

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board September Meeting
9:00 a.m. September 7th, 2023
Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia,
WA 98504, Room 205

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of July meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report and allotment sheet.

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Allen Evenson	Chip Magnuson	Greg Haubrich
Bill Agosta	Janet Spingath	Ian Burke
Carey Caruso	Jennifer Andreas	Ken Bajema

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cameron Archie, Washington Department of Transportation
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Weed Control Board
- Justin Collel, Clark County Weed Control Board
- Kim Lloyd
- Mary Malone, Pend Oreille County Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Weed Control Board
- Steve Burke, King County Weed Control Board
- Susan Bird, Yakima County Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Weed Control Board
- Wendy DesCamp, Washington Department of Agriculture
- Wesley Glisson, Washington Department of Ecology

Board Member Comments

- Allen Evenson – goathead was having its final growth of the season, though seed spread happens all year long. Bare ground treatment can start around September.

- Janet Spingath – there was a fire at a park near her home. Scotchbroom had been dumped and caught fire. This has caused an interest in the Steilacoom area about the connections between weeds and wildfires.
- Jennifer Andreas – she will be starting a flowering rush biocontrol research project in Montana soon. This is a project that could result in a flowering rush biocontrol being allowed to be released in Washington.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the July 13th meeting.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept the minutes for the July 13 th meeting.
	Allan Evenson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Office Reports

- Mary attended meetings with WISC’s executive committee and met their new director, WSRR’s focus table, the opening bid for Lake Roosevelt Flowering Rush Survey and control project and organized the Legislative Committee.
- Mary worked with the AG and board members on the public records request.
- Mary worked on and submitted the legal documents for weed list and law updates, as well as required reports.
- Mary continued to answer questions, assist counties, work with WSDA on the budget, and general administrative tasks
- Anne met with King County and WISC on education and outreach activities, with Ian Burke and Representative Fitzgibbon to discuss needs for noxious weed control in Washington, and with WSDA on quarantine listings. Anne organized and met with the noxious weed committee, education committee, and the monitor list subcommittee.
- Anne presented to NRCS on riparian weeds.

Financial Report

- Mary had only received a month and a half of the budget for FY2024, which didn’t include the end of August.
- Salary, benefits, and rent for the storage unit were the big items up to that point.
- Survey monkey had to be upgraded, so it will be \$900 for a full year, which should appear on the next budget.
- Mary gave the board members the 24-25 allotment sheet from WSDA.
 - There were no major changes from previous biennium’s.
 - There was a much lower travel budget, with those funds going to other sections.
 - It is only around \$1,200 a year, but the board could take from the equipment line item, which has \$3,600 a year.
 - Bill would like to see a return to pre-pandemic travel amounts.
 - There is around \$24,000 a year for printing publications.

- There is around \$24,000 a year for pollinator seeds.
 - Mary had started getting bids for pollinator seeds for this year.

State Agency Updates

WSDA – Greg Haubrich

- Greg stated that he appreciates Mary getting the budget information to him in a timely manner, so he was able to complete allotments.
 - In July there was a 4% pay increase, for cost of living expenses. FY2025 will have a 3% cost of living pay increase
 - There was also the \$1000 bonus for vaccinations, which had to be absorbed by WSDA for the time being.
- Greg also met with the new WISC director.
- Deanna Painter left, which has left a lot of work to fill. Greg was in the process of recruiting for her position, and hoped to have it filled by the end of September.
- The staff people in charge of JBLM contracts and Forest Service grants are both leaving or have left, so replacements for those positions will be recruited as well.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

WAC 16.750 Proposed Updates to the Noxious Weed List and other Sections

- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: Variable leaf watermilfoil hybrids, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* hybrids, should be added to the variable leaf watermilfoil Class A listing.
 - They are very invasive and pose risk to native milfoils as well as aquatic habitats.
 - Consensus vote: the board will move this forward to the November hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: European, American, and hybrid beach grasses, *Ammophila arenaria*, *A. breviligulata*, and *A. arenaria x breviligulata*, should be added to the Class C list.
 - This was a difficult decision, as there would be benefits to listing and to not listing. Ultimately, it is important to protect facilities and municipalities from wave action, but is also massively detrimental to native habitats.
 - A Class C listing would help with resources for areas and groups removing the beach grasses, while not requiring control for areas that rely on it for sand stabilization.
 - Consensus vote: the board will move this forward to the November hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: Palmer amaranth, *Amaranthus palmeri*, should be added to the Class A list.
 - This was an emergency advancement, due to the high invasiveness and impacts an infestation would have on agriculture in Washington.
 - They are very fast growing, have high seeding and germination rates, and are resistant to many herbicides.
 - In the prior month, 2 infestations have been reported in 2 different areas of eastern Washington, both are likely resistant to glyphosate.

- Consensus vote: the board will move this forward to the November hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: Prickly lettuce, *Lactuca serriola*, not be added to the noxious weed list.
 - It is naturalised across Washington and Western North America, as well as being easy to control.
 - Consensus vote: the board will not move this forward to the hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: Black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, not be added to the noxious weed list.
 - This is the only shade species that will grow in much of the state. Organizations that control black locust have not had its lack of listing impede control efforts or funding.
 - Consensus vote: the board will not move this forward to the hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: “Everthornless” blackberry, *Rubus laciniatus* “Everthornless” not be added as an exclusion on the listing for cutleaf blackberry.
 - Cutleaf blackberry is allowed to be sold in Washington, so an exclusion wouldn’t do anything, especially since the board does not control the quarantine list. Additionally, the board does not want to open the cultivar and variety “can of worms”.
 - Consensus vote: the board will not move this forward to the hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: Shiny geranium, *Geranium lucidum*, be undesignated in Snohomish county, but remain designated in Pierce County.
 - Snohomish county proposed this late last year, but this year provided a plan as to buffer areas they would control shiny geranium around sensitive areas, neighboring counties, and areas with little to no shiny geranium.
 - The committee would like to see more information from Pierce County, regarding how they would prevent shiny geranium from spreading into sensitive and un-infested areas, but especially if they would control it around travel corridors, to stop its spread onto the peninsula. With their current proposal, Pierce County would only provide education on shiny geranium.
 - Consensus vote: move forward the committee’s recommendations to the hearing.
- The Noxious Weed Committee recommends: *Egeria densa* be undesignated in Green Lake of King County
 - There is very high amounts in Green Lake, and it is no longer feasible to control it within one year.
 - Consensus vote: the board will move this forward to the November hearing.
- Monitor list
 - The monitor list subcommittee reviewed 16 species, and decided to remove 6 species from the monitor list.
 - Unicorn plant (*Proboscidea louisianica*)
 - Inula (*Inula helenium*)
 - Skeletonleaf bursage (*Ambrosia tomentosa*)
 - Featherhead knapweed (*Centaurea tricocephala*)
 - Venice mallow (*Hibiscus trionum*)
 - Narrowleaved crosswort (*Crucianella angustifolia*)
 - These species have not been seen or increased in around 30 years of monitoring in Washington State, or our neighboring states.

Legislative Committee

- Mary sent out the updated verbiage of WAC 16-750. The changes:
 - Make language clearer.
 - Match RCW 17.10.
 - Make the education specialist the media point person, rather than the executive secretary.
 - Add that the executive secretary can assign the education specialist tasks, in addition to the board being able to do so.
- The board gave a consensus vote to put these changes forward to the public hearing in November.

