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INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Wendy Brown	Department of Natural Resources
Joan Cabreza	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Barbara Chambers	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Tom Root	Department of Transportation
Dana Coggon	Kitsap County
Niles Seifert	U.S. Coast Guard
Bob Koch	Franklin County
Brid Nowlan	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Melodie Selby	Department of Ecology
Mary Toohey	Department of Agriculture
Allen Pleus	Department of Fish and Wildlife

Guests and Speakers:

John Mankowski	Governor's Executive Policy Office
Kaleen Cottingham	Recreation and Conservation Office
Senator Ken Jacobsen	

Staff:

Clover Lockard
Gen Dial Keesecker
Rachel Utley
Filiz Satir

Call to Order:

Melodie Selby agreed with the assistance of Kaleen Cottingham to chair the Council meeting due to the absence of Chair, Bridget Moran and Vice-chair, Gene Little.

Melodie Selby opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome announcements were made by Melodie Selby followed by Council and audience members' introductions. Melodie went over the day's agenda and introduced the new technical writer, Filiz Satir.

Announcements:

Allen Pleus handed out a news release about Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels moving closer to Washington State.

They are now within 730 miles of our state border. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is looking at the sudden movement of the species. A report has been provided to the Legislature and will soon be available on line; it outlines a prevention plan and rapid response plan. They are currently working with the Columbia Basin group on what needs to be done on a state scale. There is a very large effort to teach watercraft users to clean their watercraft and ballast waters before moving to a new body of water.

Joan Cabreza announced her retirement and resignation from The Washington Invasive Species Council. She expressed her joy in being able to serve on the Council for the last year and a half. Council members expressed that Joan would be greatly missed by all.

Council Business Items:

Melodie Selby called for a vote to **APPROVE** the November 15, 2007 meeting minutes. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the November 15, 2007 minutes.

Public Comment:

- Darrel Wallace, Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), informed the Council that they were not selected for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, but they are looking into other grant opportunities. He is working with Alison Halpern to pass forage certification through the legislature (SB 6676, and HB 3703). If either of these bills are passed, BCHW could become certified to do further trail work.
- Keith Stavrum, An independent oyster grower in Willapa Bay commented that you attack invasive weeds strongly to make them manageable, but once they become manageable, he wonders is there a softer approach than chemicals that we could switch to at a specific point.
- Anne K. Mosness distributed a handout which discussed NOAA and genetic fish. She asked what the response of the Council was to address this issue. She felt if the Council does not respond to this, the state may be shown as a state that accepts these issues.

First Draft Strategic Plan:

Clover Lockard introduced the strategic plan draft. The current draft is a compilation of the work completed by each workgroup. Melodie asked the Council to focus on content, not layout, for the second draft, which is due February 22, 2008.

Discussion:

- The Council clarified what would be in the introduction versus what would be in different sections of the strategy.
- Add background information in the introduction for readers who are less familiar with invasive species.
- Talk more about coordination with existing entities like the Ballast Water Work Group and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee in the Strategic plan.
- Change the way the draft is currently organized.
- Outline specific Council goals. If the goals are too vague, there is less chance of a successful outcome. We need specific measurable goals.
- Be clear on which invasive species the Council is addressing, so that people will know what we are talking about.

- Establish a good inventory to measure success and establish a clear and specific end.
- A good inventory would also create a baseline.

Strategic Plans that work:

Agenda item presented by John Mankowski, Governors Policy Office.

John shared his thoughts on how to make the strategy effective so that it does not get lost on someone's shelf.

- It is important to come up with more streamlined policies, focus on economic benefits and to be action oriented.
- We must deliver results not just talk and show flow charts.
- No matter the issue, the Council should be result-oriented.
- Being Bold is important.
- John feels this is the first time in state history invasive species have been looked at with such a bold approach. Collaboration is key.
- It would be a huge benefit for people to understand by the end of the plan how the public and government work together so that it is not complex and confusing.
- Explain in the strategic plan how government entities work together; this is no place for turf or bureaucracy.
- The strategic plan must carry a positive approach and show how to build agency momentum as well by using conferences and other outreach approaches.
- Keep the strategy achievable and readable, the strategy will probably not be read by legislators but instead by staff.
- John suggested the Council add executive summaries and quick two pages reads.
- He discussed building and maintaining support. It does not end with the report. This is about showing citizens that there really is a viable strategy in this state.
- Keep it in front of decision makers to keep the strategy relevant.
- Think about how we can tie the strategy into other issues like Puget Sound, and climate change. The Council must really look at how the strategy will work in the face of climate change; look at the fact that we are an international trade state and how this creates unique challenges.
- Be sure to engage the reader in these overarching trends.
- Make sure to include interest groups from everywhere, as Biodiversity did at their conference. Give thought in how to sit down with policy leaders to look at specific issues. Make sure they know what is going on with the strategy.
- Make sure Agency staff that create bills are aware of our issues. This is all part of raising awareness of our strategy.
- Focus on collaboration with closely related groups, introducing this from the Council is far more effective than introducing this from individuals; it carries more weight.
- Build a vision people can buy. A significant amount of time should be spent on looking at collaboration to create a common goal.

John said the main building blocks of the strategy should be:

- A clear vision to the public,

- A framework to address goals and early action items that will show rapid progress to gain buy in.
- Use the Biodiversity Council model as an example. Make these goals scalable, give different sized budget packages to allow budgets to be scaled up or down according to the current economy.
- Also, look at the Salmon report card as an example. Look for ways to explain Invasive Species progress to people. Policy makers will want to know that there is a way to look back and show what has been accomplished. This will attract attention.
- How will the Council measure progress and success? Look at the Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) process for help with this. This will allow an easier way to report to the Governor.

Discussion:

- Melodie Selby thanked John Mankowski for his advice to make the strategy simple, achievable, and measurable.
- John commented that the Governor and Legislature would want to know how this would make things work more efficiently on the ground. The Council should address how it will align money and programs more efficiently.
- Allen Pleus asked about the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) goals. John said he does not work closely on this and recommended a short meeting with PSP. He recommends we stay current with the issues. A meeting with PSP would be timely right now, as they are working on their action agenda.

First Draft Strategic Plan:

Coordination:

Allen Pleus discussed how the coordination workgroup spoke with state agencies, federal groups, and tribes on how coordination is working at the ground level. Feedback showed that everyone has a positive attitude about cooperating with the Council about "on the ground" work. Overlaps in management between the different species and different groups involved make things complicated. Issues are introduced in a variety of ways and with varying effects. One plan may not work for all.

Discussion:

- Start by looking at any gaps.
- What is the broader workgroup goal? What exists? What needs to improve?
- Have more tie-in between the text and recommendations.
- Broaden the scope of what currently exists. This section currently it is just a part of the picture.
- Have less generalities and be more specific about what the workgroup is thinking of by listing more grant activities, and staff information.
- Members agreed that overlaps in management are complex, but the workgroup needs to spell out what those overlaps are and what that means for us.
- Allen says the overlap comes in to play when we look at other states, and aquatic hitchhikers, this also becomes an issue of fish health, hatcheries handle it one way, WDFW handles it another, if it gets in a lake, who is responsible? Is someone a lead?

- Members suggested including specific examples in the plan for a better understanding of the situation.
- A before and after graphic to show the overlaps in coordination would be helpful. This would be a better tool for communicating to decision makers.
- Members suggested organizing the section by government entities, land managers, and outreach groups. The workgroup said they had discussed having a section that addressed stakeholders, then another section that addressed local, state, regional, national, and international entities.
- Overlap is just one issue, we need to address whether what is currently happening is working. Who is coordinating at the state level? What has worked? What will the Council's big recommendation on coordination be? We need measurable recommendations.

Melodie reminded the council to focus on content not format. What is the big take home recommendation? Trying to boil this down to the right size is difficult; appendixes are expected. She suggests a graphic of what is happening now, and suggests Council members send further input to that workgroup. What does the Council think of these recommendations?

- Which can be action items? There is overlap in recommendations between the work groups. The final may not have sections separated by each workgroup, but may mesh things together in the final document.
- The introduction will be important to set the stage.
- When the workgroup asked "what is the problem" one item mentioned was data management. This is not necessarily a communication problem but a problem of consistent data. This comes back to a question of who is doing what? Who handles prevention and control? There is an assumption that we are not coordinating effectively, has that been answered by the Council or at the policy level?
- How does the Council we define coordination? How do we measure whether groups are coordinating effectively?
- We must prioritize; never in history has there been enough money to do all that needs to be done. How do we direct the money appropriately? Is it the role of the Council to make these decisions?
- We have all gathered so much information that we are struggling with how it will fit in the report. We must look at what is doable.
- If we look at "how to improve communication channels between state and federal government" what does that mean? What are the first steps and the timeline? This should be clarified in the next draft.
- We should look at recommendations in categories.
- Things are currently so broad in Coordination that it is hard to wrap your mind around.
- The Council should ask themselves "who isn't at the table"? We aren't going to excite anyone by discussing who currently works together, it will be more exciting to add who should be involved and isn't.
- The inventory could make a big impact because it is hampering so many groups.

