

Regular Meeting of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

9:00 a.m. November 5, 2014

Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar

and hosted at the Confluence Technology Center, located at 285 Technology Center Way, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting
- Draft minutes of the September 2014 board meeting
- Office report for October
- Budget summary spreadsheet
- Bee Friendly Logo
- Summary list of 2015 weed list proposals
- 2015 calendar for scheduling meetings

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chairman Tony Stadelman

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Tony Stadelman	Brad White	Bob Roth	Tim Miller
Sarah Cooke	Bill Agosta	Jim DeTro	Jenifer Parsons
Dirk Veleke	Jerry Hendrickson		

Others present:

- Alison Halpern, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Wendy DesCamp, WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Greg Haubrich, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Angelica Velazquez, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Mike Mackey, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Bill noted that it was still raining in San Juan County.
- Tony mentioned that there had been a little rain in George and that he was still picking apples.
- Jerry said that Asotin County could use some rain.
- Sarah mentioned that she would be giving a talk on reed canarygrass at the Olympic Peninsula Knotweed Working group later in the month.
- Dirk’s company had been working with the Chelan County PUD with a rare lily (lady tresses) along Columbia river. Blackberries were taking over, so they were clearing them by wicking the stems. They had done this last year in a different spot and it looked look like it was working well.
- Jim mentioned that, according to King 5 TV, Okanogan County was the bud king of the state.
- Jenifer attended a flowering rush meeting with Greg Haubrich, Jennifer Andreas, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Flowering rush was now along the Columbia in the McNary Dam area, and the permitting to control it was a nightmare.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for September.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to accept the minutes for the September 2014 Board meeting
	Jim DeTro	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

OFFICE REPORTS

Alison:

- Thanked Mike Mackey for setting up meeting location.
- Attended a WSDA nursery advisory committee meeting to present on proposed additions to the quarantine list for 2015. The committee was appreciative of the survey effort (it went out to over 1,500 nurseries) and interested in the responses.
- Helped WSDA to coordinate reseeding efforts by state and federal agencies in the Carlton Complex and worked with Anna Lyon to submit a request through the Okanogan Conservation District to OFM for noxious weed control assistance for private landowners.
- Gave poison hemlock and tansy brochures to WSDA Animal Services to hand out to their stakeholders. WSDA wrote an article warning about tansy ragwort in the Cattleman’s newsletter.
- Was assisting the Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board as they were working to restructure their noxious weed assessment to include both incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- Submitted all pertinent rule-making paperwork.
- Had the draft design for seed packet cover. It looked like they would be able to order around 35,000 seed packets.
- Thanked Wendy for her hard work and many accomplishments.

Wendy

- Gave a presentation on noxious weeds in Washington and a plant identification workshop with Tim Miller at a WSU Extension workshop.
- Also gave a presentation and plant identification workshop for DNR’s Puget Sound Corps Urban Forestry WCC crews in Olympia. There were four crews in attendance, and they would be working all around western WA.
- Was a guest lecturer with a UW graduate class about the state weed board and her job.
- Provided editing and input on the Early Invaders books, which will include many Class A noxious weeds and also some monitor species.
- Had created noxious weed playing cards for WISC, who would be funding their production. There were 52 different noxious weeds on the cards, and the cards would go out to counties.
- Was wrapping up projects prior to her departure to China. She had been working on SOPs for the website and had given Alison a tutorial on making changes to web pages and the database.
- Thanked the Board for her time working with them as a full-time employee and was looking forward to providing updated written findings and other writing projects while she was away.

The Board Discussed:

Tony asked about upcoming Board member elections. Alison replied that the elections for positions 1,3 and 5 were ongoing and the ballots had been mailed out. All incumbent members had received nominations.

WSDA UPDATE

Brad White provided the update.

Last session, a bill came out to direct WSDA to form a honey bee working group to help the beekeeping industry stay competitive and sustainable in Washington. One of the beekeepers’ concerns was that quality forage was a limiting factor (for survival and honey production). They felt that noxious weeds provided a good source of

forage and were not pleased with activities of the county and state weed boards in that they listed and controlled noxious weeds the beekeepers use. WSDA had been educating the beekeepers of the working group on the different roles of the state and county weed boards. The working group’s final report would be coming out soon.

