

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board September Meeting  
 9:00 a.m. September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Hybrid Online via Zoom 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.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Written findings for waterhemp, delta arrowhead, black locust, and Norway maple

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

### Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Alaine Sommargren	Carey Caruso	Marci Miller
Alison Halpern	Eric Bell	Randy Johnson
Allen Evenson	Ian Burke	Ron Tebow
Bill Zimmerman	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cathy Lucero – private citizen and Noxious Weed Committee member
- Craig Hintz – Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Darla Dolph – Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevnsnson – Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jason Ontjes – San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza – Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Kris Fuher – Private citizen
- Larry Hudson – Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Laurel Baldwin – Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Rahel Stampfer – King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Steve Scheele – Washington State Assistant Attorney General

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine	Moved to accept the minutes for the July 18 <sup>th</sup> meeting, with one verbiage change.
	Janet	Seconded the motion.

<i>The Board</i>	<p>All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.</p> <p>Alison abstained, as she was not present at meeting</p>
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## Board Member Comments

- Allen – it was finally starting to cool down.
- Alaine – was looking forward to the changing seasons. Steve Burke is retiring, and Rahel Stampfer had stepped in as a 6 month interim coordinator for King County Noxious Weeds.
- Bill – Stated that despite the dry late summer, and everything dying back, tansy was still green.
- Eric – His board still had 5 board member and strong support for field staff.
- Janet – Stated that the lakes were dropping, and some may be mismanaged and are dropping faster than they should be.

## Reappointments

- Janet – July 2025
  - Janet was happy to continue, Mary will put in paperwork with Director Sandison.
- Todd – December 2025
  - Todd was happy to continue, Mary will put in paperwork with Director Sandison.
- Jennifer – January 2026
- Eric – September 2026
- Ian is moving away from Washington State, and this was his last board meeting.

## Roberts Rules of Order Training

- Marci led a short training on recusals and abstaining from voting. This training focused on the differences between abstaining and recusal during votes, conflicts of interest, and chairs having tie breaking votes.
- The board requested for the next meeting to have a training on executive sessions from Roberts Rules of Order.

## Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized the work they have done over the last couple months, including noxious weed committee work, presentations, and meetings.

## Financial Report

- Mary summarized the financial report, including facilities, survey monkey payment, and the storage unit rent.

## Budget Report

- Mary briefly discussed the budget report, and how the allotment amounts would be based on the board’s decisions during the next action item.

### Allotments and Salary Adjustment

- Mary summarized the budget committee’s meeting and their recommendations. This was to reduce publications to \$10,000 for FY26 and to \$5000 for FY27, and for Class A grants to reduce by \$5,000 to \$15,000.
  - Eric disagreed with the decrease for Class A Grants, and think it should be increased.
  - Bill and Alaine would prefer to reduce the publication amount more, to at least keep the Class A grant amount the same.
  - Janet stated that the education committee is ok with reducing the amount of publications.
    - Adams County was able to copy and print their own brochures.
- Action Item: 5% increase Secretary raise this year (fy25, and is retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025) and 5% next year (fy26)
  - This would be a merit increase (professional growth and development increase), not a step increase, as the secretary position is not on a step increase system (which the education position is on), due to the secretary position being an exempt position.
  - The secretary position still gets Cost of Living Adjustments, per legislative action.

<b>VOTE</b>	Randy	Moved to approve what the budget committee recommended, but to decrease printing by an additional \$5,000, and not reduce the Class A Grant amount.
	Bill	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	Roll call vote:  Aye: Alaine, Bill, Janet, Marci, Randy, Carey, Allen  Nay: none  Abstain: Alison

### Discussion Topics

#### Douglas County Update and AAG Steve Scheele Questions and Answers

- Steve opened by asking for the board’s permission to discuss topics that would otherwise be privileged legal advice at a public meeting, thus becoming public knowledge.
  - The board approved this discussion to occur during this public meeting.
- Steve summarized a few RCW 17.10 sections on how a weed board can be formed, and answered clarifying questions from the board.
- The board discussed Douglas County, their known weeds, their suspected weeds, other counties and Douglas County citizens requesting a weed board to form, and other topics about the lack of a weed board in Douglas County.
- This discussion will continue at the November board meeting.

- The full recording of this discussion, as part of the whole weed board meeting, is available upon request.

## State Agency Updates

Alison Halpern, WSDA

- Alison summarized the events that occurred around Palmer amaranth being found in Safeway birdseed in Spokane county, which resulted in an ongoing Washington State recall on those lots of seed.
- Alison told the board about a mystery plant was found in a Yakima County blueberry field, and posted on iNaturalist. It was confirmed to be sunflower broomrape, *Orobanche cumana*. USDA APHIS will likely be setting up a quarantine, and an emergency listing on the noxious weed list may be proposed.
  - This is the first-ever sighting of this highly damaging agricultural weed, in North America.

## Committee Updates

Education Committee

- Anne summarized what the education committee discussed at their September meeting, including free webinars and in-person courses, moving towards online publications, the website, and social media accounts.

Noxious Weed Committee

- Anne summarized each proposed weed and the Noxious Weed Committee’s thoughts on them
- Waterhemp, *Amaranthus tuberculatus* - Class A recommendation

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine	Moved to put waterhemp, <i>Amaranthus tuberculatus</i> , to the November public hearing, with a Class A recommendation.
	Randy	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Delta arrowhead, *Sagittaria platyphylla* - Class A recommendation

<b>VOTE</b>	Bill	Moved to put Delta arrowhead, <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> , to the November public hearing, with a Class A recommendation.
	Janet	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia* - Class C recommendation

<b>VOTE</b>	Alaine	Moved to put Black locust, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> , to the November public hearing, with a Class C recommendation.
	Alison	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

- Norway maple, *Acer platanoides* - Class C recommendation, with exception for any sterile cultivars and varieties.

<b>VOTE</b>	Bill	Moved to put Norway maple, <i>Acer platanoides</i> , to the November public hearing, with a Class C recommendation and exemption for any sterile cultivars or varieties.
	NAME	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

## Coordinators Forum

- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County – they had a busy summer, and were most recently working through some powerline easement weed control and county budget issues. Other late season work was on Canada thistle, blackberries, hawthorn, holly, watermilfoil, and working with wildlife refuge volunteers.
  - Jason stated that the field guides and garden wise booklets are popular and would like to see them keep being printed. He knows that other counties give them out as well.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – they made an offer, which was accepted, for their education and cooperative weed control district staff person. Knotweed, tree of heaven, and other fall treatments were starting up or being finished.
  - Emily stated that they also don't want to see publications go away, as they are very good to hand out when going door-to-door and at outreach events.
- Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County – she echoed what the other coordinators were saying on field guides and garden wise being very popular and they are very helpful to give out.
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County – they were wrapping up field season with knapweed control, and their summer crew working at Mt. St. Helens. Washington Conservation Corps was very helpful for them to get more management completed.
  - Jennifer stated that her citizens love the field guides and garden wise publications, and the county want to keep being able to get them, as they really appreciate being able to get them.
- Rahel Stampfer, King County – they were wrapping up their late season weeds, and had a busy outreach event season. They were hiring a new aquatic weed specialist, as Ben Petersen moved

to a different King County position. Rahel would like to be contacted instead of Steve, until a new King County coordinator has started.

- King County love the garden wise booklets, and give them out a lot.

## Public Comment

- Cathy Lucero – Expressed her appreciation for Ian Burke and his work, commended Anne on her written findings, and was looking forward to volunteering with Jason at the wildlife refuge.
- Kris Fuehr – Stated the need to keep in mind, and educate about, alternatives to herbicide.

The public hearing will be on November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m., via webinar and in person.

The next board meeting will be on November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:37

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Allen Evenson, Chair  
WSNWCB

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Carey Caruso, Secretary  
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB