

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. September 15, 2011
Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Butch Klaveano
 Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members Present

Tim Miller	Steve Link	Tony Stadelman
Butch Klaveano	Jerry Hendrickson	Mary Toohey
Sarah Cooke	Joe Coombs	Gary Finkas
Commissioner Jim DeTro		

Others Present

Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Glenn Lebsack	Clark County Vegetation Management
Bill Wamsley	Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board
Justin Bush	Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
Angelica Velazquez	Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Ron Hendrickson	Clark County Vegetation Management
Vic Reeve	Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board

Handouts Provided:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes for the July 13 meeting
- Office reports for July and August
- End-of-Year budget summary
- Summary of proposals for 2012
- Proposed listing guideline language for WAC 16-750-022

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to approve minutes with correction to page 2, change “being” to “begin” in sentence “for board members starting ...”
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion with correction
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed:

- Office reports for July and August

Alison Halpern:

- Busy month. Attended Commission on Pesticide Registration tour of western Washington and talked to the tour group about the state weed board.
- Started work in August on SBEIS analysis for proposed rule changes by mailing out hard-copy letters and surveys to about 50 nurseries and about 50 commercial shellfish growers as well as creating online surveys for both groups using SurveyMonkey.com.
- Tansy ragwort populations exploded in August. Both Wendy and Alison have received many emails and phone calls about tansy control. Alison commended county coordinators, who have received far more calls/emails and have been very responsive when contacted and have been working hard to address the tansy problem.

Wendy DesCamp:

- Drafted the Written Findings for the 2012 proposals.
- Has been working on the website and communicating with DIS to get the site transferred successfully to the server.
- Noticed a general increase in questions from the public.
- Sent out a press release about tansy ragwort and answered questions about tansy from the public and the media.

WSDA UPDATE

Greg Haubrich

- WSDA has a new knotweed coordinator, Tanner Ketel, who had been working in the Spartina program for several years.
- Interagency agreements for knotweed control projects will be sent out shortly.
- Will be sending out an RFP for Forest Health Protection funding soon.

Mary Toohey: (gave her report later in the meeting)

- The Governor asked every department to come up with budget package proposals with 5% and 10% reduction scenarios.
- General sense is that WSDA cannot continue to reduce funding for ongoing programs, because soon no program can meet the goals set for it. Instead the department is in the difficult position of prioritizing what programs and projects might have to be eliminated. State weed board is not part of the reduction/elimination scenarios proposed by WSDA at this time, but the ultimate outcome depends on the difficult decisions of the Governor and legislature.
- Thanked Greg for providing other updates.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the document End-of-Year budget summary

The Board and Alison discussed:

- All of the Class A eradication and special projects contracts were completed and paid by the end of the fiscal year. Alison will summarize accomplishments of the projects and will email the report to the Board.
- The Board ended the fiscal year with \$17,671 unspent from all three funding accounts, which was attributed to staff vacancy, travel reimbursement freeze, and, to a lesser degree, over-allocating of anticipated operation costs to prevent overspending.
- The state budgetary shortfall and what it might mean for the state weed board and WSDA (Mary addressed in the WSDA report after the financial report).

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Listing Guidelines Committee

The board reviewed document Proposed listing guideline language for WAC

- The Committee drafted listing guidelines by combining and then abridging existing language from website, listing process document, and SHB1169.
- Tony suggested clarification for timeline to resubmit rejected proposal and the word “future” was inserted to reflect that a resubmission would not be reconsidered right away and would also have to follow the routine listing timeline.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to move forward and vote on the language for WAC 16.750.022 at the November board meeting.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no one opposed.

Noxious Weed Committee

Tim Miller noted that the NWC had met on September 6 to finalize final recommendations and presented the proposed changes to the 2012 noxious weed list using the PowerPoint document NWC meeting summary Sept. 2011.

Oriental clematis, *Clematis orientalis* – proposed as a Class A noxious weed

- Found in Yakima County; infestations dense and it grows on cliff sides, moist areas, riparian habitats, etc.
- On Colorado’s noxious weed list
- NWC supported Class A listing, as oriental clematis had clear negative attributes and eradication would be a good goal.

The Board discussed:

- Tony inquired about the populations found in OR; Wendy will follow up with OR’s population information.
- Tim noted that the dense infestations reminded him of kudzu.
- Tim noted that it was unclear how long it’s been such a fast spreader and that it was difficult to get rid of.

