

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board November Meeting
 9:00 a.m. November 5th, 2025

Hybrid Online via Zoom and in person at the Wenatchee Confluence
 Technology Center, 285 Technology Way, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of September meeting.
- Draft minutes of special emergency October meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Written findings for proposed species.

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Alaine Sommargren	Eric Bell	Marci Miller
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Randy Johnson
Alison Halpern	Jennifer Andreas	Todd Palzer
Carey Caruso		

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Adam Pfleeger, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Avery Bowron, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Christina St. John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Erin Haley, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Josh Milnes, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Ryan Youngquist, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Shaheen Page, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Steve Kieffer, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Todd Davis, Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tracy Graham, Adams County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Wes Glisson, Washington State Department of Ecology

Amendment to the agenda

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to amend the agenda with a discussion on burning as a control method for Class A weeds.
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the September 18th regular meeting, and the special emergency October 20th meeting.

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept the minutes for the regular September and special emergency October meetings
	Alison Halpern	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Board Member Updates

- Eric Bell’s office received new computers.
- Janet Spingath saw lots of our noxious weed species in Italy on her trip.
- Jennifer Andreas was preparing for experimental release of common crupina biocontrol next spring, and performed Russian thistle biocontrol.
- Randy Johnson reported that the state and county budgets do not look very good.
- Marci Miller was happy that Adams County was finally getting rain.
- Todd Palzer reported on an increase of spartina in one bay.

Roberts Rules of Order training

- Marci and Mary explained and answered questions on executive sessions during open public meetings.

Appointments

- Ian Burke moved out of Washington and was no longer a scientific advisor for the board.
 - A new scientific advisor should now be found.
- Jennifer Andreas proposed Wes Glisson, from the Department of Ecology, to be an advisor on the board.
 - Wes asked to think about it and talk to Mary about the position before accepting.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized their work over the past few months, for the board. This work included several meetings, presentations, preparing for future tasks, and continuing to do their usual work of supporting the board, counties, and citizens of Washington.

State Agency Updates

WSDA – Alison Halpern

- Alison summarized and praised the excellent work WSDA, Yakima County, and other partners did on the emergency response to *Orobanche cumana*, sunflower broomrape.
- Alison mentioned that the legislative session would be starting soon, and there would be state budget updates with it.
- Alison updated the board on the status of the WSDA weed coordinator position hiring process.

Financial Report

- Mary updated the board on the most recent financial and budget report for the Noxious Weed Control Board. The main expenditure that had happened recently was for Attorney General consulting on Douglas County topics.

Committee Updates

Education Committee

- Anne summarized the upcoming education and outreach activities and events, including free Spanish and English webinars, Invasive Species Awareness Week, and the NW Flower and Garden Show.

Douglas County Committee

- Mary and Allen summarized their meetings with Douglas County Commissioners.
- The board discussed outreach possibilities to educate Douglas County citizens on noxious weeds.
- Some county coordinators expressed their observations on the lack of weed control in Douglas County.

Action Item: 2026 Noxious Weed List and WAC 16.750 changes

WAC 16-750-005 Class A Noxious Weed Additions

- Anne summarized the biology, ecology, impacts, and control methods for waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*) and delta arrowhead (*Sagittaria platyphylla*).

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to add waterhemp (<i>Amaranthus tuberculatus</i>) and delta arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>) as Class A Noxious Weeds to the state weed list.
	Alaine Sommargren	Seconded the motion.

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

WAC 16-750-015 Class C Noxious Weed Additions

- Anne summarized the biology, ecology, impacts, and control methods for black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).
- The board discussed the potential future sterile Norway maple cultivars and their concern with those cultivars still being hosts for invasive pests and diseases.
 - The board agreed they would like to add a technical note to the listing’s brief explanatory statement, that there would be no exceptions for sterile cultivars.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to add black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) and Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) as Class C Noxious Weeds to the state weed list.
	Alaine Sommargren	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, Carey Caruso abstained, motion carried.

Discussion Topics

County Weed Boards and Weed Districts

- Todd Davis explained some of the differences between county weed boards and county weed districts, especially the agricultural focus of the districts, and how districts can be dissolved if they are no longer active.

Burning as a control option for Class A species

- Sue Bird explained the difficulties she experienced attempting to get a burn permit for the sunflower broomrape eradication, due to the language of the weed law and the bureaucratic hoops that different state agencies require for burn permits under certain situations.
- The board agreed that Alison would help draft up wording to add to the weed law to clarify that burning is a control option for Class A species. This wording will be added to the November 2026 hearing and board vote the next day.

Coordinators Forum

- Rahel, King – Avery Bowron has started as King County’s new aquatics specialist. They have begun recruiting for a new coordinator. Field season wrapped up.
- Christina, Clallam – Their field season was wrapping up, with poison hemlock and tansy ragwort still in bloom and being treated.
- Heidi, Mason – They were wrapping up their field season with knotweed treatments, budget updates, and looking at the success of herbicide applications.
- Mike, Thurston – They are pleased to have delta arrowhead listed, and are working on eradicating it in Deep Lake. They finally had a fully staffed board. They were working on data entry and reporting.

- Todd, Kittitas – They got their assessment increased, which now includes rights of way and incorporated lands.
- Adam, Chelan – With the end of field season, they were working on report writing, and preparing for a future office move.
- Larry, Okanogan – They are holding a class in December, and are working on eradicating the newly found round leaf bittersweet.
- Sue, Yakima – Oriental clematis is close to being eradicated. The sunflower broomrape response was a whirlwind of activity.
- Loretta, Pend Orielle – They have a full staff for the 2nd year in a row. Their field season was wrapping up with divers doing aquatic controls in October, and doing education and outreach events.
- Shaheen, Snohomish – He was still interim coordinator, but hoped to be changed to permanent with a second permanent staff member in 2026. They coordinated with King County on some control projects. Round leaf bittersweet was found in a new site, as well as in cut greens with viable seed.
- Tracy, Adams – Kochia and rush skeleton weed were their biggest problems in their 2025 field season.

2026 Board Meeting Dates

- January 22nd, 9 a.m.
- March 11th, 9 a.m., to coincide with the weed coordinators' conference.
- May 21st, 9 a.m.
- July 23rd, 9 a.m.
- September 10th, 9 a.m.
- November 3rd, 1 p.m. hearing
- November 4th, 9 a.m., to coincide with the vegetation management conference.

Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on January 22nd, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Carey Caruso, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB