

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. January 23, 2012
Olympia, Washington and Online/Teleconferenced meeting via GoToWebinar

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Butch Klaveano
 Roll Call and Introductions

Board Members Present

Butch Klaveano (phone)	Mary Toohey (Olympia)	Joe Coombs (phone)
Jerry Hendrickson (phone)	Tony Stadelman (Olympia)	Tim Miller (phone)
Sarah Cooke (phone)	Bill Agosta (Olympia)	Kathy Hamel (phone)
Commissioner Jim DeTro (phone was locked on mute so present but unable to vote)		Steven Link (phone)

Others Present

In Person:

Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Wendy DesCamp	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Roy Brunskill	King County Noxious Weed Control Board

By Phone:

Glenn Lebsack	Clark County Vegetation Management
Karen Streeter	Clark County Vegetation Management
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Steve Burke	King County Noxious Weed Control Board
Cathy Lucero	Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board
Justin Bush	Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board

Handouts Provided:

- Agenda for meeting
- Printed 2012 State Noxious Weed List
- Office reports for November and December
- November budget summary and budget report worksheets
- Copy of HB2413 and WSNWCB's testimony
- Preliminary proposed Class A and special projects
- WSNWCB adopted Code of Ethics
- Suggested Code of Ethics submitted by Tony Stadelman

Introduction of new Board member Bill Agosta

Bill has lived on San Juan Island since 1998 and has been serving on the San Juan County NWCB since 2002. He had been Chair several years, up until this past December. Butch welcomed him to the State Weed Board.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes for November meeting postponed until next meeting (March)

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved to vote on the approval of the November meeting minutes at the March meeting
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Jerry Hendrickson – It was snowy in Asotin County; county coordinator Nelle Murray has been very active.

Joe Coombs – Noted that it was time for noxious weed control folks to get updates on herbicides; the Ag Expo was coming soon in Spokane.

Bill Agosta – The SJCNWCB was bought new computers and buying a truck; they were spending a lot of time on education and learning about enforcement.

Tony Stadelman: Grant District #3 was taken to court; case was dismissed and thrown out by the judge; good to know weed laws are being upheld.

Sarah Cooke: Came down to Olympia to review budget information; hopes to do well as new Budget Committee Chair.

Butch Klaveano: Has been mostly been busy taking care of cows and dealing with all the snow.

Alison Halpern: Mary Toohey and Alison went to Gary Finkas's memorial service in Toutle on January 16; he lived an impressive life and was an upstanding gentleman and farmer.

OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed:

- Office reports for November and December

Alison Halpern:

- First week of November busy with public hearing and board meeting followed by Yakima weed conference
- Spent much of month on Concise Explanatory Statement and final rule making and 2012 weed list
- Spent 8.5 hours working for WSDA's policy team
- Biennial Report – Wendy and Alison worked on report right up through December 30th; report is positive, highlights what the state and counties do while recognizing continuation of economic downturn.
- Held special election for Position 3 (NW tier); will begin another special election for Position 1 (SW Tier) this week.

Wendy DesCamp:

- Website: The new website is up and running. Still working on adding new content and addressing compatibility issues.
- Created and printed new 2012 noxious weed lists: arranged by common and scientific names.

WSDA UPDATE

Mary Toohey

- Program is compiling data for annual knotweed and spartina reports,
- Work has been slowed down a bit in Olympia recently, what with building closures and power outages

Greg Haubrich

- USFS FHP grant fund request for proposals deadline closed last week. 17 proposals were received and there is approximately \$125,000 to be awarded.
- Distribution maps are now available on State Weed Board's website, thanks to work by Wendy, Landon Udo and Brenda Player.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Friday, January 13th, a HB 2413 was introduced by both the House and Senate regarding preventative measures against pesticide drift. A public hearing was held the following Wednesday in the House. Alison was unable to attend hearing due to weather but emailed testimony on behalf of the Board in opposition to the bill to each committee member. WSDA testified with strong concerns at the hearing. Alison will continue to keep the Board and noxious weed community apprised of the bills.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alison: New Budget Committee Chair Sarah Cooke came down last Friday to Olympia to review the budget and the monthly OFM report. The Budget Committee held a GoToMeeting on Friday, January 20.

Sarah:

- Had requested that board members get the full 3 summary spreadsheets at board meetings to show status of three accounts.
- Reminded Board that about \$ 23,000 put in a miscellaneous category for the Board to decide how much to allocate to publications, special projects, board member travel in November.
- Based on Wendy's projected publication needs and suggested Class A eradication and statewide special projects, the Budget Committee recommended the following allotments:
 - \$7500 to supplement WSNWCB publications
 - \$1-3K for buffer
 - \$15-18K towards Class A eradication projects
 - \$9.675K - \$12.675K for suggested outreach campaign

The Board further discussed:

- The Cowlitz County coordinator had suggested that \$13K be used on a statewide outreach campaign – a unified message with supporting magnets, car decals, press releases, etc.
- As part of the suggested outreach campaign, the WSNWCB could create 4 cost-effective road signs, following Tony's successful sign creation and placement overlooking I-90. Tony could work with Wendy and interested counties on the sign-making process. Tony

reminded everyone that county NWCB interested in posting large signs on county roads needed approval from County Commissioners.

