

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board November Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m. January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx Only due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the Regular Meeting and December Special Meeting
- Office Reports
- Financial Report

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

**ROLL CALL:**

*Board Members Present via WebEx*

Bill Agosta	Allen Evenson	Randy Johnson
Jerry Hendrickson	Janet Spingath	Steven Seefeldt
Dirk Veleke	Brad White	Jenifer Parsons
Ken Bajema	Carey Caruso	Ian Burke

*Others present via WebEx:*

Mary Fee, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
Justin Bush, WA Invasive Species Council  
Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Geraldine Saw, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Marc Eylar, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Bill Wamsley, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Kiley Smith, Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board  
Ian Burke, Washington State University Weed Science

**OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Bill Agosta noted out going officers.

**Chair-** Jerry Hendrickson nominated Bill Agosta as Chair. Janet Spingath seconded. Bill Agosta is declared as chair.

**Vice Chair-** Dirk Veleke nominated Ken Bajema as Vice Chair. Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion. Bill Agosta declared Ken Bajema Vice Chair by acclimation.

**Secretary-** Ken Bajema nominated Dirk Veleke for secretary. Jerry Hendrickson nominated Janet Spingath for secretary. A vote was taken: Janet received 4 votes and Dirk received 2. Bill declared Janet Spingath elected as Secretary.

Bill noted that these positions are 2 year terms and the next election will be in 2023. Bill also congratulated the new officers.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the November 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Ken Bajema	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 10 <sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the December 21<sup>st</sup> special meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept the minutes for the December 21 <sup>st</sup> special meeting.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

**STATE AGENCY UPDATES:**

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council provided the following update:

- ❖ Justin thanked the Board for their letter of support for the continuation of WISC for an additional 10 years. The Governor did approve to run the bill for funding-Senate Bill 5063.
- ❖ Justin reported that the Washington State Invasive Species Council has been working on the state wide strategy for invasive species.
- ❖ WISC has also approved the 2020-25 state wide strategy. Justin briefly described some of the main points of the plan and referenced availability of the strategic plan online.

Katie Buckley, WSDA Pollinator Health Coordinator. Couched until March meeting.

Brad White, Washington State Department of Agriculture provided the following update:

- ❖ Brad reported on the Spartina project. The major infections have been eradicated however, areas need to still be surveyed for individual plants. Spartina program has seen some reduction in funding over the past several years.
- ❖ Knotweed continued to be robust efforts. Prevention is part of this program
- ❖ Both Spartina and knotweed provide funding to counties for projects.
- ❖ The coordinator position is still vacant due to funding constraints. Greg Haubrich is still very active and supportive of the counties.
- ❖ Bill asked Brad’s opinion about whether our bill will be would be submitted. Brad stated that he thought the bill’s that are being considered will need to fall under budget, covid-19, or other priority bills.

- ❖ Janet asked about promoting the Spartina success publically. Brad explained that the Spartina reports are going to shift to an interactive story map. The struggle with explaining that we are still covering the same amount of acreage for surveying for individual plants. Now reporting on points rather than acres or area.
- ❖ Brad also reported on the Asian giant hornets. The team working on the Asian giant hornets have evaluated the efficacy of the traps and made adjustments. They are ready to go for this spring. Brad stated they will continue to use the citizen scientist approach as well as staff. Honey bee hives were put out to attract Asian giant hornets. The hornets did not touch the hives, although some were caught in static traps. Bill asked how big the infestation might be. Brad said they did genetic testing and think there was only one nest. Dirk asked about the procedures in British Columbia. Brad said that B.C. did capture some hornets but no nests or eradications.

Dave Heimer, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will provide an update in March.

## **OFFICE REPORTS**

Mary Fee highlighted tasks and events from the mid-Nov., Dec., and early Jan. office reports.

- Mary reported on the Pollinator Report. It was due in October. Mary finished it and submitted it in November.
- Mary reported on meetings and presentations that she has attended and given in November, December, and January via webinar platforms. She has attended and participated in Representative Dent's Noxious Weed Task Force meetings regarding RCW 17.10. She will continue to follow RCW 17.10 and any relating bills. Mary has also participated in the Pollinator Recommendation for legislation.
- Mary has been going into the office at least once a week to do mailings.
- Mary reported on the AAG conversations and Human Resource meetings.
- Mary has been finishing up the weed list process and the biennial report.

## **BUDGET REPORT**

The Board reviewed the financial spreadsheet for the current budget report.

- Mary reviewed the current budget numbers and reported on the current budget numbers. Mary noted the expenses for vacation payout and for the AAG. Due to not offering class A grants, less travel, and lack of printings, there will be some buffer in the budget. Mary will have an estimate for potential funding for additional projects. Mary did discuss the 15% reduction for covid-19. Brad concurred.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Legislative Committee Update**

- Mary reported on the noxious weed list process. She had made a typo in the CR 103. Mary will be submitting a CR 105 to amend the typo.
- Mary reported on RCW 17.10. She has been attending Representative Dent's meetings. No major changes from last meeting. Mary noted that the Educational Specialist may not be exempt in the RCW 17.10.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- Biennial Report- Mary reviewed the biennial report and asked for input. She noted the budget spread sheet differences from the last report. Mary also pointed out several other differences. Ken asked about hard copies. Mary will send out hard copies to anyone who requests. Mary will reach out to county coordinators and commissioners and find out who would like hard copies. Dirk mentioned adding a success story about dryer's woad.
- Education Specialist- Mary reported that the Education Specialist position was approved for overtime exemption and the process for classification. Bill noted that we will be able to post this job.

## **COORDINATORS FORUM**

- Gerry Saw noted that she has received their bee-u-tify seeds.
- Jason Ontjes is getting out into the field and working on Scotchbroom.
- Jennifer Mendoza reported on the Cowlitz County weed list hearing and open board position.
- Bill Wamsley asked about other legislative items. He reported that the Lewis County Noxious Weed office has moved across the street. Mary reported on the bill for PILT for the Fish and Wildlife Department, the pollinator recommendations, and the funding bill for WISC. Gerry asked if Bill is retiring soon. Bill reported that he will be retiring and they are going through the hiring process now.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comments

The board meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

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Bill Agosta, Chairman  
WSNWCB

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Janet Spingath, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB