

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Regular Meeting
9:00 a.m. September 23rd, 2021
Online/Teleconferenced via WebEx Only due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

Handouts provided for meeting:

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

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Bill Agosta

Roll Call

Board members present via WebEx:

Bill Agosta	Jerry Hendrickson	Randy Johnson
Brad White	Ken Bajema	Steven Seefeldt
Dirk Veleke	Kevin Hupp	

Others present via WebEx:

- Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Craig Hintz, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jeff Knutson, Yakima County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Justin Bush, Washington State Invasive Species Council
- Laura Sanderson

Board Member Comments

- Jerry from Asotin and Kevin from Lincoln counties were happy to have gotten some rain.
- Randy, from Clallam County stated that Cathy Lucero may be retiring in 2022.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the minutes for the July 13 th meeting.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

State Agency Updates

WSDA

- Brad reported that they are right at the end of survey season, and nothing new related to noxious weeds to mention.
- Murder Hornets are pretty close to the Canadian border.

WISC

- Justin Bush announced that RCO is looking at funding to a cost share program for flowering rush control in the Columbia Basin. He will know in the next few weeks if this spending gets approved.

Noxious Weed List Update

- At the special September meeting on the 20th, the board voted or agreed on:
 - Hanging sedge, rough chervil, and wild basil to be put forward to the public hearing as proposed Class B species.
 - Green alkanet basil to be put forward to the public hearing as a proposed Class C species.
 - Common tansy will be put forward to the public hearing to be changed from a Class C to a Class B species.
 - A clarification on wild carrot, a Class C species, to allow for sale of *Daucus carota subsp. sativus* (garden carrot) to be sold for cultivation or food, will be put forward to the public hearing.
 - A change in a typo of the scientific name for common bugloss was made.
 - Crack willow's proposal will not move forward to the public hearing, and will be considered with more information and data next year.

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne reported on what they have been working on since the last board meeting, in July.
 - Some highlights include going to see two new infestations of false brome on JBLM, working with the Noxious Weed Committee on the proposed listings for 2022, and preparing documents for the 2022 listings.

Budget Report

- Mary reported that the board received the fiscal year 2022 allotments in August.
 - They were mostly as expected, except for a few potential errors in the benefits section, which Mary turned in adjustments for.
 - \$16,000 will be used for supplies, probably mostly new seed packets for free distribution, would be ideal.
 - The Class A Grants have been agreed upon, and should be considered spent.
 - \$24,000 for printing, will go to re-ordering past publications, but also for a few new publications, like new Early Detection Postcard species.

Discussion Topics

Vaccination Requirement

- Mary is waiting to hear back from WSDA HR on if the board members need to be vaccinated. They will probably be exempt, but if not, Mary and Bill will contact everyone and let them know, which will happen before the November board meeting.
- Mary received an exemption, with some accommodations, which are being worked on. The final decision will be made before the November board meeting.
 - If Mary has to leave her position, Anne and Wendy DesCamp will take over for Mary’s duties, while Bill and Anne work to hire an executive secretary replacement.
 - Mary will prepare Anne, Bill, and the board as much as she can, in regards to the 2022 listing process and general training for Anne.
 - The NWCB would not have to go through WSDA’s HR to hire a replacement, because the board is fairly autonomous, and the HR team likely be swamped as a result of the vaccination mandate anyway.

Elections and Appointments

- Board elections happen on odd numbered years, so they occurred in January 2021 and will again in January 2023.
- Committee appointments happen in even numbered years, so they will occur in January 2022.
- Jennifer Parson’s replacement, as an aquatic weeds scientist, has not been hired yet by the Department of Ecology.
 - The board does not have to have someone from DOE as the aquatic weeds scientific advisor though.
- Steven is retiring just after the November meeting, so the board will need another replacement scientific advisor in the near future.

Douglas County Weed Survey

- Douglas County could use a survey of high-priority weeds and areas, to help determine if they need to form a noxious weed control board, rather than the task force they currently have.
- Road survey, approximately 2 weeks long, with two independent contractors
 - Approximately \$6,700 total cost, including mileage, gas, and staff time.
 - Funding could come from the board’s travel budget, as Mary, Anne, and the board are unlikely to be traveling much again in 2022, due to COVID restrictions.
 - 40 hours each week, with one day of data entry each week.
 - \$35 an hour
 - The independent surveyors would estimate density and acreage of weed species
 - Jerry stated that these estimates are pretty accurate
- Dirk stated that he believes all counties should have boards.
 - Many species could be re-designated as a result of this survey and a board.
 - The survey has to happen in spring, perhaps a few days here, wait a few weeks, and do another few days, to catch as many species as possible.

10	Dirk Veleke	Moved to create a survey committee, to be appointed by Bill.
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Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Coordinators Forum

- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board – had a new board member appointed, which completes the board, with the district 4 position. Their inspector resigned, so they will be looking to fill that position soon. Their office flooded, which disoriented them.
- Kevin Hupp, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board – their field season is done, and budget season is beginning
- Craig Hintz, Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board – their field season is also done, and they did a lot of work on puncturevine control.

Public Comment

- No public comments

The November public hearing on new weed listings will be on November 3rd, at 1:00pm, via webinar.

The next board meeting will be on November 4th, at 9 a.m., via webinar.

The board meeting adjourned at 10:08

Bill Agosta, Chairman
WSNWCB

Janet Spingath, Secretary
WSNWCB

Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB