

**Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board  
1:00 p.m. July 25, 2013  
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar  
and hosted at Grant County Fire District #3,  
located at 101 East Richmond Avenue, George, WA 98848**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes for May regular meeting
- Office reports for May (partial), June and July (partial)
- Budget scenarios for salary adjustments
- Full Circle brochure, magnets, knotweed door hanger

**Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman**

**ROLL CALL:**

*Board Members Present*

|                     |                              |  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Tony Stadelman      | Butch Klaveano (phone)       |  |
| Sarah Cooke (phone) | Bob Roth (called in at 1:30) |  |
| Dirk Veleke         | Bill Agosta (phone)          |  |
| Brad White (phone)  | Jenifer Parsons              |  |

*Others present:*

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Todd Thaemert, Chairman for Grant County Weed District #3  
 Craig Hintz, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Sue Sackmann, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Vic Reeves, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Betsy Crysel, Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Dick Jacobson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Linda Brady, Adams County Weed District #1  
 Mike Mackey, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board  
 Jeanne Polezzi, Yakima County (online)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel; regular meeting resumed at 1:35 p.m.**

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Draft minutes at meeting differed from the version that had been distributed via email in that they had been corrected to reflect that Jenifer Parsons attended the May meeting.

|             |                |   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| <b>VOTE</b> | Butch Klaveano | Moved to approve minutes for the May 2013 Board meeting |
|             | Dirk Veleke    | Seconded the motion                                     |
|             | The Board      | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.            |

## **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:**

- Sarah Cooke had worked with Tony on the budget and kept up-to-date with Alison to make sure unspent money was utilized before the end of the fiscal year. She had also been working on weed removal for some of her work projects. The weeds have been a bigger problem this year due to the wet spring.
- Butch Klaveano had spent two weeks traveling in Europe. He noticed almost every noxious weed there that we have here, except for yellow starthistle.
- Brad White deferred to the WSDA update.
- Bill Agosta noted that his program was trying to maintain free disposal of noxious weeds at transfer stations. The county has gone out of the trash business, and it is not clear whether noxious weed disposal will still be free, though it is important for citizens.
- Dirk Veleke: From a commercial applicator's perspective, he sees mare's tail as a real problem in the future. Herbicides are just not effective against it.
- Jenifer Parsons has been doing a lot of field work. Unfortunately, she has noticed that flowering rush is gaining ground wherever she sees it. It is growing in the Spokane, Pend Oreille, Yakima, and Columbia rivers. It is also still in Silver Lake, where they are still doing herbicide trials.
- Bob Roth reported that the Cowlitz County fair was starting the next day (July 26), and the county weed board will have a lot of outreach material there. In Cowlitz County, they provide litter bags with their logo on it to landowners so that they can fill them with noxious weeds and the weed board will pay for disposal at the transfer station. Bob also reported that the Grays Harbor weed board had received about \$8K in emergency money from the Commissioners to fund them through the rest of the year, though staff hours are still limited. The Cowlitz County weed board has a new member representing District 5 and is now full.

## **OFFICE REPORTS:**

The Board reviewed office reports for the second half of May, June and the first half of July.  
Alison:

- She and Wendy had a very busy June, with the end-of-fiscal year crunch. They were able to purchase magnets, road signs, litter bags, and printed up brochures.
- The WSDA communications director has been great at helping with outreach and wants to do a story about the road signs.
- She has been reconciling the end-of-year budget.
- There was an informative workshop on Japanese eelgrass in late June. Wendy, Tony, Tim, and Alison were there. Alison was part of the agency panel. There were good discussions about scientific findings and how agencies are handling the nonnative species. There were many questions about the noxious weed listing.
- Alison has been very busy working on her dissertation and has taken many vacation days. Her top priority is to keep rule-making process on track.
- It is time to work on the biennial report, and the informal theme this year will be about volunteers, from state board members, to county board members, to on-the-ground weed warriors.

Wendy:

- She has been busy working on the draft written findings for the 2014 noxious weed list proposals. Two are complete and the next one is nearly finished.
- Wendy created the Full Circle Brochure, which she adapted from the Lincoln County NWCB so that it could be used stateside. She also worked with Jennifer Andreas on new knotweed door hangers.
- She has been working closely with our website contractor for website formatting work and continuing to update the website.
- There has been a general increase in phone calls and emails from the public.

### **WSDA UPDATE:**

Brad White noted that they were coming out of a long legislative session. WSDA's budget is intact, enabling them to maintain the spartina and knotweed programs. The spartina crew will be going up to B.C. in August to assist with eradication, which would help with the prevention of seed spreading into Washington.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Alison provided the update.

- Will be working up the final budget report for FY13.
- The Board had recently received its FY14-15 allotments, and Alison had been asked by the budget committee to draft possible scenarios for different salary adjustment options. The Board had discussed the different salary adjustments and employee performance during executive session.
- Alison presented the Board with a blank budget spreadsheet that merged the three funding accounts (56025 – special projects, 56110 – State Weed Board, and 56120 – Weed Board education) into one account (56110 – State Weed Board). Using just one account would be preferable to WSDA fiscal and it would be easier for Alison to better track and report on the budget.

Tony sought the Board's input.

- Tony asked if the merging of accounts had already happened. Alison replied that it had not; fiscal was still waiting for the State Weed Board's allotments before doing anything.
- Sarah thought it made sense, especially if it made things easier for WSDA and Alison.
- Butch asked whether it would be difficult for Board members to track expenditures. Alison noted that right now, there were multiple spreadsheets to look at and it was hard to accurately reconcile the budget with expenditures being drawn from different accounts. With one account number, there would be one category for travel, salary, communication, etc.
- Tony asked where special projects and Class A grants would be posted. Alison explained that they would appear in either purchased service or grants categories.
- Bill, Bob, and Dirk said that they supported consolidation into one account.

|             |                |   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| <b>VOTE</b> | Bill Agosta    | Moved to consolidate three accounts into one. |
|             | Butch Klaveano | Seconded the motion                           |
|             | The Board      | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.  |

|             |             |   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| <b>VOTE</b> | Bill Agosta | Motion for Option C for the FY14-15 budget, in which Alison would receive a 7-step salary increase and Wendy would receive a 2-step increase effective July 2013, and both employees would receive a 2-step salary increase in January, 2015. |
|             | Dirk Veleke | Seconded the motion   |
|             | Sarah Cooke | Made a friendly amendment that the numbers would be corrected on Alison's spreadsheet to reflect a two-step raise for FY15 instead of the 1-step raise she had used.  |
|             | The Board   | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.  |

**REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2014 NOXIOUS WEED LIST:**

Alison noted that in the past, the Board received listing proposals in the fall. This year she will be snail-mailing hard copies of the proposals (or email, if preferred) so that they can be more familiar with the proposals and ask any questions in advance of September. She then gave a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the proposed changes to the 2014 noxious weed list.

The Board and audience discussed:

- Alison was working on language for the Arundo listing that would include language for irrigation water ways.
- Dick Jacobson has seen Arundo plantings in Yakima County, and the plant has come from nurseries.
- The amount of acreage that would be required to grow sufficient Arundo for a biofuel.
- Oregon's \$1M bond for commercial Arundo growers.
- There will be a tour on August 20 in Willapa Bay of Japanese eelgrass and Alison is working to get a tour in Padilla Bay as well.
- So far, the feedback from coordinators about the possible reclassification of nonnative hawkweeds has been positive.

**COORDINATORS' FORUM:**

Dick Jacobson has been working with the Yakama Nation and other entities to treat purple loosestrife in the Yakima River. There have been recent changes in employment, and Dick and Greg will be meeting with the Yakamas to see how they can continue loosestrife control. Dick noted that 60% of the loosestrife has been controlled and he is seeing good biocontrol activity this year.

Craig Hintz mentioned that he had just released a bunch of purple loosestrife biocontrol insect at Burke Lake on Tuesday.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

Alison was not sure if Jeanne Polezzi from Yakima County had been muted on her end and asked that Jeanne email her if she had any questions about the Board meeting.

Tony asked Alison to invite state agency reps to the January Board.

**MEETING EVALUATION:**

No comments.

|             |             |  |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| <b>VOTE</b> | Dirk Veleke | Moved to adjourn the meeting                 |
|             | Sarah Cooke | Seconded the motion                          |
|             | The Board   | All in favor, no opposition, motion carried. |

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

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Tony Stadelman, Chairman  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

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Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

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Dirk Veleke, Secretary  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Scenario C: Alison gets 7-step raise in July 2013;  
Wendy gets 2-step raise in July 2013, and  
both get a 2-step raise in January 2015

**FY14: \$240,256**

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Salaries                  | \$118,000       |
| Benefits                  | \$39,500        |
| Travel                    | \$9,000         |
| Printing                  | \$15,000        |
| Class A /Special projects | \$15,000        |
| Operational costs         | \$33,500        |
| Other                     | \$10,000        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$240,00</b> |

**FY15: \$226,143**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Salaries                  | \$120,000        |
| Benefits                  | \$40,000         |
| Travel                    | \$7,500          |
| Printing                  | \$10,000         |
| Class A /Special projects | \$15,000         |
| Operational costs         | \$33,500         |
| Other                     |                  |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$226,000</b> |