

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
2:00 p.m. November 1st, 2016
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via Zoom
And hosted at the Confluence Technology Center
Located at 285 Technology Center Way, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- September 2016 Draft Minutes
- Second Half of September Office Report
- October Office Report
- Chelan County Ravenna Grass Classification Change Proposal
- Ravenna Grass Distribution and Designation Chart
- Pierce County Designation Change Proposal
- Invasive Species Economic Impact Report Legislative Brief

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Janet Spingath	Tim Miller
Jerry Hendrickson	Wes McCart	Jennifer Parsons
Bill Agosta	Dirk Veleke (called in but unable to participate due to technical difficulties)	

Others present:

Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Kittanya Locken, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
 Mike Mackey, Chelan Co NWCB
 Julie Sanderson, Chelan Co NWCB
 Tanya Russel, Chelan Co NWCB
 Dick Jacobson, Yakima Co NWCB
 Jeff Knutson, Yakima Co NWCB
 Anna Lyon, Okanogan Co NWCB
 Janet Nelson, Okanogan Co NWCB
 Dave Maiden, Walla Walla Co NWCB
 Jennifer Andreas, WSU-IWCP
 Greg Haubrich, WSDA
 Glenys Stadelman
 Cathy Lucero, Clallam County NWCB (called in but unable to participate due to technical difficulties)

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Jenifer Parsons shared that field season was now over for her.

- Jerry Hendrickson noted that the fall wheat crops were about 2” high, a good sign for next year’s wheat production.
- Janet Spingath shared that city of Steilacoom was now free of Japanese knotweed, thanks in part to the help of the Pierce County NWCB. She asked that the board recognize this achievement. Janet also mentioned that Jenifer Parsons had found Eurasian watermilfoil, and the American Lake association had formed a committee to assist in controlling it.
- Bill Agosta noted that the rainy season had started in San Juan County.
- Tony Stadelman announced that he had officially retired from the weed district. He also noted that the fall rains had been unusually heavy.
- Tim Miller shared that he attended Sarah Reichard’s Celebration of Life on October 13th with Alison and Kittanya. He described the service, which took observers on a tour of the Washington Park Arboretum, for which Sarah was a prominent supporter and dedicated visionary. He noted that she would be dearly missed as a long-time and active member of the committee and as a valued member of the noxious weed community.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for September Meeting.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to accept the minutes for the September 2016 Board meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The board discussed the technical difficulties and challenges of meeting remotely. Jerry Hendrickson requested that Alison attempt to get travel reimbursement funding for additional board meetings. Alison would be contacting Jerry to work with him and ensure that he has access to the WebEx platform for future meetings.

OFFICE UPDATES

- Alison completed all of the rule-making steps to necessary to move forward on the annual weed list update process.
- Alison and Kittanya attended Sarah’s memorial and Alison said that losing Sarah was difficult. Alison asked the WSNLA Executive Director Breanne Chavez about reactivating the invasive plant task force. Jeanne McNeil and Sarah Reichard had both been heavily involved. Breanne was very supportive of its reactivation.
- Alison had talked to the WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee (NAC) about her interest in conducting a survey with the nursery industry about English ivy and conducting additional genetic analyses on escaped, invasive ivy. This research would build upon Sarah Reichard’s 2006 study on the taxonomic distribution of English ivy species in invading populations. The findings could prompt the WSNWB to request that Atlantic ivy, *H. hibernica*, be added to the quarantine list. Alison would submit a funding proposal to the WSDA NAC to perform the genetics work.
- Alison would also be submitting a small funding request to the NAC to update the GardenWise booklets to reflect new grasses and groundcovers.

