

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
9:00 a.m. September 19, 2013
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar
and hosted at Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building, Training Room
located at 314 West Main Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Office reports for July (partial), August and September (partial)
- Letter to WSDA petitioning the listing of particular noxious weeds for 2014 and 2015
- Letter from student in Franklin County
- Letter from Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board regarding the quarantine of noxious weeds
- Budget summary spreadsheet
- Summary list of 2014 weed list proposals

Meeting called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Butch Klaveano	Jerry Hendrickson (WebEx)
Sarah Cooke (WebEx)	Bob Roth (WebEx)	Tim Miller
Dirk Veleke (WebEx)	Bill Agosta (WebEx)	Jenifer Parsons (WebEx)
Brad White	Commissioner DeTro (WebEx)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Dave Maiden, Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board
Jennifer Andreas, WSU Extension Washington Integrated Weed Control Project
Tom Wessels, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
Beki Shoemaker, Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
Glenn Lebsack, Clark County Vegetation Management (WebEx)
Janet Nelson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
Annette Mouton, TreeFree Biomass Solutions Inc. (WebEx)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for July

VOTE	Butch Klaveano	Moved to approve minutes for the July 2013 Board meeting
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Sarah Cooke had worked on the July budget with Alison; the August expenditure report had just come out.
- Jerry Hendrickson was going to Australia soon and promised to take lots of noxious weed pictures down under.
- Butch Klaveano had noticed a few weeds emerging from CRP fields again.
- Brad White deferred to the WSDA update.
- Bill Agosta announced that the San Juan County NWCB had hired a new assistant coordinator who will work with Judy Jackson.
- Commissioner DeTro noted that Okanogan County was working on its budget. He has spoken to two Douglas County Commissioners about county noxious weed control boards.
- Dirk Veleke has been doing work on the Columbia River for the Chelan County PUD and has been looking for populations of nonnative cattail (not seeing any yet).
- Tony Stadelman went fishing last weekend and brought in an epic haul of tuna.
- Jenifer Parsons was wrapping up her field season. She didn't discover anything too alarming in her surveys this year.
- Tim Miller attended a meeting about flowering rush with Jenifer Parsons and Jennifer Andreas. Work will be conducted soon to better understand biology of the plant and the potential for biocontrol agents. He mentioned that there would be a meeting in Spokane early next year (probably in February) during which there would be at least a half-day focus on flowering rush.

OFFICE REPORTS:

The Board reviewed office reports for the second half of July, August, and the first half of September.

Wendy:

- Most of Wendy's time had been spent working on the written findings for the 2014 noxious weed list.
- She had delivered many publications and outreach materials since it was county fair season.
- She had been answering many inquiries about noxious weeds.
- Wendy attended two tours of Japanese eelgrass: one in Willapa Bay on August 20, and another in Padilla Bay on September 4.

Alison:

- She was working on an update of the Japanese eelgrass Written Findings and was waiting for the notes from June's eelgrass workshop.
- She has been working on rule-making for the 2014 noxious weed list, including a small business survey that was printed and mailed with SASEs to 50 nurseries and included in the WSNLA e-newsletter.
- She had attended a WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee meeting in September and had submitted a petition to quarantine several noxious weed species, including butterfly bush

(except for sterile cultivars) as well as yellow archangel. She will be working with WSDA to send out a more widespread small business survey.

- Alison attended the Japanese eelgrass tour in Willapa Bay and then went on a tour of Grant Weed District #3's irrigation waterways with Tony on September 4th.

Japanese eelgrass tours - Alison, Wendy, and Tim shared pictures and general findings from the two tours of Japanese eelgrass on commercially managed tidelands in Willapa Bay and unmanaged tidelands in Padilla Bay through a brief PowerPoint presentation. The Board discussed:

- Sarah asked if anyone was looking at how to control Japanese eelgrass without collateral damage to the native eelgrass. Alison answered that Kim Patten was conducting trials with imazamox under an experimental-use permit. It appeared that if the herbicide was applied to exposed beds of Japanese eelgrass during low tide, it could minimize potential non-target effects on the native eelgrass. The draft NPDES permit to treat Japanese eelgrass on commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay included a buffer for native eelgrass.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Sarah and Alison provided the update.

- The August expenditure report had just come out two days before the meeting.
- Alison had cancelled the account with Citrix GoToWebinar and was now using Cisco WebEx. It should make meetings easier and will be more cost effective.
- Since the three budget accounts had been merged into one, the budget report was now just one spreadsheet and is much simpler to work with.
- There was a separate allotment category for the \$10K that the Board had allocated towards Class A eradication projects. \$15K was allocated towards printing projects.
- There was \$15K in a separate category for the Board to allocate towards special projects, outreach, printings, etc. The Board was almost completely out of western WA field guides and starting to get low on the eastern WA version. Alison and Wendy requested that \$7.5K of the \$15K be combined with printing funds for a large printing of the field guides that would hopefully last 2-3 years. It might be enough for 50K booklets and if county weed boards want to purchase their own (in addition to what the Board was purchasing) during the printing, it might lower unit cost.

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Moved to move \$7,500 from special projects to printing budget for printing field guides.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	Butch asked about the remaining \$7.5K special projects money. Alison will query the counties and bring suggestions to the November meeting.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

WSDA UPDATE:

Brad White:

- Program fared well this fiscal biennium. The Spartina efforts were fully funded, as were the knotweed program and Greg's noxious weed control work.
- The knotweed project manager streamlined the knotweed funding process. Approved projects were now funded for two years.
- The Spartina crew had gone to B.C. with airboats to provide assistance towards Spartina eradication efforts for a third year. Global News made a great video highlighting the work.

Greg Haubrich:

- Greg and Landon had started implementing iForm, which consisted of a simple, iPhone-based, collection form and a database. A few counties have been trained and are either using it or can use it, including San Juan, Island, Whitman and Klickitat. Grays Harbor is next to receive equipment and training. It would allow a county weed board to generate maps fairly easily. Jennifer Andreas was also using it for biocontrol releases.
- It worked really well for iPhones and iPads but could also be used with an iPod Touch with a Bluetooth GPS. A version for Android was in development.
- Landon had found and developed the database, which provides real-time data collections. It will be valuable for insect pest trapping programs.

PRESENTATION ABOUT TREE-FREE BIOMASS SOLUTIONS

Annette Mouton information about Tree-Free Biomass Solutions and its work cultivating giant reed, *Arundo donax*.

- The company has been exploring the potentials of commercial cultivation of Arundo as a crop.
- It has been working with several universities (e.g., UW, WSU, University of Auburn) to develop methods to commercially grow Arundo using safe, vigorous protocols to minimize risk of invasion.
- Annette noted that this crop had potential for green energy and to provide economic opportunities at the local level. One feedstock could supply many industries. For example, Arundo could be commercially grown for use as pulp at a local paper mill while also providing an energy source to fuel the mill.
- Annette expressed concern that her company was suffering due to Arundo's reputation as an invasive plant. It was not possible to get federal funding because of the perception that it was invasive everywhere. She felt that a noxious weed listing could hamper their ability to further develop cultivation prospects in Washington. She noted that she would be meeting with WSDA and WISC to develop a safe protocol to cultivate it in Washington, similar to Oregon's regulation of commercially cultivated Arundo.

Alison explained that she had been communicating with Annette about the listing process and had offered to facilitate a meeting with WSDA and WISC in September or October to potentially begin work to develop a compliance agreement through WSDA.

BREAK (10:48-10:55 a.m.)

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Board reviewed the 2-page document summarizing all proposed changes to the 2014 noxious weed list. Tim gave the Committee update.

- Tim briefly reviewed the proposed minor amendments to listed noxious weeds including Class B designations. He noted that in general, if county weed boards request minor designation changes, the NWC was supportive.
- The NWC supported the two reclassifications of velvetleaf (from a Class A to a Class B) and buffalobur (from a Class A to a Class C). Velvetleaf eradication had not been possible in many crop fields in Yakima County. Buffalobur did not seem to establish itself permanently in Washington, though it was constantly being introduced as a bird seed contaminant.
- The NWC supported the reclassification of hawkweeds into two listings by subgenus. It could be hard to differentiate between some of the hawkweed species due to variability and overlap of characteristics between some species, and the issue of hybridization brought more uncertainty. There had not been any strong objection to the proposed simplified listings.
- The NWC supported the Class B listing of lesser celandine. Tim noted that infestations were hard to dislodge once they take hold. It formed dense mats early in the year, then the entire plant would die back. The NWC had considered a Class C listing, but since it was not widespread yet and it could potentially escape into natural areas, a Class B listing made sense.
- The NWC felt that the modified Class B listing and designation of giant reed would help protect susceptible areas from potential invasion. However, having giant reed regulated through WSDA could also serve the same purpose while addressing some of Annette's concerns. Tim felt that the company should proceed with discussions with WSDA and if there is progress made towards regulations similar to those in Oregon, the Board can choose to not vote on listing giant reed as a noxious weed.
- The nonnative cattails (particularly *Typha angustifolia* and *T. domingensis*) hybridize with the native cattail (*T. latifolia*). The nonnative cattails and especially the hybrids tolerate deeper water than the native cattail and could dominate canopy cover. Since identification between the nonnative cattails and hybrids could be challenging, the grouped listing made sense. Although it was proposed as a Class B noxious weed, the NWC recommended a Class C listing so county weed boards could decide whether they wanted to require control.
- Russian olive was recognized as a weedy species that was problematic in many areas. The NWC had discussed what the impact was and what would be protected by a noxious weed listing and decided to support the Class C listing.
- After much discussion, the NWC supported the proposal to reinstate the modified 2012 listing of Japanese eelgrass (Class C on commercially managed shellfish beds only). Japanese eelgrass populations would be very difficult to control at this time, especially since there are no chemical options available yet. The proposed NPDES permit for imazamox would only be for commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay. This limitation could leave others vulnerable if control were required. And some agency resource managers and others still felt that Japanese eelgrass had some beneficial properties and were concerned about the native eelgrass in areas where the two species were mixed. The