Tree-of-Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima* – proposed as a Class B but NWC recommended as a Class C

- Full-sized tree that was widely planted as an ornamental.
- Provides dense shade underneath, crowds out other species, is allelopathic, and rapidly grows and spreads. It is also an allergen and can cause dermatitis.
- Distributed throughout southeastern U.S. and California and grows on both sides of the Cascades; found throughout Washington.
- NWC recommended moving the proposal forward based on ecological impacts, but as a Class C rather than a Class B, as it would be hard to designate it for control from a statewide perspective. A class C listing would still allow counties to select if they want.

The Board discussed:

- Tony asked if tree-of-heaven was sold in nurseries. Alison noted that based on survey responses, it was unlikely. The fact that this species was included in the eastern WA GardenWise provides further indication that it is not widely carried in the nursery trade.
- Tony asked what was being used to control this species. Tim noted that a lot of work had been done in CA that showed that trunk injection and applying herbicide to cut bark using imazapyr and glyphosate were better than foliar spraying.
- Tim explained the difference between tree-of-heaven and sumac, which can look similar to one another, causing some to mistaken the species.
- The NWC supported this proposal but felt a Class C listing would be better, given the known distribution.

Italian arum, *Arum italicum* – Proposed as a Class B noxious weed, though the NWC considered a Class C listing

- Italian arum is an ornamental, perennial plant with variegated and non-variegated types. It is very difficult to control, in part because the tubers are difficult to remove from the soil. Like many in the arum family, it contains some toxic oxalates.
- The NWC did not recommend moving this proposal forward due to a lack of information about impacts and would rather it remain on the monitor list so more data could be collected.

The Board discussed:

- Sarah asked about its distribution and if it was a problem in eastern WA, as she hadn't noticed it before. Tim answered that it was primarily escaping in western WA.
- Angelica asked if DNR had any data or if they had worked on it in riparian areas. Tim replied that he had met with Birdie Davenport at a site with Italian arum but there weren't enough plants to conduct an herbicide trial. He also tried to grow tubers in his greenhouse but they did not grow very well. If he can germinate tubers more effectively, he could try an herbicide trial.

Common barberry, *Berberis vulgaris* – Proposed as a Class B noxious weed

- Woody shrub growing up to 5-6 feet.
- USDA had developed eradication program in the 1930's, and existing WAC allows pest boards to enforce eradication.
- Common barberry is an alternate host of black stem rust; the rust moves from the barberry to wheat when in its sexual stage.
- Hasn't been a large problem with black stem rust in Washington for awhile, although several barley fields in eastern Washington were affected last summer.
- Larger concern is that there is a new, more virulent race of stem rust that has been spreading into Northern and Eastern Africa, and that this strain might enter the U.S., in which case it would be ideal to remove all host plants around wheat fields.
- WSU proposed a Class B listing, but NWC did not recommend moving forward with that listing since only control of Class B noxious weeds is required, and the goal here is eradication. However, it is too widespread to be a candidate for a Class A noxious weed.
- NWC recommended that the proposal be deferred so that further solutions can be considered, such as MOU's between WSDA pest boards and county weed boards.

The Board discussed:

- Tony asked if folks who were supposed to controlling [eradicating] were doing anything. Tim replied that it was possible to mow or cut the shrubs, but that many growers may not

have done anything lately. However, they might be paying more attention now, due to the risk of the new strain of black stem rust.

- Alison noted that the Board can work with WSU, WSDA, and pest boards. WSU had sought funding to conduct a survey of common barberry. Perhaps we could see if some populations overlap in pest board areas.
- Tim mentioned that WSU extension was talking more actively now about black stem rust.
- Tony suggested that a request be sent out to pest boards. Mary pointed out that pest boards are generally associated with the tree fruit industry, so there were no pest boards in dryland areas.
- Tim pointed out that the Board could always move forward with the proposal. He felt that it can impact agriculture. The problem is the distinction between “eradication” as already required in the WAC and that it doesn’t fit a Class A noxious weed, but a Class B or C listing would not meet the eradication goal.

Japanese eelgrass, *Zostera japonica* – Proposed as a Class C noxious weed; NWC suggested modified language to limit noxious weed listing to commercially managed shellfish beds only

- The Board has heard about Japanese eelgrass in past meetings.
- It appears to have clear impacts to the shellfish growers but also has mixed impacts as well.
- The native eelgrass, *Zostera marina*, is a very beneficial species; native eelgrass beds harbor numerous organisms.
- The two eelgrass species generally grow separately, but there is some overlap. Japanese eelgrass occurs higher up in the tidal zone; native eelgrass occurs in deeper water. Japanese eelgrass may hold water higher in the mudflats, allowing the native to grow there, too.
- The limited listing could help shellfish growers while allowing biologists to conduct further research to see how Japanese eelgrass impacts the whole ecosystem. Japanese eelgrass distribution was based on map in symposium report. It is found in the Puget Sound, where it may act a bit differently than in Willapa Bay.