- Alison, Greg Haubrich, and Justin Bush were working with Paul Sherwin with Bri Communications to provide Weed 'Em Out advertisement panels for North Central Washington Display Travel Guide Maps. Over 50 displays had been installed throughout Kittitas, Okanogan, Chelan, and Grant Counties. The WSNWCB, WSDA, WISC, and three of the county weed boards combined resources to pay for the outreach campaign.
- Alison was almost done editing the Invasive Species Economic Impact Report. It was taking a lot more time and effort than originally expected. She was editing all layout and text to ensure that the report was as legible and clear as possible before distribution. Alison and Kittanya would work with WSDA and WISC to develop a press kit. The report would be a very helpful tool for state and county agencies to demonstrate why noxious weed control is so effective. The board discussed the importance of this report and the effort and extensive work Alison, Greg Haubrich, and Justin Bush (WISC) put into the report.
- Alison noted that the Biennial Report draft was just about complete. She would be sending the draft to the board and would have it ready and printed in January. Work on the upcoming biennial report would begin in January.
- Alison was invited to be a member of the UW Steering Committee for the Arboretum's new Washington Botanical Symposium, March 15th, 2017. The Symposium will bring together expert speakers on different aspects of botany. Alison would be presenting about noxious weeds this year. The symposium would be held biennially.
- Kittanya and Alison had been working on the toxic plant booklet and had been editing the text to make it shorter for the booklet. WSDA might be able to help with the printing costs.
- Kittanya had been working on updating and reformatting the Noxious Weed Directory to include a newer layout and pictures of staff and board members to celebrate the important work they all do and help put faces to names.
- Kittanya had begun reaching out to coordinators to gauge interest in participating in interviews that would be shared on the WSNWCB website and on its Facebook page. This campaign would be another way to celebrate the hard-working staff and volunteer board members.
- Kittanya was collaborating with the Washington Invasive Species Council to help launch their Play, Clean, Go campaign, which would help educate boaters, hikers, trail riders, and other outdoor enthusiasts about steps to avoid the spread of invasive species by cleaning their gear.
- Kittanya had been promoting several Facebook campaigns and maintaining an average of five posts per week. The response to these posts has been excellent and that the WSNWCB Facebook page is growing rapidly.
- Alison shared that Kittanya had obtained her Washington Public Operator Pesticide License.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg provided the update. The field season was wrapping up and the Spartina crews were winding down. The flowering rush site in Douglas County that was hand-pulled as an EDRR response was surveyed and found to contain additional plants outside of the pulled/covered area. A diver was brought back to pull with funding from the Douglas County WSU Extension. Jenifer

added that the site would be monitored for several years. Mike Mackey had put together a meeting with the PUD and WSDA to discuss future plans and land ownership issues.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison shared that the Budget Committee meeting has not been held yet, though the budget is on track.

Alison requested up to \$4,000.00 of Special Projects Money for the Coordinator’s Handbook rewrite. If approved, Alison would ask Bridget Simon to work on it.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to spend up to \$4,000.00 to rewrite the Coordinator’s Handbook.
	Wes McCart	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Alison mentioned that WSDA was running out of space, as many of its programs had been expanding. The WSNWCB office currently occupies three cubicles within WSDA’s Commodities Division, which was looking for additional space. Alison was considering a “teleworking” arrangement, which would have Kittanya and Alison sharing one cubicle space and alternating between days in the office and telecommuting from their homes, which they often do now. She noted that several agencies were working towards teleworking arrangements for employees who do not need to meet face-to-face in the office very often or who have to commute significant distances.

- This plan could save the Board money in rent and facility expenses (Alison was not sure of exact amount but estimated \$500/month). The savings would remain in the WSNWCB budget.
- The board discussed storage space. Alison noted that the Board has a storage unit where all the publications were housed.
- Over the past two years, over seven full-size file cabinets had been purged, scanned, and/or archived. Kittanya was working to scan all remaining files in the office, so they can easily fit the bookcase, main publications, and a desk in the shared cubicle.
- Office phones will be transferred to cell phones, eliminating any changes or hiccups in service.
- Alison would be meeting with Brad to discuss the plan with the Workspace Committee. She would know within the next couple of weeks if the plan would be approved. If approved, the change would likely happen January.

Alison had met with WSDA Deputy Director Kirk Robinson regarding the Board’s FY11 budget reduction which eliminated one full time employee, Class A funding, etc. He suggested putting in a request through the WSDA for an increase in the supplemental budget for next year. Alison will be working with them to apply. This funding would only be for FY 2018.

CHANGES TO THE 2017 WEED LIST

The Board discussed the testimony received from Okanogan County and whether redesignating Ravenna grass in Okanogan County constituted a substantive change to the language submitted with the CR-102. Alison noted that in the past their rule-making policy did not allow changes to the language submitted in the CR-102 other than minor changes such as punctuation and spelling. She recommended that Okanogan County NWCB request the redesignation for the 2018 weed list. Commissioner McCart noted that he had been able to testify and have changes made to CR-102 language at public hearings for other agencies. Wes suggested that, so long as changes remained in the scope of the CR-102, these changes could be made. Alison agreed to check with the Board's attorney.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to reclassify Ravenna grass, <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , from a Class A to a Class B noxious weed, to be designated in: Cowlitz County of Region 3; Region 4, except Chelan County; Region 5, except Yakima and Grant counties; Region 6, except Benton County
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to designate the Meadow subgenus of hawkweeds (<i>Hieracium</i> subgenus <i>Pilosella</i>) in Pierce County.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to designate meadow knapweed (<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>) in Pierce County.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Wes	Moved to undesignate myrtle spurge (<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>) in Pierce County.
	Bill	Seconded the motion
	<i>The Board</i>	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

COMMITTEE UPDATES
Pollinator Forage Committee

The pollinator forage committee had a teleconferenced meeting last week. Alison would be drafting an RFP for someone to write guidelines for replacing noxious weeds with pollinator friendly native species based on specific scenarios. Alison worked with the committee to draft a request to send to coordinators to start looking for candidates for the on-the-ground projects throughout WA that have 0.1-1.0 acre to convert to native, pollinator-friendly species with the guidance of the county boards. Control work would occur through 2018, and then the Board would provide seeds and plant starts of native, pollinator-friendly species. Alternatively,

landowners could create forage patches concurrently with weed control on adjacent plots. Alison hoped that they would have 10-30 candidates, ideally located where farmers and beekeepers will benefit the most in both Eastern and Western WA. The board discussed funding for this pilot project. OFM would hopefully be providing \$17k for this program for FY17 towards seed packets and producing the guidelines.

Alison had contacted Ed Hume Seed Co and Washington-based, commercial, native seed producers to discuss the potential of using native seeds in the Bee-u-tify seed packets. She noted that the cost per packet would be higher and much more outreach would be needed to educate the recipients regarding the care of these perennial plants.

The board discussed the committee membership, which included Carey Caruso (Chair), Emily Stevenson, Loretta Nichols, Dirk Veleke, Ray Willard, and Judy Blanco.

Legislative Committee:

Commissioner McCart updated the Board that an extremely rough draft from the AAG had been completed. Several sections, including assessments, liens, timberland, and others still needed to be addressed before the rough draft could be sent out to the Board. Wes explained that the committee had great discussion regarding the issues with the current law and was looking at 2018 to have a bill introduced.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Anna Lyon, Okanogan County NWCB Coordinator, shared that her program was still working hard in their weed control activities, including surveying and spraying. Staff had found new spurge flax sites, including two new sites last week located several miles away from previous sites. The Okanogan County NWCB would be discussing its Class A listing and the eradication required, noting that their surveyors were having trouble finding it. Additionally, the cost of control work for spurge flax had been increasing for landowners. The Board discussed funding from WSDA for fire restoration, and Anna noted that her program had received \$300K this year and \$250K last year for noxious weed treatment and revegetation efforts. The southern spurge flax infestation was covered partially by the wildfire funding but the northern part was not. She added that all sites were on private lands, primarily on ATV trails, cow trails, etc.

