

**Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
November 7, 2012
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar and
Hosted at the WSDA building in Yakima**

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Butch Klaveano
Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members Present

Butch Klaveano	Commissioner Jim DeTro
Jerry Hendrickson	Jenifer Parsons
Sarah Cooke	Mary Toohey (via GoTo Webinar)
Bob Roth	William Agosta (via GoTo Webinar)
Joe Coombs	

Others Present

Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Kathy Hamel (via GoToMeeting)	Washington Department of Ecology
Justin Bush (via GoToMeeting)	Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
Sonny Gohrman	Snohomish County Noxious Weed Control Board
Nelle Murray	Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board
Vic Reeve	Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board
Peggy Wright	Whitman County Noxious Weed Control Board
Sue Winterowd	Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
Brian Sheldon	
Marilyn Sheldon	
Dick Sheldon	

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Butch entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting.

VOTE	Jim DeTro	Moved to approve minutes for the September 2012 board meeting
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed a partial office report for September and a report for October
Alison:

- Has been working on rule-making, including the small business economic impact analysis and drafting up the new language in WAC 16-750. She expressed appreciation to the Office of Typing Services (OTS) for their quick turnaround on so many edits to the noxious weed list.
- Has been administering the elections for State Weed Board positions 2 (southeast tier) and 4 (northeast tier).
- In October both Wendy and Alison attended a Washington Friends of Farms and Forests workshop about communicating effectively about pesticide use

Wendy:

- Has been giving many presentations, including a training for Washington Conservation Commission crews
- Has been involved with increased public outreach
- Has been using Google Analytics to track State Weed Board website traffic. Over five weeks of tracking website usage:
 - there have been 1,299 visits
 - 911 of these were unique visitors
 - 77 of these visitors used mobile devices

The Board discussed:

- Butch asked about the possibility of having state weed board biographies on the website. Wendy noted that it was on her to-do list and was a priority after the board meeting and public hearing.
- Alison mentioned that she had attended a meeting in Wenatchee where there were some legislative staffers who mentioned effective ways to communicate with legislators. As a result, Wendy and Alison are planning on producing a quarterly e-newsletter.

WSDA UPDATE

Mary Toohey:

- WSDA Plant Protection staff is working on annual reports. Knotweed coordinator Tanner Ketel will be leaving WSDA at the end of November.

Greg Haubrich:

- Greg is preparing to send out RFP for USFS Forest Health and Protection (FHP) funding. Last year there was \$125K available; this year there will only be \$25K for the funding cycle due to budget reduction.
- He is still working with EDDMapS through the Missouri River Watershed Coalition so that Washington has a Smartphone App to report Class A noxious weed discoveries as well as biocontrol insects. EDDMapS is getting funding for the Pacific Northwest Early Detection Network, and all new sightings flow from EDDMapS to Greg, who often passes the information onto Wendy and Alison and WISC. Hopefully they will be adding some invasive animals to the App soon.

The Board discussed:

- Jerry asked if county weed boards had access to EDDMapS. Greg replied that anyone can register with EDDMapS. That way, you will be notified by email when a species is reported in your county and/or state. It might be a good idea to provide training.
- Does EDDMapS track cattle disease? Greg noted that it is set up to track some plant diseases but not for cattle disease.
- Sue Winterowd asked if sightings could be sent to EDDMapS using a GPS unit and laptop. Greg replied that if you took a GPS point, you could enter it online later.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah gave the report. The Budget Committee met via GoToMeeting on October 5 to discuss special project allotments. They discussed allocation options of special project funding for Class A eradication projects, road signs, publications, and display pictures. Western Washington field guides and GardenWise publications are in short supply now. Alison has been working on a template form for Class A eradication proposals to standardize the application process. Their recommendation to the Board:

- A maximum of \$15K towards Class A eradication funding, with a \$3K cap per project.
- Up to \$6K towards western WA reprint of field guides.
- Up to \$2K towards tabletop display pictures

- Up to \$2K towards Full Circle brochure
- Surplus money would be used towards GardenWise. Wendy has asked western WA counties to help with printing.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to approve special projects appropriations for FY13
	Jim DeTro	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE 2013 NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Motion to add French broom

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to list French broom as a Class A noxious weed
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to add Tall Hawkweed

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to list tall hawkweed as a Class B noxious weed
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to add Common Barberry

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to list common barberry as a Class C noxious weed
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to add Common Teasel

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to list common teasel as a Class C noxious weed
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to amend Class C listing of Japanese eelgrass

The Board discussed:

- Bill Agosta felt that the Japanese eelgrass vote should be postponed until Ecology's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is complete and there is more technical scientific information. Kathy Hamel pointed out that the EIS for imazamox looks at impacts of using herbicide, alternatives, and of taking no action but would not answer questions about the impact of Japanese eelgrass itself.
- Sarah Cooke pointed out that there was a difference between the weed listing and Ecology's permit. If Japanese eelgrass were listed everywhere and a county weed board did select it for control, then non-commercial growers might have a hard time controlling it without coverage under Ecology's permit since only commercial shellfish growers are exempt from the HPA process.
- Sarah did not think that listing Japanese eelgrass as a Class C everywhere would be helpful. She pointed out that RCW 17.10 explicitly allows county weed boards to provide education, management plans, and outreach for any unlisted weed of local concern. She suggested that there were other ways the Board could show support for the shellfish growers. They could ask DNR and UW to hold a follow-up workshop on Japanese eelgrass, the Board could write letters of

support to Ecology, or the Board could bring all stakeholders together again and find an acceptable resolution.

- Butch asked why the draft NPDES permit was limited to clam beds but not oyster beds. He also asked about Ecology's timeline. Kathy replied that Ecology was keeping the permit small in scope, based on public comments. Because clam beds in Willapa Bay were the most impacted by Japanese eelgrass, it made sense to align the permit with the need to manage Japanese eelgrass there. As for the timeline, Kathy said that it depended on how quickly an acceptable EIS could be drafted. If the EIS could be completed soon, it could be possible for the shellfish growers to treat clam beds this next season. However, the permit process takes time to get the drafts out, process comments, make revisions, etc., and it might be unrealistic to anticipate the permit being available for the 2013 application season.
- Butch asked Kathy if it was possible to issue a temporary permit for a specific area. Kathy replied that it was difficult to do that, and she stressed that the NPDES permit does not relate to the Board's decision.
- Marilyn Sheldon said that she appreciated Kathy's work on the permit and noted that the process will take years. It is becoming a more and more narrow and restrictive process to use herbicides.
- Sarah mentioned that the State Weed Board was not able to directly help with the permitting process. She expressed concern that listing Japanese eelgrass everywhere could be difficult for small landowners if county weed boards select it for mandatory control. She suggested the proposed change to the Japanese eelgrass listing be postponed a year to gather additional information.
- Bob Roth reminded the Board that the Pacific County NWCB coordinator had testified in favor of expanding the listing at the public hearing yesterday. Bob had asked if the Pacific County weed board and commissioners supported the proposal and they had said that they did. He felt that they had considered the issue carefully, so Bob was in favor of expanding the listing.
- Alison noted that the Board received testimony about the ecological impacts of Japanese eelgrass from ecologists they had not heard from before. She suggested they try to expedite another workshop to bring more experts in that might have more information about the positive and negative impacts. Maybe the Board could encourage DNR, UW, and ECY to allow for better communication.
- Butch asked if they could vote to list it in Pacific County only. Alison replied that they could only vote on the proposed amendment to list it as a Class C everywhere that day, but they could hold another public hearing at a later date if they wanted to vote on that alternative language. She brought up Bill's suggestion to defer the vote until they have more information. Jerry suggested that they hold a public hearing in January to list it in Pacific County.
- Dick Sheldon said that the proposal from the Pacific County Weed Board was for a listing in Pacific County only. Alison replied that the proposal was unclear and that she had confirmed with the Pacific County weed board coordinator that it was for a Class C listing everywhere. Dick stressed the ecological damage being done by Japanese eelgrass. He also explained that the Class C listing could help with other state agencies.
- Sarah pointed out that the listing would not help with the ability to control it. She said Japanese eelgrass seemed to have a different ecological role in parts of Puget Sound and that the Board did not have the information it needed to list it everywhere at this time. Sarah pointed out that if the proposed amendment was not adopted, it didn't mean the Board did not support the shellfish growers. She said the Board was committed to supporting their concerns about Japanese eelgrass but that the expanded Class C listing was not going to provide the help they needed.
- Brian Sheldon noted that California had listed Japanese eelgrass as a noxious weed and that WDFW had removed it from their Priority Species and Habitat list. The shellfish growers were the "boots on the ground", witnessing the negative effects of this species.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to postpone the vote on the Japanese eelgrass proposal until the EIS was available.
		The motion was not seconded.
		The Board took a 10-minute break

- Alison had been asked during the break about the process to list Japanese eelgrass on commercially managed shellfish beds everywhere and on all lands in Pacific County. She explained that the Board would need to vote to hold a public hearing to consider that amendment. She could file all the necessary rule-making paperwork to make that happen, and the vote to adopt the amendment would likely take place in early spring.
- Kathy noted that the current listing of Japanese eelgrass helped with ECY's Japanese eelgrass permit. It would have been difficult to get the permit initiated without that listing, but the proposed Class C listing everywhere will not affect the permitting process.
- Bill said that he initially wanted to wait to vote until the EIS was available, but he now understood that the report did not focus on the impacts of Japanese eelgrass. He suggested that Alison work with DNR and UW to hold another eelgrass meeting.
- Sarah asked Kathy why the draft permit was limited to Willapa Bay. Kathy replied that Willapa Bay clam growers have a serious problem with Japanese eelgrass and that starting the permit at a small scale in Willapa Bay would allow them to collect data on efficacy of imazamox and on non-target effects on native eelgrass.
- Bob asked for clarification on the EIS and whether they were waiting for the draft EIS or the final version. Kathy explained that they were waiting for the draft EIS.

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to postpone the voting on the Japanese eelgrass until further information was available following an eelgrass meeting with DNR and UW scientists and also the EIS. He made a friendly amendment to replace the EIS with the draft EIS.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		Motion did not carry. 3 yeas (Bill, Mary, and Sarah); 4 nays (Jim, Joe, Jerry, Bob).

The Board discussed:

- Butch asked when the spray period was for the shellfish growers. Brian Sheldon replied that it started around mid-April to early May. Kathy said that the window for spraying in the draft permit was April 15 through the end of June.

VOTE	Bob Roth	Moved to expand the listing of Japanese eelgrass to a Class C without the limitation to commercial shellfish beds as requested by the Pacific County Noxious Weed Control Board.
	Jim DeTro	Seconded the motion
		Motion carried. 5 yeas (Jim, Joe, Jerry, Bob, Mary); 2 nays (Bill and Sarah)

Motion to change the current 10 noxious weed regions to 6 regions.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to change the current 10 noxious weed regions to 6 regions.
	Joe Coombs	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to reclassify 11 Class B noxious weeds (Austrian fieldcress, blackgrass, common catsear, polar hawkweed, lawnweed, lepyrodiclis, longspine sandbur, oxeye daisy, perennial sowthistle, Swainsonpea, and wild carrot (except where commercially grown)) to Class C noxious weeds.

VOTE	Jim DeTro	Moved to reclassify the 11 Class B noxious weeds to Class C noxious weeds.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to adopt all updated Class B designations based on 6 noxious weed regions.

VOTE	Jim DeTro	Moved to adopt all updated Class B designations.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board reviewed the draft strategic plan and discussed how the new plan is easier to read and assess whether specific biennial goals are being accomplished. The plan can be incorporated into biennial reports.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the strategic plan as presented
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Snohomish County NWCB coordinator Sonny Gohrman explained that the Snohomish County NWCB currently did not have any serving board members, though there were two interested applicants. He also expressed concern that the county required him to remove the mention of enforcement in letters sent out to landowners with noxious weeds required for control, such as tansy ragwort. The Board discussed:

- Writing letters to Snohomish County and working with WASAC might help. Alison mentioned that she sent out letters and a copy of the biennial report to all county BOCs last year.
- Commissioner DeTro mentioned that the WASAC January training of new commissioners might be a good place to start.

Asotin County NWCB coordinator Nelle Murray gave an update for Asotin County. She noted that since there are only about 22K people living in Asotin County, she does things a little different. Despite having a budget of under \$70K, Asotin County has a proactive and aggressive weed control program. The program relies on funding and outreach from WSDA and the State Weed Board, and Nelle thanked Wendy and Alison for their help. She expressed sympathy for Sonny’s situation in Snohomish County.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Brian Sheldon thanked the State Weed Board on behalf of shellfish growers. He said that he appreciated all the testimony and was glad the Board made an informed decision in support of people who were concerned about Japanese eelgrass.

Dick Sheldon appreciated the State Weed Board’s decision as well. He felt that the Japanese eelgrass listing everywhere would have a more equal basis with ECY. He invited Board members to visit the shellfish growers in Willapa Bay, where they could see the impacts of Japanese eelgrass.

Franklin County NWCB coordinator Vic Reeve appreciated Nelle’s update and her successes in Asotin County. He appreciated each of the State Weed Board members’ involvement in the day’s discussion. He noted that in Franklin County, they are seeing more and more folks paying the noxious weed assessment fee who are not involved in agriculture and stressed the importance of their understanding the weed laws and the benefits to agriculture. He also pointed out that the Franklin County NWCB has had members who have served over 25 years and it will be very difficult to find replacement members when they leave. He expressed his wish that there was more consistency between the funding levels of county weed boards. It is difficult to control weeds spreading from adjacent counties because those county weed boards are less adequately funded.

MEETING EVALUATION

The Board discussed possible meeting dates and locations and planned the following times:

- January 24 in Olympia
- March 13 in Chelan
- May 16 in San Juan County
- July 25 in George
- September 19 in Olympia or Spokane
- November 6 in Wenatchee

The Board asked Alison to look into providing external microphones so that people attending the meeting via GoToMeeting can hear everyone better when the meeting is held in a large room.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Move to adjourn the meeting
	Bill Agosta	Secoded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Butch Klaveano, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Tony Stadelman, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Board