Conflict of Interest addition change

- The Attorney General, Bill and Mary put it through to the Ethics Committee, who had no comment. To move forward they just needed to not disagree with it.
 - There was not a hearing the day before this board meeting because a new form was changed, which was not filled out correctly on time.
 - There are no conflicts of interest likely to impact this year’s listing.
- The board gave a consensus vote to move the Conflict of Interest rule addition to the public hearing in November

Education Committee

- The education committee discussed the possibility of an increase in future funding, which would go to printing new publications, rather than just having enough to restock Western Field Guide and Western GardenWise, as well as get a professional organization to make weed curriculum that meets state standards.
- The education committee also discussed hosing a weed outreach day in the capitol rotunda during Invasive Species Awareness Week in February. We could give out seed packets and have information on weed impacts.
- The committee requested \$500 from the board to compensate 2 hours of Spanish language educator’s time, as part of a 3 hour free pesticide recertification course we will help give in late November.
 - King County is providing \$250 for one hour of a Spanish language educator, as well as a host for the webinar.
 - WISC will provide technical support for the webinar.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to allocate \$500 to the education committee for this webinar
	Allan Evenson	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Discussion Topics

Representative Fitzgibbon meeting

- Ian and Anne had a half hour informal meeting with representative Fitzgibbon
 - His district is in Seattle
 - The meeting was initiated by his concern over tree-of-heaven that made him think about other noxious weed problems.
- They gave a brief introduction on weed management and needs to him.
- Fitzgibbon would like to see a budgetary ask from the NWCB for:
 - A very high, wish list amount
 - A status-quo amount
 - A bare bones amount
- The majority of this funding ask could go to counties for on-the-ground weed control, as they can't usually ask the legislature for funding directly, and then the NWCB would allocate it to the counties, as they do with the small project grants each year.
 - Some funding ask could also go to new publications and a professionally-made curriculum for k-12th grades.
- Mary asked the coordinators what they would need at each budget point, and this will inform the budget we give to Fitzgibbon.

WSNWCB Strategic Planning

- The Education and Legislative committees updated their sections of the strategic plan.
- Next, Mary will send it out to county coordinators to get their feedback, as the coordinators have never had input on the state board's strategic plan.
 - Mary will ask the coordinators to get back to her by the January meeting, so they have time to look over it, give their thoughts, and that the November board meeting will be full anyway.
 - The board approved of this idea.

Board Member Vacancies, Elections and Appointments

- Because there still isn't a representative for the SE Washington Counties on the weed board, elections for that region will happen again this fall and winter.
- Bill is moving to King County at the end of November, so he will no longer be on San Juan County's board, and thus can't be the state chair.
 - So at the end of November, Bill will be resigning from his position on the state board and as the chair.
 - This means the November meeting will be as normal.
 - Starting at the January meeting, Allen Evenson, as the current vice chair, will become the chair.
 - The NW county region will also be seeking a new board member, so an election will happen in those counties.
 - Bill stated that he believes there will be very little change in the coming year, as Anne and Mary will continue to work and the board will continue to meet.

- Mary, Janet, Anne, and many others stated that they have enjoyed the pleasure of working with Bill, they appreciate his work, experience, and guidance.

Coordinators Forum

- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Weed Control Board – Their busy season has slowed, and was coming to an end.
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Weed Control Board – Stated that Bill will be missed on their county board.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Weed Control Board – They have started their knotweed control. They have received a few pokeweed reports, as it is on the monitor list.
- Justin Collel, Clark County Weed Control Board – They have worked on variable leaf milfoil and hybrid treatments with the Department of Ecology.
- Susan Bird, Yakima County Weed Control Board – They have worked on purple loosestrife and knotweed treatments.
- Steve Burke, King County Weed Control Board – This year King County continued to ramp up weed control, and are getting back to historic levels now. A big project they worked on this field season was HELP, Healthy Lands Project.
- ramping up weed control, getting back to historic levels. Project help healthy lands project
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Weed Control Board – Their knotweed field work started. They found and controlled a shiny geranium site. One milk thistle was found and eradicated.

Public Comment

- None

The next board meeting will be on November 1st, at 9 a.m., via hybrid webinar and in person in Wenatchee.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:36

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB