

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board September Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m. September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Hybrid Online via WebEx and in person at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia,**  
**WA 98504, Room 259**

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of July meeting.
- Draft minutes of the July special meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Weed list update species' draft written findings

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Allen Evenson

## Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Alaine Sommargren	Eric Bell	Ken Bajema
Alison Halpern	Ian Burke	Marci Miller
Allen Evenson	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer
Carey Caruso		

Others present via WebEx and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Andrea Watts, freelance science writer and tree farmer
- Andrew Hunter, private citizen
- Becky Cheney, King County Noxious Weed Control Board chair
- Christina St. John, Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Eric Bakker, private citizen
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Gerry Saw, Snohomish County
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- James Watson – Whidby Conservation District
- Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jim Rummel, Holly Hill Orchards owner
- John Ryan, KUOW Public Radio
- John Rummel, Holly Hill Orchards manager
- Kodie Wight, Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Murphy, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Steve Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wendy DesCamp, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Wes Glisson, Washington State Department of Ecology

## Approve Agenda

- Two agenda additions approved

## Board Member Comments

- Allen was working on the fall harvest. Puncturevine wasn't as bad this year as other years.
- harvesting. Goathead doesn't look bad
- Janet talked about a park in Steilacoom which had a fire in 2023, and is now overrun with scotchbroom

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the July 8<sup>th</sup> special meeting and July 18<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

<b>VOTE</b>	Alison	Moved to accept the minutes for both the July special and regular meetings.
	Ken	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized their work over the previous two months, which included several presentations, meetings, sending out seed packets and publications, finalizing Class A contracts, working on grant tracking for a Department of Ecology grant, finalizing the budget decision packet, answering questions, and assisting counties and other groups.

## Financial Report

- Mary summarized the most recent financial report, which included paying for the storage unit annual rent, moving funds from the supplies line to the Class A grants (as voted on by the board at the July meeting), and a few other typical small expenditures.
- Janet requested a training for the board members on how to read these expenditure reports, and it was discussed that it could happen in a 2025 board meeting, as it is not a pressing issue.

## State Agency Updates

### Washington State Department of Agriculture

- Alison summarized the recent work of the WSDA, which included that the budget request was sent to the legislature. She discussed the budget outlook, timeline, and what might help prioritize funding and getting supplemental requests.

## Committee Updates

### Noxious Weed Committee

#### Marsh thistle, *Cirsium palustre*

- Class A recommendation from the Noxious Weed Committee
- Anne summarized proposal, impacts, how to ID and how to control marsh thistle.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to have marsh thistle, go to the November hearing
	Alaine	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Roll call vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marci – aye</li> <li>Alaine – aye</li> <li>Ken – Voted “present.” When questioned he clarified he was “not abstaining, just not voting.” Discussion is that this is as abstention.</li> <li>Carey – aye</li> <li>Janet – aye</li> <li>Alison – aye</li> <li>Allen – aye</li> </ul> Motion carried.

#### Round leaf bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

- Class A recommendation from the Noxious Weed Committee
- Anne summarized proposal, impacts, how to ID and how to control round leaf bittersweet.

VOTE	Alison	Moved to have round leaf bittersweet, go to the November hearing
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Roll call vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marci – aye</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaine – aye</li> <li>• Ken – aye</li> <li>• Carey – aye</li> <li>• Janet – aye</li> <li>• Alison – aye</li> <li>• Allen – aye</li> </ul> <p>Motion carried.</p>
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### Wild holly species, *Ilex species*

- Class C recommendation for non-native holly species the Noxious Weed Committee, with exemptions for plants found in managed landscapes, or where commercially or agriculturally grown.
- Anne summarized proposal, impacts, how to ID and how to control non-native holly species.
- It was asked if public comment could be made at this point. Allen stated that he wanted all public comment to be at the end, in the public comment section of the meeting.
- A potential meeting with Washington State senator Dent was discussed. This meeting would include some board members, holly growers, and proponents to a holly listing. Funding for holly farms or holly control could come out of this working group.
- Alison proposed to have what goes to hearing be for a wording change of wild holly, rather than non-native holly.
  - Janet and Allen agreed with this change.

VOTE	Janet	Moved to have wild holly, with exemptions, go to the November hearing
	Alaine	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	<p>Roll call vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marci – aye</li> <li>• Elaine – aye</li> <li>• Ken – aye</li> <li>• Carey – aye</li> <li>• Janet – aye</li> <li>• Alison – aye</li> <li>• Allen – aye</li> </ul> <p>Motion carried.</p>

### Shiny geranium undesignation in Pierce County

- Undesignate Shiny Geranium in Pierce County recommendation from the Noxious Weed Committee.
- Anne summarized proposal, and where Pierce County would still conduct shiny geranium control.

<b>VOTE</b>	Alison	Moved to have round leaf bittersweet, go to the November hearing
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Roll call vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marci – aye</li> <li>• Alaine – aye</li> <li>• Ken – aye</li> <li>• Carey – aye</li> <li>• Janet – aye</li> <li>• Alison – aye</li> <li>• Allen – aye</li> </ul> Motion carried.

#### Pronoun update

- King County requested and proposed a verbiage update to pronoun usage, to be more inclusive.
  - “He” and “she” would be updated to “they”, and “him” and “her” would be updated to “them”.

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine	Moved to send the pronoun update to the November hearing.
	Alison	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

#### Education Committee

- Anne summarized the most recent education committee meeting, which discussed publication funding and reprinting needs, free herbicide credit webinars in the winter, free in person herbicide training in the spring, and legislative outreach.

## Discussion Topics

#### WebEx versus Zoom

- Mary and the board discussed the technical issues with WebEx, and the pros and cons of using WebEx versus Zoom for meeting calls, webinars, and other needs.

- The consensus of the board was to switch to Zoom, rather than WebEx.
  - The November hearing and meeting may be in WebEx, depending on timing and filing needs.
  - The December webinars will be held in Zoom.

### Conference Room in Wenatchee

- Mary and the board discussed the November hearing and meeting space and technical needs and options to meet those needs in and around Wenatchee.
- The board asked Mary to research a few options and prioritize the cheapest or easiest location.

### Printing funds and WSDA Spanish language course instructor pay

- Anne and the board discussed the publication reprinting and WSDA Spanish herbicide webinar instructor costs and needs
- The board reached consensus to provide up to \$500 to WSDA Spanish educators for the December free herbicide course

VOTE	Alison	Moved to approve up to \$24,000 for publication reprinting, based on what Anne and Mary feel is needed
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

### Board member elections

- Carey was reappointed by WSDA prior to this meeting.
- SW Washington district and Weed Districts are up for election
  - Nomination letters will go out at the end of September, ballots will go out at the end of October, and voting will be counted after the end of November.

### Coordinators Forum

- Emily, Skamania County – had a large crew this summer. With the cool weather they got a lot of scotchbroom control done. Knotweed and blackberry control will finish up the season. False brome was found on a remote gravel bar, and garlic mustard was reported by a landowner.
- Farren, Lincoln County – had a great season. Their program assistant is retiring after 28 years, and hiring will occur soon.
- Steve, King County – their level of control (between them and partners) is almost back at pre-pandemic levels.
- Sue and Jeff, Yakima – they have found new willowherb infestations. They had a busy season.
- Gerry, Snohomish County – has started a new position as a drainage inspector with Snohomish County, so her contact information is all the same. They have an interim coordinator until the job position opens in January.
- Wes, Washington State Department of Ecology – got out to a lot of locations this season, with many partners.

- Kodie Wight, Asotin County – had a great season. They partnered with the conservation district and received funding from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Fish and Wildlife for projects. They surveyed and treated Mediterranean sage, 2 small knotweed populations, and hosted some classes.

## Public Comment

- 11:17
- Jim Rummel, Holly Hill Orchards owner – Stated that he is waiting for new science to come, and they have been sent curveballs. He felt that researchers started with the result and worked backwards. He was unhappy with the “weed expert” definition in the laws. He stated he feels like he is being persecuted, and that if we dig down, we will find this is not real science and can’t be repeated. He told the Attorney General in 2022 that new definitions and science can’t be made willy nilly, and a listing would devastate his farm.
- John Rummel, Holly Hill Orchards manager – summarized sections from the history portion of the holly written findings, about how children in Seattle would spread holly seed almost 100 years ago. He stated that he would have a 100% loss if holly was listed, and that he had a 50% loss in 2010, because Canada stopped buying holly, just because a vote on a holly listing.
- Alison (board member) responded that actions either way will cost money, and that the impacts are real to both sides.
  - She added that she has a PhD in plant ecology, has read the science, data, and research is valid. Both the science and impact are real.
- Jim Rummel continued, beyond his 3-minute allotment, that potatoes are a widely planted crop in Whatcom County, but they aren’t a noxious weed. He claimed that too much water or drilling holly with vinegar will both kill it.
- James Watson, Whidby Conservation District natural resource planner – has done dendrochronological analysis on the age of holly in natural areas, and large trees can be dated to the 1960s. He has worked with Dave Stokes and confirms the invasive qualities of holly.
- Dendrochronological analysis on age of holly. Dated holly to 60s. worked with Dave Stokes.
- Mary (board staff) stated that a lot of species were planted or introduced by well intentioned folks in the past, like the children in Seattle in the 1930’s.
- Alaine (board member) asked if public comment is usually a discussion?
  - Alison responded that public comment can be, while testimony is only recorded.
- Ken (board member, noxious weed committee member) stated that the board hasn’t had any real discussions with the people involved.
  - Mary stated that in 2022 the committee held special holly meetings with those discussions, including at Ken’s holly farm.
- Becky Chaney, King County Noxious Weed Control Board chair – thanked the board members and would have liked to know that there was going to be a discussion, so she could have been more prepared. She has been in a forestry society for more than 10 years, and many folks in this group have problems with holly. She works with these small foresters, and every property she has been to has invasive holly growing on it. She regularly finds holly in her forest, and on her neighbor’s property. She is worried about the fire danger holly poses, as large plants reach the canopy and are very oily and waxy.

- Becky Chaney and John Ryan asked for the folks physically in the room to identify themselves
  - John and Jim run Holly Hill Orchards
  - Alison works for WSDA
  - Ken is a board member, as well as a holly grower.
- Allen stated that no one is out to get anyone else, and that we are just trying to stop things from becoming worse.

The board will hold a public hearing on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. via webinar and in person in Wenatchee.

The next board meeting will be on November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person in Wenatchee.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:38

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Allen Evenson, Chair  
WSNWCB

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Janet Spingath, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB