

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

January 29, 2006

Room 172, Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbara Chambers	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bob Koch	Franklin County
Brid Nowlan	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Bridget Moran	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Christopher	Washington Department of Transportation
Dana Coggon	Kitsap County
Gene Little	WA Noxious Weed Control Board
Joan Cabreza	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
John Mankowski	Meeting Chair
Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Mark Huesbschman	U.S. Coast Guard
Mary Toohey	Department of Agriculture
Melodie Selby	Department of Ecology
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Wendy Brown	Department of Natural Resources

Call To Order

John Mankowski opened the meeting at 9 a.m. and made welcome announcements.

John introduced Senator Ken Jacobsen and asked Senator Jacobsen to provide comments to the Council and audience.

Senator Jacobsen welcomed the Council and acknowledged that it has a tough job ahead, especially with the high mobility of people and products throughout the world. He stressed the importance of the Council's work and provided encouragement.

Member Introductions

John asked Council members, staff, and audience members to introduce themselves.

Introductions proceeded and at John's request Council members listed the issues they would like the Council to address.

Overview Agenda

John led the Council through the details of the agenda and described how the day would proceed. He also reminded the Council that it is using a consensus-style decision making process rather than a formal voting style.

Joan Cabreza noted that Randall Marshall will be presenting, and was not listed on the agenda.

Approve Meeting Minutes

John Mankowski moved to **APPROVE** the November 28, 2006 meeting minutes. The minutes were amended by expanding Mary Toohey's job description to include pest issues. The November 28, 2006 minutes were **APPROVED** as amended by consensus of the Council.

Proposed Edits to Operational Ground Rules

The Council reviewed the revisions to the ground rules and the discussion included:

- Additional small amendments to the staff roles and responsibilities section and to the chair and co-chair section.
- Clover Lockard asked if there were questions regarding the definition of a quorum as revised.
 - Kate Benkert wanted to know if the minimum of six members in the quorum is ok with the other Council members.
 - Joan stated that because there are voting and nonvoting members it could cause a problem.
 - John noted that the quorum must represent the majority and should be at least 51 percent, with at least four of them being voting members.
- Pat Stevenson wanted to discuss the scope of the Council such as terrestrial and aquatic species. He thought that perhaps the definition should match the purpose or be broader.
 - The Council reviewed the statute to help clarify the definition of invasive species for the Council.
 - John suggested that the Council discuss that in further detail at a later point.
- Gene Little said he thought there should be an opportunity for Council members to suggest agenda items or to contribute in that way.
 - John noted that staff tries to set aside time at each meeting to look at the next meeting's agenda items, so Council members can contribute.
 - John would like this added to the ground rules.

The Operational Ground Rules were amended to say that a quorum must represent the majority and should be at least 51 percent, with at least four being voting members and that staff may draft the agenda, but it must be approved by the Council before finalization. The amended Operational Ground Rules were **APPROVED** by consensus of the Council.

Management Update

Laura Johnson, director of Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) presented information on the Council's budget.

- The Council and its staff are supported through the Council's budget and there should be enough funds to provide 10 percent for contracts.
- Next year's budget allows for some travel by the Council, but there is not a lot of room for contracting.
- Perhaps there will be help from the private sector for fundraising.
- Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture have received some funding related to the Invasive Species Council from the Governor's budget. Perhaps they can come back to the next meeting with more details about this.

Critical Connections

Presentation made by Ron Shultz, Ballast Water Work Group.

Ron distributed handouts for the Council and discussed the work of the 13 member Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT).

Highlights of the presentation include:

- Ballast water in ships is a vector for invasive species into Washington. Consequently, non-indigenous species are introduced to our waters through international shipping, coastal shipping, and freshwater sources (California to the Columbia River).
- All ships are required to report their ballast water (i.e. what they have done – exchanged in mid-ocean or not, and why not) and if it has been treated.
- Exchanging ballast water can be very dangerous in the open water.
- Ships may use on-ship treatment methods including:
 - Filtration systems
 - Systems that strip oxygen from the organisms
 - UV methods used by cruise ships
- When critters hold themselves to the bottom of the vessel it is called “hull fouling.” It is of concern due to the size and speed of vessels crossing the ocean so quickly that species are more likely to survive the journey than in the past.
- The Coast Guard receives reports on exchanges of ballast water and does inspections where they are able to provide enforcement.
- Open ocean exchanges must be done 50 miles offshore, which is a problem for some of the vessel operators who are not traveling out that far
- Untreated ballast water cannot be released into Washington waters, even though this may be a safety problem. Under current law, a vessel operator may not discharge unexchanged ballast water. After July 1 of this year, vessel operators may not discharge unexchanged or untreated ballast water. After July 1, the safety exemption only applies to treated water, not to exchange ballast water.
- Oregon has a ballast water program, but it is not funded. The Council needs to coordinate with them as much as possible.
- Work needs to be done on treatment technologies and incentives to vessel operators.
- PSAT created a Web page with the intention that the Council could take it over when it is ready.
 - The domain name is: wainvasivespecies.org.
- Tasks of the Washington Ballast Water Work Group include studying and recommending improvements in treatment methods; plan elements; and method, form, and content of reports.