Mike Mackey noted that all funding from the WSNWCB Class A eradication funding had been expended for wild four o'clock control work. This Class A species was still showing up but less often. He had visited the areas where Eurasian watermilfoil was treated in the Columbia River last August. The control work looked very successful and remaining Eurasian watermilfoil plants are almost non-existent, even in difficult to reach areas. The Chelan County NWCB would continue to monitor and hoped other would do the same. Their knotweed program had been active for seven years and included monitoring of about 500 sites with more discovered each year. Their rush skeletonweed control work had not been very successful, and more sites had been found this year, including 10 acres along the Columbia River, on the site of a new housing development and along the railroad tracks. It was also found along the Stehekin riverbank in the

flood zone, along the Stehekin airport runway managed by Parks (who would be spraying this site), and along Hwy 97A, where WSDOT had been cooperating with the Chelan County NWCB to control it. Mike had requested funding through NRCS for poison hemlock control along creeks and he had organized a local partnership to work with and provide in-kind funding to the flowering rush CWMA. He wanted the deep-water flowering rush to be genetically tested. Jenifer noted that the samples had been sent off for analysis. Mike mentioned that his Board had been working hard on Ravenna grass educational programs and surveying. He added that the most of the Ravenna grass in Chelan County was non-escaping ornamental plantings in yards with a few escaped plants that were mostly along railroads and other ROWs.

Dick Jacobson, Yakima County NWCB Coordinator, noted that they had found their first hairy willowherb infestation. The site was small, surrounded by orchards and water, and would be monitored. They also found 1.5 acres solid of orange hawkweed. The Yakima County NWCB supplied herbicide and assisted the landowner in spraying, and there had been no regrowth so far. Dick noted that the Eurasian watermilfoil in Dog Lake that had been sprayed 8 years ago was now returning. The Yakima County NWCB would work with USFS to ensure that it was controlled. They had reduced the Oriental clematis infestation down to 10% of its original acreage. However, a large number of sites and solid infestations of tansy ragwort had been found this year. The Yakima County NWCB has been spraying and surveying.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS

Jennifer Andreas had attended the Northern Rockies Invasive Species Management meeting and rush skeletonweed symposium. All Western states were experiencing the same spread and difficulty to control rush skeletonweed, and there was a renewed interest in biocontrol. There were two new potential options for biocontrol insects for rush skeletonweed: a root-feeding moth and root-feeding weevil. Additional funding was being sought. Funding from WA would not only help expand control options long-term but would also give provide first access to biocontrol agents. Jennifer also updated the board on genetic analyses of flowering rush analysis. A graduate student in Canada was looking at genetic samples that were thought to be triploids but found that they were diploid. A field release petition would be submitted for the potential spring release of a potential biocontrol agent for flowering rush. A rust pathogen had also been found. Jennifer was waiting for USFW to sign off on the knotweed research petition. Canada had already released the new knotweed biocontrol agent and it overwintered in Alberta and BC.

Dick Jacobson asked Tony when he would retire from WSNWCB. Tony replied that he would continue on the Board for one more year.

MEETING EVALUATION

No evaluation comments were made.

- The January meeting of the WSNWCB would be held in Olympia on Jan 19th at NRB. DOT, WDFW, and WISC would be invited to provide updates.
- The March meeting would be held in conjunction with the Coordinators Conference, March 8th in Chelan County.

- The May meeting would be held May 18th, possibly as a field tour.
- The July meeting would be July 20th.
- The September meeting would be September 21st.
- The November meeting would be held in conjunction with Weed Conference, October 31st or Nov 7th.

The Board adjourned at 3:28 with a motion by Bill Agosta, seconded by Commissioner McCart. All in favor.

Tony Stadelman, Chairman
WSNWCB

Dirk Veleke, Secretary
WSNWCB

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
WSNWCB

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