NWC did not support the proposal to delete Japanese eelgrass from the noxious weed, as it did meet the criteria of a noxious weed. However, the Committee thought it was important to roll back the listing to the 2012 language. The Board discussed:

- o The proposed NPDES permit for 2014 would be for commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay only.
- o Modifying the noxious weed listing to a Class C on commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay would dovetail the NPDES permitting language; however, the shellfish growers have expressed concern that problems caused by Japanese eelgrass are not as limited and might see this as a step backwards.

VOTE	Butch Klaveano	Motioned to move to public hearing all of the minor amendments listed.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Motioned to move to public hearing the proposed in house changes of buffalobur from a Class A to a Class C and velvetleaf from a Class A to a Class B.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Motioned to move to public hearing the proposed hawkweed reclassification by subgenus.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Motioned to move to public hearing the Class B proposal of lesser celandine, <i>Ficaria verna</i> to be designated in Snohomish, Skamania, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.
VOTE	Commissioner DeTro	Motioned to move to public hearing the Class B proposal of <i>Arundo donax</i> , giant reed to be designated within riparian areas, wetlands, special flood hazard areas (100-year flood plains), open irrigation waterways, or in a 100 ft. buffer beyond the edge of these areas in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Butch Klaveano	Motioned to move to public hearing the Class C proposal of Nonnative <i>Typha</i> species and their hybrids, including but not limited to <i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>T. domingensis</i> , and <i>T. x glauca</i> .
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Commissioner DeTro	Motioned to move to public hearing the Class C proposal of Russian olive, <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> .
	Butch Klaveano	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Motioned to move to public hearing to reinstate 2012 listing language of Japanese eelgrass, <i>Zostera japonica</i> on commercially managed shellfish beds only.
	Butch Klaveano	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor except Bob, Jim and Jerry opposed (5 to 3); motion carried.

Tony entertained a motion to move to public hearing the proposal to delete Japanese eelgrass from the noxious weed list. No motion was made.

COORDINATORS' FORUM:

Janet Nelson gave an update from the Okanogan County NWCB. She explained that there had been a wildfire at a spurge flax site. DNR had responded to the fire, but despite the request by OCNWCB to wash their equipment and vehicles, left the site without following a decontamination protocol. The OCNWCB did not want to impede on DNR's firefighting efforts but was concerned about the potential spread of spurge flax and other noxious weeds. The Board discussed:

- Jenifer noted that WISC has decontamination protocols that state agencies should be following and suggested that Wendy Brown be contacted. Alison replied that she had contacted Wendy when Anna Lyon first alerted her to the situation. Wendy contacted DNR, who then contacted Anna with more information about the whereabouts of the fire trucks and equipment.
- Tim suggested that stations, especially in Colville, be contacted and asked to monitor for any potential noxious weed germination. Tony suggested that local fire stations could be notified, too.
- Tony suggested a further discussion with DNR in January.
- Commissioner DeTro pointed out that USFS has a post-fire wash-down process; DNR should have one in place, too.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

MEETING EVALUATION:

Jerry noted that the WebEx meeting format was a lot easier to follow.

VOTE	Butch Klaveano	Motioned to adjourn the meeting.
	Commissioner DeTro	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

 Tony Stadelman, Chairman
 Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

 Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
 Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

 Dirk Veleke, Secretary
 Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board