The Board discussed:

- Shellfish growers, in general, are more concerned about the perception of controlling an eelgrass species, especially when there is concern that there is controversy over whether it is beneficial or invasive.
- A noxious weed listing would give them some backing. The NPDES process is separate from the noxious weed listing process.
- The agricultural production of shellfish is being impacted by Japanese eelgrass. The modified listing supports farmers by acknowledging that this species meets the definition of a noxious weed by causing negative economic impacts on shellfish beds.
- NWC was mixed in its deliberation but decided to move it forward to the full Board.

Russian thistle, *Salsola tragus* - Proposed as a Class C noxious weed

- Russian thistle has been around a long time and is clearly an agricultural problem.
- The NWC felt that it was too widespread and a listing would not necessarily be useful; however the NWC was not totally opposed and if the Board wanted to move it forward, a Class C listing would make sense.

Common teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum* – Proposed as a Class C noxious weed

- Teasel had been submitted a couple of times before.
- WSDOT has noticed common teasel showing up more often on roadsides.
- Teasel is widespread throughout Washington.
- Because this species does not seem to be difficult to control, the NWC did not recommend moving this proposal forward.

Other changes to 2012 noxious weed list:

- Undesignate hairy willow-herb in Walla Walla County [accidentally designated when this species changed from a C to a B, despite request from Walla Walla NWCB to not designate it.
- Clarify Class B designation of hoary alyssum in Okanogan County.
- Add Crack willow species to the monitor list.
- Suite of tall willow species and a hybrid found in Eastern WA.
 - It can hybridize with some of the native willows.
 - Unclear if these species perform a different function than native willows.
 - The NWC added the species to monitor list at May meeting;

Action item: Board votes on listing proposals to be included at public hearing in November:

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to move forward the proposal of listing Oriental clematis (<i>Clematis orientalis</i>) to the November public hearing.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to move forward the proposal of listing tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>) to the November public hearing as proposed by the Noxious Weed Committee as a Class C noxious weed.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to follow the Noxious Weed Committee recommendation to defer listing of common barberry (<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>) and add it to the monitor list.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to follow the Noxious Weed Committee recommendation of leaving Italian arum (<i>Arum italicum</i>) on the monitor list.
	Joe Coombs	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Motioned to move forward the listing of Japanese eelgrass (<i>Zostera japonica</i>) as a Class C noxious weed on commercially managed shellfish beds only.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		Vote passed <i>In support:</i> Sarah Cooke, Commissioner DeTro, Mary Toohey, Jerry Hendrickson, Joe Coombs, Gary Finkas <i>Opposed:</i> Tony Stadelman

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to follow the Noxious Weed Committee recommendation of <i>not</i> moving forward the proposal of Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>) as a Class C noxious weed.
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to follow the Noxious Weed Committee recommendation of <i>not</i> moving forward the proposal of common teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>) as a Class C noxious weed.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

Vote on housekeeping items:

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	4 housekeeping items: un-designate hairy willow-herb in Walla Walla County, correct contradictory designation of hoary alyssum in Okanogan County, add an 'x' in WAC for the name <i>Polygonum x bohemicum</i> , to correctly indicate it is a hybrid, change the committee terms, to the same dates as board member terms.
	Tony Stadelman	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

Crack Willow:

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Motioned to follow the Noxious Weed Committee recommendation of adding the crack willow species to the monitor list.
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no opposition

Butch thanked Tim and NWC, too, for all of their work.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

The Board reviewed the online document Suggested Committees 2011.

Chairman Butch Klaveano:

- Appointed Sarah Cooke as chairman of the budget committee.

- Commissioner DeTro as chairman of legislative committee and as a member of the public lands committee.
- Thanked Sarah for the excellent work she has done chairing the survey standards committee and asked if it was time to dissolve that committee now that the work had been completed. Sarah agreed and expressed interest in teaching a class to coordinators. Greg and WSDA staff have been providing one-on-one training.

COORDINATORS FORUM - No comments

FUTURE DIRECTIONS – No comments

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – No comments

MEETING EVALUATION

The Board discussed:

- Alison and Wendy will troubleshoot the reverb problem on the GoTo Meeting phone line.
- Public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, at 1pm in Yakima Nov. 1st; tentatively scheduled at Yakima City Hall (Alison is awaiting confirmation).
- Board members are not physically required to be present at meetings – they can attend remotely as well.
- Board members are currently eligible for travel expense reimbursement (mileage, lodging, meals) for attending their public hearing.
- Tony expressed interest in holding a strategic plans committee meeting in Yakima.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to adjourn
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion.
		All in favor, no one opposed.

The Board adjourned at 11:10 a.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 Control Board