

**Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board**  
**9:00 a.m. Thursday, January 19, 2017**  
**Online/Teleconferenced meeting via Zoom**  
**And hosted at the Natural Resources Building, Room 269**  
**Located at 1111 Washington Street S.E. Olympia, WA 98504**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting
- DNR Update Email
- November 2016 Draft Meeting Minutes
- November Office Report
- December Office Report
- Publication Distribution Report
- Invasive Species Economic Impact Report Legislative Brief
- Invasive Species Economic Impact Report
- Draft Toxic Plant Booklet
- November 2016 Budget Report

**Meeting called to order at 9:08 by Chairman Tony Stadelman.**

**ROLL CALL:**

*Board Members Present*

Tony Stadelman (WebEx)	Dirk Veleke (WebEx)	Rod Gilbert
Brad White	Jerry Hendrickson (WebEx)	Jenifer Parsons (WebEx)
Wes McCart	Bob Roth (WebEx)	
Bill Agosta (WebEx)	Carey Caruso (WebEx)	

*Others present:*

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Greg Haubrich, WSDA  
 Justin Bush, WISC  
 Ray Willard, WSDOT  
 Bill Wamsley, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Bill Rogers, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
 Casey Gozart, Clark County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)  
 Seth Luginbill, Island County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)

**BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:**

Jerry Hendrickson, Bill Agosta, Dirk Veleke, and Tony Stadelman shared weather updates, each having experienced a great deal of snowfall. The Board concurred that the winter was unusually hard.

Bill Agosta explained that he had been working with BLM regarding noxious weeds at the San Juan Islands National Monument. The agency planned to mow weeds, however, Bill expressed concerns that hand-pulling or herbicides may be necessary to achieve full control.

Jerry Hendrickson shared with the Board that Nelle Murray had retired as Coordinator for the Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Brad White shared that he had the opportunity to see the Governor's budget for the FY17-19 biennium. While he noted that a \$400,000 cut to the Spartina control program was included, he assured the Board that he had seen cuts of this nature restored before.

#### **STATE AGENCY UPDATES:**

##### **Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

A representative was not present but Todd Palzer provided an update by email. Alison provided a brief recap of this update, which included a change in job duties for Todd, giving him more time to focus on the invasive species program and greatly reducing his commitments to the geoduck program. In the last biennium, combined agency efforts resulted in over 250 miles of shoreline along rivers and estuaries and over 15,000 acres surveyed. Primary species of concern for DNR in the last biennium included Spartina, knotweed species, flowering rush, Brazilian elodea, Eurasian watermilfoil, parrotfeather, yellow flag iris, non-native phragmites, purple and garden loosestrife.

##### **Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)**

Ray Willard gave the report. Ray shared that WSDOT had a new management system set to be fully implemented by the end of the 2017 growing season. In the current biennium, noxious weed control and other vegetation control activities were funded at a total of approximately \$28 million. He explained that WSDOT was 18% underspent to budget on noxious weed control due to staffing shortages and subsequent limits on available labor. Ray explained that unspent funds would be reallocated. The Board discussed hiring issues, including concerns regarding spraying herbicides, wages, licensing, personal liability, and skill shortages. Ray explained that WSDOT may look into contracting with county boards or other agencies to complete this work.

Ray also shared the WSDOT performance measurements information and the WSDOT Integrated Roadside Management Plan, which utilized technology to map and record actions. He explained that the new system allowed for more specific work plans and easier budget tracking. He also shared that WSDOT would be developing pollinator forage patches on state roadsides, including one by the Scatter Creek rest stop on Highway 12. The Board discussed county select weeds, which would be addressed more intensively by WSDOT in the future. Cathy Lucero asked about the possibility of integrating iForm data to WSDOT mapping. Ray noted that he was working with WISC and Greg Haubrich to mesh WSDOT data with existing systems but expected it would be 5-10 years before all mapping systems statewide can be integrated. The Board discussed electronic spray records and the requirements to maintain paper copies of records.

Bill Wamsley asked about Washington Wilderness Hay & Mulch Management (WWHAM) usage on roadsides. Ray explained that utilizing WWHAM products is a logistical challenge. Cathy Lucero urged Ray to consider making WWHAM usage a priority and an agency requirement.

**Washington State Invasive Species Council (WISC)**

Justin Bush gave a brief introduction as Executive Coordinator for the Washington State Invasive Species Council. He shared that Bill Tweit stepped down as WISC Council Chair and Ray Willard was the new Chair. Pat Stevenson, representing the Stillaguamish Tribe, had become the new Vice-Chair. The next WISC meeting would be held in Olympia on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in NRB Room 172.

Justin also noted WISC’s new partnership with EDDmaps, which was newly powering the WA Invasive app. The app would be updated Friday and promoted in a press release on Monday. The Justin explained that the entire weed list was included in the app. Data from the app would go to EDDmaps for integration into the statewide database. Justin had also added 300,000 data points from the Puget Sound Baseline Assessment Data.

Justin asked that Board members and others save the date for the Columbia River Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Funded through an APHIS Farm Bill and held in partnership with Skamania County and the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, the workshop included guest speakers from federal, state, city, academic, and nonprofit agencies. Justin also discussed three upcoming projects: a flowering rush summit and development of a regional management plan funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; the continuation of the Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop including an additional workshop funded by USDA APHIS; and the development of invasive species regional network first detectors program funded by USDA APHIS.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for November Meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the minutes for the November 2016 Board meeting.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

**OFFICE UPDATES**

Alison:

- Completed rule-making for 2017 weed list and discussed rule making questions brought up regarding changes to proposed rule-making at the public hearing with Board’s attorney, Kristen Mitchell. She noted that minor changes within scope of what has been proposed that do not have impact on interested stakeholders may be acceptable. Kristen advised, given past contentious hearings, that changes be presented in a second public hearing. Kristen suggested developing guidelines for public hearing changes.

- Held videoconferenced roundtable discussion with WSU Extension Directors at the Washington State Association of Counties conference to discuss the role of WSU County Extension offices on county weed boards and some of the challenges. She also guest lectured for a UW Invasive Plant class to discuss the Board, policy, challenges, and successes. She was slated to give a CWMA keynote in Portland, OR but the event was canceled due to weather. Alison would be presenting at the UW First Annual Botanical Symposium in March.
- Completed the Economic Impact Report. Justin Bush put out the press release and had participated in several radio interviews to promote it. She explained that the report would be a useful tool to help explain the importance of invasive species control to legislators, commissioners, and the public. She had a meeting scheduled with Representative Kretz on Monday to discuss the report.
- Discussed the update of the Coordinator’s Handbook with Bridget Simon. Bridget would begin working on the handbook as soon as the contract was written.
- Investigated teleworking. The Board would save \$300/month by consolidating to one cubicle. She asked that the Board approve consolidation of cubicle space and allow Kittanya and Alison to begin teleworking in February. The Board discussed connecting office phones to cell phones.

Kittanya:

- Had been working on edits to the Toxic Plant Booklet. She explained that the booklet was nearly complete and would be an excellent resource.
- Produced a report detailing publication distribution by the Board in 2016. This was the first time publication distribution had been so thoroughly documented. Using an online form allowed the Board to keep track of and demonstrate popularity of different publications.
- Had launched the Yard Guard campaign on Facebook and on the Board’s website, encouraging landowners to voluntarily control noxious weeds to better their communities.

**POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SEED PACKET UPDATES**

Alison explained that, in consideration of HB2478 and public interest in native species, she had put out a bid to native seed producers to create all-native, pollinator-friendly seed packets. While many of the producers expressed interest on the phone, only Ed Hume submitted a bid, and it was to just produce packets using bulk seed that would need to be purchased from an outside vendor. The Board discussed the various proposals, including using the existing non-invasive blend, an all-native blend, and splitting the funding to develop both native seed packets and non-invasive seed packets. The Board also discussed the contents of the current packet, which includes both non-invasive and native species.

<b>VOTE</b>	Wes McCart	Moved to produce all-native seed packets using the most economical options.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## WSDA UPDATE

- Greg Haubrich provided the WSDA update. Greg has been working with BLM regarding contract work done in previous years that may be considered in the future, which would provide funding for additional weed control projects. Greg has also been working with BLM regarding noxious weeds at the San Juan Islands National Monument.
- He further explained that the new Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES General Permit has been re-issued with simplified and clarified language.
- Greg also noted that WSDA is in the process of applying for the next round of US Forest Service grants. Request for proposals from county Noxious Weed Control Boards and Districts will be released shortly and some funding will also be provided for the WSU Integrated Weed Control Project and the WISC.
- Greg also provided an iForm update. Eighteen counties were participating in the iForm program and Greg described efforts to get licenses and connect all county forms to Collector and ARC-GIS to simplify data access. Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board, and WSU are currently utilizing all three programs. He noted that WSDA has added several hundred thousand new data points to EDDmaps. County Noxious Weed Control Boards and Districts who may be interested in verifying data points in their area should contact Greg for information.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison gave the budget report, explaining that several expenditures such as the economic impact report would be largely reimbursed and several budget items had not yet been spent but were on track. Alison described special projects, including the Coordinator's Handbook update, the northcentral WA travel sign sponsorship, and outreach efforts. Alison asked the Board to consider providing some funding to Jennifer Andreas's WSU Integrated Weed Control Project, which has experienced significant cuts. Jerry noted that he supported contributing to the WSU Integrated Weed Control Project.

<b>VOTE</b>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to contribute \$5,000 to the WSU Integrated Weed Control Project.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

With this motion, a Special Projects balance of \$2.6k remained. Alison suggested funding additional outreach projects, such as the Play Clean Go project with WISC and other outreach efforts, such as the annual noxious weed magnets.

<b>VOTE</b>	Bill Agosta	Moved to spend the remaining \$2.6k of special projects money on outreach efforts.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session started last week. Alison is watching:

- HB 1005- Creating accountability in agency rule-making authority  
Alison explained that this bill was based upon the sponsors’ concerns that agencies are doing too much rule-making and would put a halt on all non-essential, non-emergency rule-making until the concerns had been evaluated. The bill was read January 9<sup>th</sup> and had had no activity since.
- HB 1191- Eliminating the fee on the retail sale of vehicle tires  
Alison noted in other states, a tire fee was used in part to fund noxious weed control. If this bill were to go through, it may be more difficult to generate funds from such a fee in Washington for similar purposes in the future. The bill was read January 13<sup>th</sup> and had had no activity since.
- HB 1429- Concerning aquatic invasive species management  
And Companion SB 5303- Concerning aquatic invasive species management  
Alison suggested supporting these two bills which were submitted at the request of WDFW and would improve boat checkpoint stations in Washington State. Washington had benefited greatly from having strong checkpoint stations in neighboring states. Both bills had been introduced January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Board discussed funding requests attached to the bills. Alison would send out copies of both bills.

<b>VOTE</b>	Wes McCart	Moved to support HB 1429 and its companion SB 5303.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### STATE WEED BOARD OFFICER BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

The Board discussed postponing officer elections until the March Board meeting when Board members would meet face-to-face.

<b>VOTE</b>	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to postpone elections until the March meeting.
	Wes McCart	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### COORDINATORS FORUM

Cathy Lucero shared that all Clallam County commissioners voted unanimously to utilize integrated weed management plans that allow for limited use of herbicides when appropriate after a lengthy process including hearings and workshops after 26 years of ban on herbicides. Cathy noted that she looked forward to sharing her experience with interested coordinators. The Board discussed which herbicides would be utilized in the plan and the collaborative efforts to foster native plant roadside buffers with organic farmers that the plan facilitates.

Tony Stadelman asked about the legality of providing a Board member position to a representative of a dissolved weed district. The Board discussed this question, the potential for a dissolved district to operate as a regional Board, and the model of the Kittitas County Weed Districts.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS**

None.

## **MEETING EVALUATION**

The Board discussed the technical difficulties associated with WebEx audio connection. Jerry noted his appreciation for the assistance provided in helping him get connected.

Alison would be sending out hotel information for the upcoming conference.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:10 am to discuss personnel matters, ending the Executive Session at 11:19 am.

The Board adjourned at 11:23am with a motion by Dirk, seconded by Jerry. All in favor.



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Tony Stadelman, Chairman  
WSNWCB



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Dirk Veleke, Secretary  
WSNWCB



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Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary  
WSNWCB