:

- Brad gave an update on the WSDA noxious weed task force. A survey had been sent out to a broad group of stakeholders to determine if there was interest in moving forward with a task force, and the response was overwhelmingly favorable, so Director Sandison assigned the task force to Brad to implement.
- Brad stressed that the WSDA task force was separate from the State Weed Board's efforts. He also noted that the purpose of the task force was not to draft bill language, just make recommendations and suggestions that could be used in agency-requested legislation.
- There would be between 3 – 6 meetings split into different subjects such as general noxious weed issues, implementation of the weed law by county weed boards and counties, and state agencies' responsibility to control weeds. Members would not have to attend all the meetings.
- There had been a WSDA noxious weed task force in the late 1980s. There were around 25 members at that time. The current task force would probably have 30-40 members.
- Meetings would probably start in April and would be held in Olympia as well as central and eastern Washington locations depending on stakeholder locations.
- The task force was still being assembled. Brad was working with the WSDA policy group to choose representatives from the state agencies.
- Jerry Hendrickson asked when the task force work would be complete. Brad said it would be best for its recommendations to be ready by June or July and submitted by September for agency-requested legislation.
- Mike Mackey asked who had received the survey. Brad said that Director Sandison wanted it to go out to agricultural stakeholders such as cattlemen, crop producers, wheat and hay growers, and timber producers.
- Jerry asked whether the State Weed Board would be on the task force. Brad replied that the Board would have representation.

- Tony asked how many people the survey had reached. Brad replied that over 100 stakeholders had received the survey and over 40 had responded right away.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alison noted that all of the bills pertaining to noxious weed control that she had been tracking, except for one, had not gone anywhere this session. The only bill that passed the legislature was the senate bill on pesticide notification and reporting [SSB 6529]. The substitute version was much different from the original version; it would create a working group on pesticide reporting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison explained that the OFM expenditure report still did not have the FY18 monthly allotment data entered yet, so she was working on the numbers that were submitted. She had contacted the Plant Protection Division Coordinator for details about the new, detailed expenditure breakdown of monthly DES computer services fees. The total expenses were close to estimated costs in those areas, but she wanted to understand how the charges were calculated. Tony mentioned that there was a formula error in Alison’s spreadsheet. Alison replied that she would correct it.

- Tony remarked how the Board used to purchase equipment such as computers and laptops outright, rather than monthly leases.
- Jerry asked how the space and cost of leases in Olympia compared to Greg’s space in Yakima. Greg replied that the cost for his cubicle space had become more expensive and that the cost to lease his laptop was the same.

VOTE	Brad White	Moved that the Board request from WSDA a breakdown of the CTS IT costs.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The Board discussed the Class A eradication proposals it had received for FY18. It had received seven proposals totaling \$26, 096 but only had \$7.5K available.

- Jerry rescinded the proposal from the Asotin County NWCB for common crupina since they did not have a coordinator to perform the proposed tasks.
- Tony expressed concern that some of the hourly work costs were high. Sharon Sorby explained that higher rates often reflected the cost of benefits. Tony advised coordinators in the audience to provide more details in future proposals about exactly what the costs for helicopters, spraying, labor, *etc.* entailed. Dirk, too, felt that some of the expenses were much too high.
- Casey Gozart let the Board know he was withdrawing his proposal towards bighead knapweed eradication in Clark County. [Note: The FY18 summary of proposals spreadsheet had the

incorrect budgetary breakdown of 70 hours @ \$55/hour for labor, which was the cost of the project supervisor, the cost of which would be covered by Clark County. The proposal had actually requested \$1,470 for 70 hours of field laborers @ only \$21/hour.]

- Garlic mustard proposals:
 - In Island County, garlic mustard was scattered at the Whidbey Island site. Private landowners had become involved, and the infestations were being treated with herbicide and through hand pulling.
 - Tony expressed concern about funding coordinator salaries and brought up the issue that so few Class A species were ever eradicated.
 - Emily Stevenson, Skamania County NWCB Coordinator, explained that in Skamania County, it was her job as coordinator to train and oversee staff that did the garlic mustard eradication work. She also mentioned that the two biggest landowners were paying their fair share and were working hard to get garlic mustard eradicated. She reported a reduction in plants of about 85% but there were new sites being discovered. Some of the garlic mustard plants were already flowering and producing seed, when only a couple of inches tall, which was alarming. Brad pointed out that WSDA had been working on Spartina for over 20 years. They had successfully eradicated most of the infestations but monitoring for and treating new plants took time and money.
- Mediterranean sage:
 - Columbia County NWCB Coordinator Rachel Hutchens explained that they used a tank mix to treat Mediterranean sage. One challenge they faced was that mature plants seemed to protect seedlings, which germinated under leaves. Rachel and the Board discussed different herbicide options used for Mediterranean sage.
 - Dirk asked how many hours she anticipated needing for contractor work. Rachel explained that there would be three contractors wearing backpack sprayers treating three times in a one-month period.
 - Jerry remarked that WDFW should come up with its own money to eradicate Mediterranean sage on its land.
- Garlic mustard, con't.
 - Seth Luginbill, Island County NWCB Coordinator, had arrived to the meeting and was available to provide information about his proposal. He explained that there were two garlic mustard sites that were relatively close to the county roadways on privately-owned land on Whidbey Island. The infestation on Camano Island was also on private land.
 - Greg Haubrich noted that WSDA could fund the Skamania County NWCB proposal.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved that the Board fully fund two projects: the Island County garlic mustard project for \$2,626 and the Columbia County Mediterranean sage project for \$4,000, with the remaining \$874 going towards herbicides to treat Mediterranean sage in Asotin County.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion

	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Noxious Weed Control obligations on right-of-ways (ROWS)

Alison explained that there were some issues in multiple counties regarding ROWs, and whether the landowner or the easement holder bore responsibility to control noxious weeds. She shared the information interpretation of the definition in RCW 17.10.010(4) provided by the AAG, which basically pointed to what was agreed upon in the terms of the recorded easement’s terms.

- Bill asked who was responsible for noxious weed control in utility easements and noted that it largely depended on the definition provided in RCW 17.10.010(4). He felt that the holder of the easement could control noxious weeds based on that definition and that a formal opinion from the AGO would be necessary since interpretation by county prosecuting attorneys varied. Alison explained that it was her understanding that the AGO received many requests for opinions every year, and that a request submitted by a county PA was more likely to be considered than one from WSDA on behalf of the State Weed Board. Bill suggested that a request from a legislator would be more expedient.
- Jim McKiernan, Garfield County NWCB Coordinator, agreed that control responsibility was a gray area. He explained that Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) had stopped spraying noxious weeds on their easements in Garfield County, where they have a lot of access roads to wind turbines on privately owned ranches. He had invited someone from Bonneville to attend his March 13 county weed board meeting at the Garfield County courthouse and extended the invitation to the Coordinators in adjacent counties.
 - Bill asked Jim if the easement contracts specified who was responsible for noxious weed control. Jim replied that they didn’t. Bill stressed that utility companies should be controlling noxious weeds on their easements because it was the right thing to do, not just because it was a responsibility on paper.
 - Several coordinators shared their dealings with utility companies and BPA contacts.
- Brad White offered to speak about this issue at the next Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) meeting, since BPA had a representative on the Council.

WSNWCB bylaws, term limits, and succession plans – The Board tabled this discussion until the May meeting.

Executive Secretary – performance and evaluation process

Alison explained that she had looked on the server for the old evaluation system the Board had used many years ago but could not find it. She thought it was a file that the previous AD had. The state agencies had updated their performance reviews, using a two-step system starting with the employee drafting Performance and Development Plan (PDP) expectations and the supervisor (or Board) later filling out the PDP evaluation.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved that Alison complete the PDP expectation form prior to the May meeting so that the Board could fill out the evaluation form.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The Board discussed the role of the Board with county weed boards. Chapter 17.10 RCW directed the Board to support efforts of the county weed boards.

- For example, previous Board staff used to assist with the activation of new county weed boards. The previous executive secretary helped a few county weed boards move to assessment-based funding. Alison noted that the current office worked with all the county weed boards by compiling the directory, frequently answering general and specific questions, providing outreach material and publications. She had also made a point of facilitating at the county level when there was a benefit to having an outside person there to provide information and clarification about the state weed law or to foster dialogue.
- Alison explained that it felt like a second job in addition to the stated duties as Board Executive Secretary, and she suggested that the Board might want to seek additional funding to create a new position – either part-time or full-time – that would focus on coordinating and supporting county weed boards. For now, she suggested that the PDP expectations be used to establish some boundaries to help balance the job demands.
- Tony mentioned that prior to the recent budget cuts, the Board had a full-time administrative assistant. Janet suggested that they needed to address how to move forward to seek additional funding for a new position. She asked if they would need to make a request to the legislature or to WSDA. Brad suggested that the WSDA policy team might have ideas on how to proceed.

Legislative Committee: purpose and structure

Tony had mentioned at the last Board meeting that he wanted to disband the existing Legislative Committee and appoint new members. He had selected:

- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County NWCB (assessment funds)
- Todd Davis, Kittitas County NWCB (assessment funds)
- Cathy Lucero, Clallam County NWCB (assessment funds)
- Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County NWCB (general funds)
- Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County NWCB (assessment funds)
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County NWCB (general funds)
- Janet Spingath, WSNWCB
- Jerry Hendrickson, WSNWCB
- Dirk Veleke, WSNWCB
- Tony Stadelman, WSNWCB

The Board discussed:

- Tony recommended that the Legislative Committee meet sometime after the first WSDA Task Force meeting to come up with ideas.
- Alison pointed out that all the State Weed Board members were the same, except that Commissioner Wes McCart, the Legislative Committee chair, had been replaced by Dirk. Alison noted that Wes was not at the meeting and asked if Tony had talked to him about the changes to the Committee. Tony explained that there had been too much dysfunction with the previous committee, the first draft was not acceptable, and there was no agreement about what happened during those meetings and what the outcome had been. Alison disagreed. She had been at all of those meetings and felt that they had been productive and positive. She had taken the notes during those meetings, and after their last meeting reviewing and discussing Chapter 17.10 RCW, Wes had instructed her to take the notes to the AAG to come up with the first draft. Because it took longer than expected to get the first draft, Wes had decided it should go directly to the State Weed Board. The next draft would go out to all the county weed boards for their input. The trouble started when a coordinator shared the first draft to all the coordinators, despite Alison's request not distribute it prematurely, as it would cause misunderstanding and miscommunication. Alison asked if Tony would convey the decision to remove Wes from the Committee, and Tony said he would.
- Janet, who had been on the Legislative Committee, said she agreed with what Alison said and objected to the description of the legislative committee as "dysfunctional". She had served on the committee and felt the work it completed proceeded in an orderly way that brought needed clarity to the issues with the law.

COORDINATORS FORUM

- Mike Mackey, Chelan County NWCB Coordinator, thanked Alison for sending out legislative updates throughout the session. He passed along the helpful information to his commissioners.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm by a motion by Bill Agosta, seconded by Jerry Hendrickson. All in favor.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary WSNWCB