- Wendy noted that the outreach campaign would work nicely along her plans to create a noxious weed disposal publication, magnet, and webpage.
- Based on suggestions from some county NWCBs, the Board talked about allocating \$18K and setting a cap for Class A eradication funding per county, not to exceed \$3K. The Board could send out an RFP and then hold a special meeting to vote on proposals to fund.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved for the State Weed Board to allocate \$18,000 to Class A eradication projects, at \$3,000 per county
	Sarah Cooke	Seconded the motion
	Tony Stadelman	Friendly amendment: that it is \$3,000 per county maximum
	Sarah Cooke	Friendly amendment: that any leftover money go to Special Projects or to the buffer
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved for the State Weed Board to allocate at least \$1,000 to buffer
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Tony Stadelman	Moved for the State Weed Board to supplement publication printing projects by \$7,500
	Jerry Hendrickson	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

VOTE	Jerry Hendrickson	Moved for the State Weed Board to allocate at least \$9,675 to statewide outreach campaign materials
	Tony Stadelman	Seconded the motion
		All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

CODE OF ETHICS REVIEW

The Board reviewed the Code of Ethics (COE) that Tony had submitted. They discussed:

- Tony's submitted version was very different from the COE the Board had adopted last May.
- Sarah noted that it seemed to be more focus more on financial ethics and expressed concern that this version would take the power of the Board to determine a conflict of interest (COI) and leaves it up to an attorney.
- Tony expressed concern that the Board was not qualified to make a determination when a COI was occurring. He noted that the original COE did not have a standard to judge by.
- Sarah pointed out that the Board's adopted COE was based on a number of samples for non-profits and served as a guideline.

- Tony agreed that the Board should consider it a guideline that they could continue to build their own COE around. The Board had already agreed to review and adjust their COE annually as needed.
- Jerry suggested a timeline for the Board to review and compare the two COEs.
- Butch asked Alison to re-distribute them to the Board prior to the March meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee and officer elections deferred until next January since appointments and elections had already taken place in July. Butch asked Bill to review committees and consider which one(s) he might be interested in serving on.

Strategic Planning Committee: Weather precluded a face-to-face committee meeting in Olympia. Ray Ledgerwood had worked with the Board last November (2010) to help develop goals and objectives, and it was suggested that the Board update the strategic plan in May, incorporating notes from the November meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee can work on draft in March during Coordinators' Conference.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Reconsidering noxious weed list

Alison had distributed the PowerPoint presentation she had given at the Yakima conference and the Whitman County growers meeting to the Board and the county coordinators. The Board discussed:

- The legal requirements of Class B designates and county-selected B's and C's were essentially the same.
- If the Board limited the Class B list to highest priority species of statewide concern and moved the rest to the Class C list, then the county weed lists would be smaller, and it would give more flexibility at the local level. It would also make it easier for counties to comply with RCW 17.10.
- Board has already been talking about consolidating weed regions and updating designations, which many county weed boards support. This other step would dovetail nicely in improving the weed list.
- The difference between moving species from the Class B to Class C list and species of local concern that are not on the weed list.
- Alison will continue to query stakeholders, maybe with an online survey and will also work with county weed boards to make sure everyone is adopting their county weed lists correctly.
- Tim Miller noted that this plan made a lot of sense by putting power back in the counties' hands and allowing us to better focus on weeds that are the bigger issue at the state level.
- Cathy Lucero pointed out that timberlands did not have to control any county-selected noxious weed after five years following timber harvesting (with the assumption that the tree canopy will close and inhibit weed growth). There was also a 1,000 buffer strip. Section 17.10.140, paragraph 2. Roads further complicate the buffer zone. Alison and Cathy will discuss further. It would be important to keep highly problematic forest understory species as Class B's. Again, another reason to get as much feedback as possible.

- Anna Lyon from Okanogan County mentioned that she showed the presentation to her board members, and they were receptive to the ideas.
- Butch asked that the Board keep this topic as an agenda item.

Letters to county weed board members and commissioners:

When Butch became chairman in 2008, he had staff send out letters to all county weed board members and county commissioners/councilmen, thanking the former for their involvement and dedication, and stressing importance of a well-funded county program to the latter. It would be a good idea to send out letters again, along with the biennial report. Tony wanted drafts of the letters to be reviewed by the Board, and Butch suggested that Alison talk to Commissioner DeTro about key points to include in letters to commissioners.

COORDINATORS FORUM

Butch appreciated Cathy Lucero’s thoughtful comments. Cathy had wanted to thank Ray for all of his years of service on the Board and wished the weather hadn’t prevented him from attending. Cathy mentioned a case where NPS was considering the use of non-native Phragmites to clean water. Sarah asked to be kept apprised.

MEETING EVALUATION (No comments were made.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Board adjourned at 10:53 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