

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

9:00 a.m. November 1, 2017

The Wenatchee Conference Center
201 N. Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting
- September 21, 2017 Draft Minutes
- Late September-October 2017 Office Report
- Invasive ivy website/Facebook post
- September 2017 Budget Report
- List of WSNWCB committees

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Janet Spingath	
Bill Agosta	Commissioner Wes McCart	
Dirk Veleke	Jenifer Parsons	
Brad White	Rod Gilbert	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Greg Haubrich, WA State Department of Agriculture
Julie Sanderson, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Mike Mackey, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Vic Reeve, Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board
Dave Maiden, Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board
Janet Nelson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Tricia MacLaren, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
Todd Palzer, Department of Natural Resources
Ray Willard, Washington Department of Transportation
Steve Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)
Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board (WebEx)

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

Bill Agosta noted that the San Juan County NWCB was trying to encourage BLM to perform sufficient noxious weed control in the San Juan Island National Monument. BLM had threatened to disallow the use of herbicides there, which could undermine their ability to effectively control invasive, noxious weeds.

Wes McCart was serving on an interstate, regional panel that was addressing catastrophic wildfires, and how they should be reacting before and after the fires. One of the objectives discussed was how to return burned lands back to healthy ecosystems.

Janet Spingath thanked Wendy for the informative and thorough Written Findings.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the September 21 regular meeting.

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to accept the minutes for the September 21, 2017 regular meeting.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE UPDATES

Alison Halpern reported:

- She was assisting the Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Board, now that they no longer had a coordinator and were down to two Board members.
- She was working on the FY15-17 biennial report. She had reached out to state agencies for numbers on how much was being spent on noxious weed control.
- She had contacted OFM who confirmed that the bee forage bill had not been and would not be funded. Nonetheless, she explained that the Board would still be able to achieve the main goals of the bill, despite having to significantly pare down the pilot projects by:
 - Producing blends of mostly native, pollinator-friendly seed packets for eastern and western Washington in 2017,
 - Providing a list of retail and wholesale suppliers of native seed and plants on the website this winter
 - Converting the Full Circle brochure into a booklet that provides more detailed guidelines on how to replace noxious weeds with native species, including pollinator-friendly plants,
 - Supporting at least one ongoing, long-term restoration project that entailed controlling noxious weeds and replacing with native species. The Board had allocated \$2K in FY18 towards the bee bill, and this money could help provide pollinator-friendly plant starts and seeds. Alison mentioned that the Mid-Columbia Fishery Enhancement Group had been working on a restoration project in Kittitas County near agricultural land and would

benefit from some funding to purchase locally sourced, native, pollinator-friendly plant starts.

- Highlighting pollinator forage projects that were undertaken by other programs in a final report. For example, WSDOT had agreed to let us include its Scatter Creek restoration site in our project, and the King County NWCB had offered to let us include a funded knotweed restoration project they are working on.

Wendy DesCamp provided an update on the invasive ivy study:

- She explained that there were two separate species of invasive ivy, and a study from 1999 indicated that Atlantic ivy, *Hedera hibernica*, was more invasive than English ivy, *H. helix*.
- The purpose of this current study was to determine which species was more prevalent today, and they were seeking help from the general public and the noxious weed community to collect samples throughout Washington.
- They would be collecting samples through December 15, and Wendy encouraged Board and audience members to send samples in.

The Board discussed:

- Janet reminded Alison of the project at the Parkland Prairie Project, which replaced noxious weeds and replaced them with native, pollinator-friendly shrubs. Alison agreed this would be another good project to feature in the final report. Janet also suggested posting a request on Facebook and on the website for people to share their own efforts to replace noxious weeds with non-invasive pollinator forage. She also suggested that Alison contact the commercial beekeepers to see if they were planting pollinator-friendly strips between their fields. Alison said this would also be a great question for the fruit tree growers.
- Tony asked when planting was happening in the Kittitas County restoration project. Alison replied that it was happening in the fall, next spring, and the following fall, which would be in FY19. Alison would check for more details.
- Vic Reeve mentioned that the Tri Cities Native Plant Society chapter was questioning the native seed blend mix. He also noted that it was good to have Wendy back.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich provided the update.

- He would be sending out a USFS FHP RFP soon. He mentioned that available funding from USFS was continuing to decline. He mentioned that federal contracts exceeding \$100K had required federal review and approval; that amount had just been reduced to \$50K.
- The Western Weed Coordinators' Conference was coming up. They would be discussing ways to educate about the importance of noxious weed control.
- He and Jennifer Andreas would be attending USFS meetings in Hood River and Portland to talk about the importance of the WSU Integrated Weed Management Project and the biocontrol

support it provided to Washington. He mentioned that he may seek support from the State Weed Board.

The Board and audience members discussed:

- Mike Mackey asked if the reports they submitted were sufficient. Greg replied that the Chelan County Weed Board’s reports were great; others were adequate. He also mentioned that USFS and BLM funds did not need to be used on federal lands only, but they did need to have a positive impact to those lands. The WSU biocontrol program received USFS funding and benefited its lands. Jennifer used iForm to track biocontrol releases, and USFS appreciated the resulting maps.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison provided the update.

- She explained that while the overall numbers for the FY17-19 biennial budget were slightly higher than the previous biennium, they had less money available for special projects, including Class A eradication projects. The main cause for this was a substantial increase in employee benefits.
- The Board had allocated \$16K towards special projects for FY18
 - They had already agreed in August to allot \$2K towards the implementation of the bee bill. \$1K was sufficient for the Kittitas County pilot project, since other partners were letting the Board highlight their own projects. This left \$15K remaining for special projects.
 - In the past, they had supported the WSU IWM Project with \$5K.
 - At the last Board meeting, Greg had given a presentation about WSDA’s iForm app and the Washington State Weed Data Viewer, and Alison had suggested that the Board support these mapping tools that were being used by many county weed boards. Greg explained how WSDA was buying iForm licenses, iPhone data plans, and Arc GIS licenses for county weed coordinators. He indicated that any amount the Board could provide would be helpful and suggested \$2.5K.

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to fund \$5K to the WSU IWMP and \$2.5K towards the WSDA noxious weed mapping efforts
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Wes asked about Class A eradication funding. Alison said she would send out RFPs soon so that the Board could discuss proposals at the January meeting. Wes mentioned that he would rather they fund one or two larger project. Janet suggested that in the RFP it state that funding was up to \$7.5K
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

STATE WEED BOARD COMMITTEES

Chairman Tony Stadelman appointed:

- Bill Agosta as the chair for the Budget Committee
- Jerry Hendrickson to the Legislative Committee
- Anna Thurston to the Noxious Weed Committee
- Alison Halpern, Brad White, and Deanna Painter to the Election Committee to count ballots

Rather than recreating a biennial report committee, Alison would send the draft out to the whole Board for comments.

2018 NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Proposed additions:

Small-flowered jewelweed, *Impatiens parviflora*

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to add small-flowered jewelweed as a Class A noxious weed
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Small-flowered jewelweed was very invasive in Europe and its known distribution was limited to two sites in King County.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

European coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to add European coltsfoot as a Class B noxious weed, to be designated for control throughout Washington, except for in Grant, Lincoln, Adams, Benton, and Franklin counties
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	European coltsfoot was nonnative and was a problem in crop fields elsewhere. It has also been observed colonizing riparian restoration areas following knotweed control. Its distribution was known only in a few counties in western Washington.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Malta starthistle, *Centaurea melitensis*

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to add Malta starthistle, <i>Centaurea melitensis</i> , as a Class B noxious weed, to be designated for control throughout Washington except in Klickitat, Whitman, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties, and a portion of Stevens County to match the designation of yellow starthistle
	Wes McCart	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Malta starthistle was a nonnative, invasive species that met the criteria of a noxious weed. It was similar in appearance to yellow starthistle. Matching designation areas would simplify control requirements since it looked so similar to yellow starthistle. The Class B listing would require control where it is limited, help contain any infestations mixed with yellow starthistle, and prevent it from spreading.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Spotted jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to add spotted jewelweed, <i>Impatiens capensis</i> , as a Class C noxious weed
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Spotted jewelweed met the criteria of a noxious weed. Encouraging control of it where it coexisted with the native jewelweed (<i>I. ecornuta</i>) could help prevent hybridization.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid, *Myriophyllum spicatum* x *M. sibiricum*