The Board Discussed:

Sarah pointed out that she was active with the Puget Sound beekeepers and that many beekeepers did not agree with this working group, as they understood the impacts of noxious weeds and why control was so important.

Bob noted that beekeeping and weed control have been going on for decades and wondered what brought this controversy on.

Brad explained that there used to be a more diverse set of crops grown and a less intensive use of land, with border plants that provided a good source of pollen and nectar. Alfalfa was now cut before it bloomed, whereas it used to be cut after blooming. With the reduction of forage from crops, the beekeepers were more focused on noxious weed availability.

Mike pointed out that WDFW, DNR, and BLM had picked up a lot of lands that had abundant diffuse knapweed on it, which the bees love. That should be reflected in the report.

Alison explained that it had been hard to explain to the beekeepers of the working group that many landowners and resource managers chose to control noxious weeds such as Himalayan blackberry, even if control wasn’t required by law. The non-invasive pollinator-friendly seed packets would be a great way to educate while encouraging people to plant forage species for bees.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Alison gave the report. The Board did not sustain any reductions for this fiscal year and its budget is on track. The Board was using the \$5K from its special projects for the seed packet campaign and was grateful that WSDA and WISC were able to provide some funding as well. It allowed them to contract Drake Cooper to design the packet cover and purchase 35K packets (with some county weed boards and other groups buying a portion of these directly).

VOTE ON CHANGES TO 2015 NOXIOUS WEED LIST

VOTE	Jim DeTro	Moved to add Ravenna grass as a Class A noxious weed for 2015
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	<p>Sarah pointed out that it would have been a straightforward listing had they not heard that the Yakima County NWCB had recently found many ornamental plantings. She was worried that it would continue to spread if they didn’t list it now. Perhaps Yakima County NWCB could educate for a couple of years to give landowners time and options to replace it. It would make sense to list it as a Class A now and revisit it in a couple of years in case it turned out to be more prevalent than originally thought.</p> <p>Dick Jacobson reiterated that they would enforce on escaped populations for now. They recognized that it had started spreading rapidly, so if it was listed as a Class A they would require control of escaped populations immediately. He was surprised by how fast it was spreading in Benton county and he felt that it met the criteria of a Class A noxious weed.</p>

		<p>Tony asked if there were non-invasive alternatives available. Sarah replied that there were, and that a list could be developed. Alison mentioned that they had a list of suitable alternatives already, and that Great Plant Picks and Oregon's Garden Smart had good recommendations. Wendy noted that the Written Findings provided some non-invasive alternatives.</p> <p>Tim noted that he and the Noxious Weed Committee felt strongly that it was important to go after Ravenna grass now, considering how rapidly it was spreading. There was always the opportunity to downgrade next year if necessary. A Class A listing gets people to notice and prioritize this invasive grass.</p>
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried

VOTE	Bob Roth	Moved to add pampas grass as a Class C noxious weed for 2015
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	Sarah suggested that there be a press release or something online that would help people tell the invasive grasses apart. Alison noted that the Written Findings for all three species have comparisons between the grasses.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to add jubata grass as a Class C noxious weed for 2015
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried

VOTE	Bob Roth	Moved to add Italian arum as a Class C noxious weed for 2015
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	<p>Tim mentioned that there was no good management method at this point, as control appears to be difficult. Education should be the focus for now. Sarah asked whether Italian arum responded to herbicide. Tim replied that it's really hard to kill the tubers, and that it was becoming widespread in Western WA.</p>
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Dirk Veleke	Moved to reclassify shiny geranium from a Class A to a Class B noxious weed to be designated for control everywhere except Clark County.
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	<p>Tim— The Noxious Weed Committee had a lengthy discussion on this proposal. Some members thought it still should still be a Class A, but given its current distribution, the Class B reclassification made more sense.</p> <p>Bill mentioned that the situation in San Juan County situation is similar. 2-3 years ago they thought they could eradicate shiny geranium, but it wasn't possible, unless it was the only focus of their program.</p>

		Alison reminded the Board that when shiny geranium was first proposed as a Class A noxious weed, it was only known to occur in Washington in the Washougal Oaks Reserve and on the roadside just off reserve in Clark County, and in Bay View State Park in Skagit County. Despite ED/RR efforts, it has exploded along roadsides in several counties. It was already widespread in OR and likely coming into Clark County through Portland. A Class B listing seemed more appropriate now.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Jim Detro	Moved to adopt the proposed nine Class B designation changes for 2015
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
	Discussion	Dirk asked why the Cowlitz County NWCB couldn't control its Dalmatian toadflax, as he didn't think there was as much in western Washington as there was in eastern Washington. Angelica Velazquez explained that they did have a lot throughout the county and the board wanted to have the option of decided where to require control. Her weed board's enforcement program had been building up since she was hired and they had been phasing it in after focusing on providing good education. They were trying to get WSDOT to control it and had enforced on the agency this year and were trying to build good relationships with the agencies.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Sarah Cooke	Moved to adopt scientific name changes for 2015
	Bob Roth	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved to change officer terms to two years for 2015
	Bill Agosta	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

WSDA PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING

Alison reminded the Board that its meetings were in compliance with the Public Meetings Act and then some. She would resend the link to the online PowerPoint training so that all of the Board members could watch it.

COORDINATORS' FORUM

Angelica Velazquez talked about the difficulty of having separate noxious weed and quarantine lists. She said it was difficult when some noxious weed species are still for sale, and people buy and plant them on their property. She advised the Board to consider adding noxious weeds to the quarantine list when they were adding them to the noxious weed list.

The Board and audience discussed:

- It was a complicated issue. The noxious weed list and the quarantine list are separate lists: the noxious weed list is administered by the WSNWCB under WAC 16-750 and the quarantine list is administered by WSDA through WAC 16-752. They must undergo separate rule-making processes.
- It would probably require legislative action to synchronize the two lists, and there were pros and cons to having that happen.
- The importance of good outreach and education. GardenWise had been an unprecedented success and with all the education on invasive plants and non-invasive alternatives, many nurseries were seeing the advantage of carrying and promoting non-invasive plants.
- Many invasive plants were cheaper to propagate than non-invasive plants and were easier to transport and stock at large retail stores.
- Many people had ornamental noxious weeds in their yards that had been planted years before the plants had been listed.
- It took a lot of work to get some of the species onto the quarantine list. Alison had included the four proposed quarantine species for 2015 (butterfly bush, yellow archangel, lesser celandine, all nonnative hawkweeds) in her SBEIS survey for the 2015 noxious weed list. It was mailed to over 200 nurseries and emailed to over 1,300. WSNLA also sent the link for the survey to its members. She had also met with the WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee twice. It was taking a lot of effort.
- Sarah said she wanted the Board to take the issue up and was happy to help with the rule-making.
- The majority of nurseries who responded to the survey indicated that they did not carry Pampas grass, Ravenna grass, or Italian arum and that listing the species would not directly impact their business.
- The WSDA Plant Services program had a lot of responsibilities. Enforcing the quarantine list was just one component of their program. County weed boards were very helpful when they reported quarantined species seen for sale at nurseries.

Mike Mackey thanked the Board for the small Class A eradication grant. They were able to leverage it and made 136 trips to 35 sites containing wild four o'clock. The Chelan County NWCB was working hard to find and eradicate it and were also educating the public about it and the other noxious weeds. WSDA's grants have also been valuable to their progress, and Mike thanked Greg Haubrich for his hard work.

MEETING EVALUATION AND SCHEDULING OF 2015 MEETINGS

The Board chose the following dates for its 2015 meetings:

- January 15th
- March 12th
- May 21st
- July 16th
- September 17th
- November 3rd and 4th

VOTE	Bill Agosta	Moved to change officer terms to two years for 2015
	Bob Roth	Seconded the motion
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 10:32 a.m.



Tony Stadelman, Chairman
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board



Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board



Dirk Veleke, Secretary
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board