Comment Period

- Melodie Selby noted that the Department of Ecology (DOE) has coordinated its work with the Ballast Water Work Group.
- In 2005 there was a big drop in ballast water problems. What was the difference? Response: There were a lot of educational opportunities provided that year.
- What can the Council do to help this effort? Response: Good communication between PSAT staff and the Council, participation in meetings, and coordination of planning would be priorities.

Critical Connections

Presentations made by Joan Cabreza and Randy Marshall, Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee (ANS).

Highlights include:

- They work with a co-chair committee and have an executive steering committee.
- Has 52 active members and meets monthly. Most of the work is done in the executive committee.
- The committee coordinates educational efforts.
- It provides a biennial report to the Legislature. There is one due this December and a copy can be provided to the Council.
- It is an umbrella coordinating group and receives funding from member agencies. It provides support to agencies that are working on projects.

Interaction with the Invasive Species Council:

- Some of the recommendations in the committee's annual report should be brought to the Council for review.
- It has developed brochures for an awareness campaign and would like help distributing the brochures.
- The Invasive Species Council can come to the committee for technical needs and support.
- It would like to be able to present the Council with an action plan to get feedback on what they need to go forward.
- They would like to coordinate planning for a rapid response program.
 - Rapid response will include a watch list of invasive species.
 - Early detection requires monitoring.
 - Eradication is not always possible.
- Zebra mussels are an extremely serious threat to the state.

Comment Period

- What is the invasive species permit? Response: It is a proactive way to allow for rapid response.
- Is there a role for the private sector and shellfish growers? Response: Not at this point, but the committee is talking about this in its meetings. Boaters should also be included.

Critical Connections

Presentation made by Steve McGonigal, Noxious Weed Control Board.

Highlights include:

Property owners are responsible for the control of noxious weeds.

The weed board and weed districts:

- There are 11 weed districts, many in agricultural areas, and 38 boards in the state.
- They survey for noxious infestations and discuss this with property owners.
- Enforcement is done by noxious weed control boards.
- The Washington Noxious Weed Control Board consists of 12 volunteer members and 9 of them are voting members. Mary Toohey, Gene Little, Dana Coggon, and Pat Stevenson have all played important roles in this Board.
- The Board coordinates local programs so that all jurisdictions are on the same page.
- It provides public education opportunities.
- The State Noxious Weed Control Board delegates some of the annual work of developing proposals to change the noxious weed list to its Noxious Weed Committee. The Committee analyzes proposals and hands them back to the Board, which then goes through the rulemaking steps necessary to amend Chapter 16-750 of the Washington Administrative Code. The Committee includes three scientists, four county weed coordinators and one representative from each of the following: Native Plant Society, Nursery and Landscape Association, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. The entire process takes one year, and starts with a call for proposals in January. Proposals are analyzed by the Committee from March through September. Proposals are then recommended by the Committee. The Board issues press releases in September and holds a public hearing in November, followed by Board action. The changes to the noxious weed list become effective the following January.

Critical Connections

Presentation made by Lynn Helbrecht, Biodiversity Council

Highlights include:

The Biodiversity Council's authorizing legislation called for a more comprehensive approach that looked at conservation from a more holistic viewpoint, rather than a species-by-species approach.

- Maggie Coon is the chair of the Council. The Council consists of 23 members with broad representation.
- They have two pilot projects. One in eastern Washington (very focused on agriculture) and one in western Washington. These projects are testing different approaches and incentives for engaging people in voluntary stewardship activities.

The eastern Washington project is titled: Healthy Lands Initiative: Building a conservation economy in North Central Washington. It is an 18 month project intended to develop a shared community vision for how biodiversity conservation can be integrated into the economic and social fabric.

The western Washington project is entitled: Citizen Stewardship of the Pierce County Biodiversity Network: Lower White River. The Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance is recruiting and training citizens who will survey and monitor biodiversity in their community. This is also an 18 month project.

- A pilot project subcommittee works on these projects in between the council meetings.
- The Biodiversity Council held a Forum on Conservation Incentives with more than 150 guests in attendance.
- The Council would like to get feedback from the Invasive Species Council to include in its 30 year strategy due in December 2007.

Comment Period

- Does the status and threats report come out each year? Response: No, we did not commit to that. The status and threats report has been produced to inform the Council's 30 year strategy. As such, in its current form, it is a one time thing. However, while the Council has not yet finalized any of its recommendations, one component that is receiving a lot of interest and support from Council members is a periodic "biodiversity report card" for Washington that would let us know how we are doing with respect to certain benchmarks that will be part of the strategy. How often such a report card would come out is, of course, up in the air, but people have been talking about every 2-5 years.

Critical Connections

Presentation made by Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner and Brid Nowlan, Washington Invasive Species Coalition.

Highlights include:

Invasive species are an immense problem that need constant attention. For example, when a natural area has been set aside, further work is needed to keep these areas pristine.

The Invasive Species Coalition:

- Is a coalition of groups that came together to work on this issue. The steering committee guides the Coalition.

- Brid's role is to keep the communication between the Council and the Coalition strong and open to the public with a high level of policy work.

Goals of the Invasive Species Coalition:

- Form an invasive species council in the state.
- Stop ballast water dumping.
- Work in a public-private partnership with nurseries.
- Look for the enforcement gaps.

Council Interaction:

- The Coalition requests that this Council work with other invasive species councils in the region to have a stronger voice. Many of the western states are not getting the funding that the eastern states, who work together, receive. Work with Idaho and Oregon and then hopefully with California.
- The Coalition would like see the Invasive Species Council create a strategic plan that includes a sustainable funding plan.
- It would like to see a focus on rapid response.

Special recognition was given to Jo Roberts for her work and for the inspiration that led to the creation of the Washington Invasive Species Council. Jo also recognized Kristen Rowe-Finkbeiner for her major contribution to the development of the Council through her research, writing, and spirit.

Next Steps – Operational

New Member Policy

Discussion of a draft new member policy.

- New members would have to agree to our ground rules and procedural framework.
- Care should be taken to keep the Council from becoming so big that it is difficult to make decisions.
- It would be nice to see someone from the producer side of things; someone that has an economic interest in the issue.
- It is rare for a Council to be able to add members as they see fit and that privilege should not be abused.
- The public is wondering why State Parks and the Puget Sound Action Team are not represented on the Council.
- The Council would like to see a process added that would allow the Council to ask an organization to become a member as well as allowing an organization to seek membership on the Council.
- Because the Governor does not appoint members, the appointment letter should go to the Council through the coordinator.

John Mankowski **MOVED** to approve the amended new member policy, allowing for the Council to solicit new members and for organizations to ask for representation on the Council, with the appointment letter routed to the coordinator of the Council. The Council **APPROVED** the motion by consensus.

Next Steps – Operational

Subcommittees

The topic of forming subcommittees was brought to the attention of the Council and it was noted that the legislation states that the Council may form subcommittees.

- Wendy Brown suggested appointing representatives of industries affected by invasive species to serve on an advisory committee to the Council.
- The voice of agriculture is important to hear, because they are a disparate group. We need a process to engage them.

- There needs to be an appropriate place to draw the line as there are so many aspects of the economy and the potential for large groups of people that need to be included.
- In eastern Washington there are dry farms, orchards, and timber. Hopefully through educational opportunities and outreach those groups will bring their thoughts to the table.
- It was suggested that one of the subcommittees could be an “affected groups” committee so that multiple interests could be represented.
- Council members should check with their stakeholder groups after this meeting. There are some producers out there that are disgruntled about what we could be doing. So the sooner we get their issues on the table the better.
- Subcommittees would be more valuable because Council members’ schedules are busy during the day, so they could attend work sessions on weekends and nights.

Discussion and Selection of a Chair

John Mankowski led the discussion regarding a chair versus a co-chair system for the Council.

- A co-chair ensures a sharing of the workload and that both sides of an issue are covered.
- A co-chair might be more process than necessary.
- As long as the chair has access to staff and members of the Council then perhaps it won’t be such a problem.
- Bridget Moran has agreed to step forward to be the chair of the Council for the next year.
- Gene would like to have a chair and a vice-chair so if the chair cannot attend the meetings a person can lead in their place.
- Mary would prefer to have a chair with a vice chair rather than a co-chair as well.
- Bridget would like to have a co-chair to help her with the responsibilities.

John moved that the Council appoint Bridget Moran to be chair of the Council and appoint Gene Little as the Vice Chair. The Council **APPROVED** by consensus the appointment of Bridget Moran as Chair and Gene Little as vice chair.

New Work

Discussion of Program and Project Inventory

Clover presented a draft inventory template to the Council for discussion and asked the Council to help define the desired outcome of the project inventory.

- The suggestions from the first council meeting as well as input from other states were incorporated into the template.
- Joan liked the idea of an individual project-by-project inventory, rather than projects being listed under an umbrella organization.
- Gene noted that the staff should include a table that identifies the key information in the inventory so that Council can add up the budgets and see if there is any overlap.
- It would serve as an inventory of what is being done in Washington.
- It would explain the subject of accountability to the public.
- The inventory could display the overlaps, which the Council could work towards eliminating.
- The more uniformity that is established the better.

John asked the Council to form a small work group to meet with Clover to identify some of these issues, with a draft plan presented to the Council by the March meeting.

Drafts of this plan should be e-mailed to the Council before March to receive feedback.

Mary Toohey, Bridget Moran, Wendy Brown, Joan Cabreza, Kate Benkert, and Dana Coggon volunteered to help on this effort.

John **MOVED** to approve the project inventory template, which was amended to include a project-by-project inventory with a key table of budget information. The Council **APPROVED** the amended inventory template by consensus.

Discussion of Rough Draft Work Plan

The draft work plan is organized around the meeting dates of the Council and is focused on the due dates for deliverables. The Council reviewed each item of the plan and key points of discussion were:

- If Council members have organizations they want to add to the 'interested parties' list they should let staff know. Joan asked that the ANS 112 member list be added. Staff is looking for organizational leads rather than every individual in an organization so that we are not inundated with return e-mails.
- The website has begun to be developed.
 - The meeting minutes will be posted on the Web-site.
 - John suggested that the Biodiversity Web-site be a template for the Council.
 - Things that have been published and presented here at the meeting should go on the Web-site.
- From March to May's meeting, Clover suggests that we continue the critical connections component of our meetings and hear from others in the field. Also, the Council needs to consider a multi-agency project, which needs to be moving forward by the end of the year.
- May through August includes state agency briefings regarding their work on invasive species.
- The delivery of the biodiversity strategic plan is due by December 2007 so the Council needs to work on providing information regarding our strategic plan before the August or November meetings. It may even be better if the Council works on getting this done after the March meeting because the Biodiversity Council has a June 2007 deadline for its draft plan to be completed.
- The work plan should include the end of the year reports and the timing should be adjusted to accommodate work with the Biodiversity Council.
- Gene would like the staff to send amended, revised, and newly developed information related to work assignments to the Council members in advance of meetings for them to review.

Strategic Plan

Clover has compiled common components from strategic plans that she has researched.

- Mary would like to see a model proposed with an outline of what the plan should look like, including why Clover chose what she did, such as the pros and cons.
- The next step is working towards the strategic plan and then the educational outreach component.

Next meeting agenda

- The next meeting is on March 20th 2007.
- The agenda calls for a few more presentations at this meeting. The critical connections groups are presenting and perhaps the state agencies can come to the table as well.
- Mary Toohey would like to hear from our own state agency groups before hearing from others.
- Bridget would like to see the working groups and their program representation rather than just the state agency heads.

The Council asked Clover to develop a strategic plan model and to make a 10 minute presentation that includes why she chose certain components for the model and why others were not selected.

Joan wanted to know if she can present some issue papers at the next meeting. John noted that if there are topics similar to what the Council is planning on discussing, then there might be room to cover a couple of them at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO AGENDA

Julia Walker, Association for the Protection of Hammersley, Eld and Totten Inlets (APHETI), represents property owners. She noted that the *Mytilus galloprovincialis* mussel should be considered as an important invasive species for attention by the Council. It is considered to be one of the world's worst invaders. The mussels are hybridizing with the native mussel and if the Council doesn't act soon the native mussel will no longer exist. If the Council is going to work on eradicating the tunicates they should eradicate the *Mytilus galloprovincialis* mussels as well.

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe

The Biodiversity Council had a conference recently and perhaps later in the fall of this year the Invasive Species Council should have a conference. This would raise the awareness of this issue to our peers. It would be an opportunity to present a draft of a strategic plan for feedback and get ideas on how to fix this issue. He is thinking of a one-to-two day meeting with posters and booths. He submits this idea for the Council's consideration. Jeff would be happy to work on this more and draft some type of proposal.

John stated that the Council would look at that in its work group plan at the March meeting.

John had to leave the meeting to attend another meeting, so he passed the meeting over to Bridget Moran for closing.

Joan asked staff to start a running list of hot topics, such as the *Mytilus galloprovincialis* mussel and the zebra mussel issues that were brought up during the meeting. This would ensure that when we don't have time to get to a particular issue at a Council meeting, it won't be lost and we can address the issue at future meetings.

Bridget asked the group to start thinking about what areas would be appropriate for subcommittees.

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

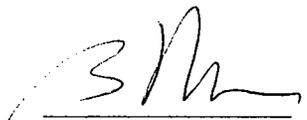
Next meeting:

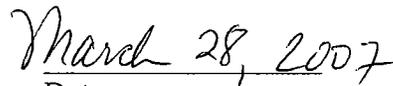
March 20, 2007

Natural Resources Building, Room 172

Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:


Chair, Bridget Moran


Date