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to add Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> x <i>M. sibiricum</i> , as a Class C noxious weed
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was being listed as a Class C noxious weed because it was hard to differentiate from Eurasian watermilfoil. Also, not all hybrid strains are aggressive, and it wouldn't make sense to require control of non-aggressive strains. As a Class C, control would not be required by the State Weed Board. • There wasn't enough information about it to warrant a Class B listing.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lab that had been running genetic tests was no longer in business, so Jenifer was looking for other universities that could perform this work.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to add cheatgrass, <i>Bromus tectorum</i> , as a Class C noxious weed
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Okanogan County NWCB had proposed its addition because many landowners there were working to control it after the wildfires. A noxious weed listing would help justify the efforts to educate and provide technical support, and it would also be helpful in leveraging funding through grants. Rod Gilbert suggested that a Class C listing could be important for educating the public. People might make the connection on how invasive it was if they saw it on the state weed list. It was one of the worst weeds in the west and was an ecosystem changer. If cheatgrass were added to the state list, landowners might expect the county weed boards to be actively working on its control. County weed boards could provide education and other services about species not on the state weed list but could not require control. It was widespread throughout much of Washington. Wes McCart suggested that if it were added to our state weed list, USFS might add it to their list, which could change their priorities. Per Marc Eylar’s testimony, Wes pointed out that its seedheads would not be permissible in WWHAM-certified hay, which would make production of certified weed-free hay difficult. Dirk Veleke noted that the timothy hay growers did not want cheatgrass in their export hay and did a good job controlling it, and Tony explained that they often flail the hay field edges to prevent cheatgrass seed production.
	<i>The Board</i>	<p>Motion did not carry:</p> <p>Voting Yea: Janet Spingath and Dirk Veleke</p> <p>Voting Nay: Bill Agosta, Brad White, Wes McCart</p>

Spurge flax, *Thymelaea passerina*

VOTE	Brad White	Moved to reclassify the Class A noxious weed spurge flax, <i>Thymelaea passerina</i> , to a Class B noxious weed to be designated for control throughout eastern Washington, except in Okanogan County.
	Dirk Veleke	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The testimony requesting that the decision be postponed while federal and state agencies in Okanogan had ample time to survey for it. • Almost all the known spurge flax infestations occurring on private land. ATVs and firefighting vehicles and equipment were spreading it. • The Okanogan County NWCB would select it for control outside of areas where it was known to occur. • It was difficult to see and to identify. • It was not being designated in western WA at this time because it did not appear likely to be problematic west of the Cascades. If it did successfully establish in western WA, the Board could reevaluate its designation. • A Class A listing put the burden on the landowner since eradication is required.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Butterfly bush, *Buddleja davidii*, and shiny geranium, *Geranium lucidum*, in Thurston County

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to undesignate butterfly bush, <i>Buddleja davidii</i> , and shiny geranium, <i>Geranium lucidum</i> , in Thurston County
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	The designation changes better matched current distribution. Butterfly bush had been designated in the Nisqually because of a funded control project, but that project was no longer active.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, in Cowlitz County.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Called for a motion to undesignate Eurasian watermilfoil, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> , in Cowlitz County.
		No motion was made
	<i>The Board</i>	Motion not carried.

Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, in Clark County.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Called for a motion to undesignate Eurasian watermilfoil, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> , in Clark County.
		No motion was made
	<i>The Board</i>	Motion not carried.

Wes suggested that the Board needed to look at Class B designations from a statewide perspective. In some cases, these proposed designation changes did not truly meet the criteria for Class B designation, especially when the noxious weed was widespread in parts of the county. In those cases, it seemed more appropriate to have the county weed board select those Class B non-designates for local control. Jenifer felt that the Board should take a closer look at the distribution of Eurasian milfoil for next year's noxious weed list and update designations based on that information. Alison mentioned that they had done an overhaul of Class B designations a few years ago, and agreed that it would be a good idea to review designations for all Class B noxious weeds again for 2019.

Yellow nutsedge, *Cyperus esculentus*, in Clark County

VOTE	Brad White	Moved to undesignate yellow nutsedge, <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> , in Clark County
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Yellow nutsedge had become too widespread in Clark County, and the Class B designation no longer matched the distribution
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Policeman's helmet, *Impatiens glandulifera*, in Clark County

VOTE	Wes McCart	Moved to designate policeman's helmet, <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , in Clark County
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Clark County NWCB had been working to reduce policeman's helmet populations, and now the distribution was better matched for a Class B designation.
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Indigobush, *Amorpha fruticosa*, in Clark County.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to designate indigobush, <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> , for control in Clark County, except within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the Columbia River)
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	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	The Board discussed	Class B designations were intended from a statewide distribution perspective. If indigobush was widespread in the Columbia but not elsewhere, listing it as a county select seemed more appropriate.
	<i>The Board</i>	Motion not carried.

Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, in Kittitas County

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Called for a motion to designate Eurasian watermilfoil, <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> , for control in Kittitas County everywhere except in the Columbia River.
		No motion was made
	<i>The Board</i>	Motion not carried.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Mike Mackey from the Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board mentioned that

- There was more flowering rush in the Columbia River that was found during a survey. Implementing diver-assisted suction and bottom barriers had been successful. There had been some movement of plants downstream, and now there were 20 small sites. They had an ECY grant to survey the river from Chief Joseph Dam to Rock Island Dam, and the north half complete.
- Surveys had not detected any found Eurasian watermilfoil two years after treatment with aquatic formation of triclopyr that targets milfoil.
- Rush skeletonweed was appearing along roads, rivers, and highways in Chelan County.
- There was no Title II funding for crupina eradication this year.
- They had found some hoary alyssum and were using WSDA funds to treat it.

Vic Reeve from the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board shared that:

- He had spent the past two years rebuilding that program
- The program was working well with county roads and with state agencies.
- They were making progress with flowering rush in the Yakima River and appreciated help from ECY, WDFW, and WSDA.
- Tree-of-heaven was a big problem this year. The City of Richland was now requiring its control.
- Yellow starthistle was very aggressive this year.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS

Ray Willard from WSDOT gave an update:

- He explained that WSDOT had sent a letter to all county weed boards and weed districts regarding the noxious weed assessment on state highways and other properties.
- WSDOT had been paying the noxious weed assessments in some counties but not others, but after review by its AAG, it would not be paying them based on case law that pertaining specifically to state highways (WSDOT).
- He noted that highways are a vector for noxious weeds but the agency is not currently funded to perform complete weed control. Ray wants to strategize with county weed boards using the agency's new Highway Activity Tracking System (HATS) to maximize its control efforts.
- Todd Palzer asked if the exemption pertained to just the noxious weed assessment or all assessments. Ray replied that WSDOT was using the analysis of noxious weed assessments as a model for additional research into inconsistencies with other local assessments and mosquito districts were next on the list.

MEETING EVALUATION

Alison mentioned that the tentative dates and locations for the 2018 State Weed Board meetings were:

- Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. as a WebEx meeting hosted in Olympia
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018 in Chelan – Alison would check with the WA State Weed Coordinators Association to confirm the date
- Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. as a WebEx meeting hosted in Olympia
- Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. as a WebEx meeting hosted in Olympia
- Thursday, September 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. as a WebEx meeting hosted in Olympia [Actual date is September 20.]
- Wednesday, November 8, 2018 in Wenatchee in conjunction with the annual Noxious Weed Conference, with the public hearing the day before – Alison would confirm the date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. with a motion by Bill Agosta, seconded by Wes McCart. All in favor.



Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB



Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB



Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary WSNWCB