- What is the standard operating procedure when a new invasive species is found? How do we communicate this across the board and coordinate better? Early detection, rapid response, and prevention are the obvious goals, but what are we actually doing as standard procedure?
- Do not focus too much on what is going wrong – remember to stay positive.

Strategic Plans that work:

Kaleen Cottingham introduced Senator Ken Jacobsen for this agenda item.

Senator Jacobsen stressed that he really believes this is important work. He commented that his first interest was with Zebra mussels. The issue really showed the importance of Invasive Species work.

- Build up the constituency and have them comment to the legislators. This is a good way to get a concept through to the Legislature.
- There is so much confusion it is hard to keep track of all the issues.
- There must be incentives, an action is better than just telling someone something.
- You must show them the money. You must pick key areas and name a dollar amount. If the money is there, people will fight to work on the projects to get the money. Look at having a council tied to a grant fund.
- It is important to prioritize instead of listing all the problems or we will lose inspiration and become depressed. We must focus on the positive.

First Draft Strategic Plan Continued:

Technical:

Mary Toohy said her group had trouble getting their arms around the whole issue. They started by talking about operational aspects including prevention, exclusion, detection, and surveillance. If you are not there early it effects how the issue is handled and the expense of addressing the issue. Then there is containment, control, and eradication. Eradication also involves watching afterward to be sure that you have succeeded. Control has implications of management. How do you live with something you are not going to eradicate, and monitor the control? There are also elements of restoration that must be considered up front. There is also a need for research in order to choose the best way to be effective. They discussed risk analysis as the basis for making decisions. It is necessary in order to pick items of importance. If you do not have risk analysis, you have no basis for decision-making. Currently a lot of risk analysis is happening but it is never enough, and it is hard to find the right analysis to use. Their document is not yet a consensus and overlaps many other workgroups.

Recommendations:

- Their first recommendation was for more incident command training. If there is not an understanding of how to deal with emergencies than other things will become less important.
- Another important recommendation was to centralize information. Possibly a database or information portal with risk analysis and other information. The database would be a place to locate information by organism and pathway easily.
- They discussed the importance of an early response protocol. They looked at the importance of focusing on restoration early on in a project.

- The group also looked at gaps to see what else would be important, it was suggested under containment to look at places where intense attention should be paid to addressing invasive species (some of this was outlined by the Biodiversity Council).

Discussion:

- The workgroup has a draft scorecard. It was not mentioned in more detail because the group has not had much time to review it. Kaleen noted that the Biodiversity Council also discussed the idea of a scorecard.
- In the appendices, there are multiple definitions for words. How is the Council defining these terms? This is a big problem and is an undercurrent of other issues.
- How does the Council ensure their recommendations are doable? Be specific in the recommendation for actions. We have our strategic plan, but also our own "Action Agenda". What items will the Council take on?
- If a member of the public is looking at the recommendations, will they know whom the recommendations are speaking to?
- While the Council probably does not want to put most of their efforts toward the federal government, we also do not want to shy away from making a recommendation to this effect.
- Members suggested the Council work closely with the Department of Ecology on their climate change work.
- The Council must decide whether the conceptual framework is useful.
- The workgroup looked at a conceptual framework, but while it might be useful today, it may not be something to use forever.
- The regulation workgroup first thought "pathways" were the way to go especially for prevention, but when looking at the long term, it became "species". It is a blend of both. This may need to be reflected in the plan. This is another overlap between the groups that may best be shown with graphics because people need a logical way to group things.
- What triggers a risk assessment- and who would you call to start this process?
- The Council discussed periodic re-evaluations to ensure methods being used are successful.
- Members discussed the importance of restoration, mitigation, and maintenance of projects to look at the effect on the natural environment. Are our cleanup efforts clearing the way for something else to move in? How do we restore after cleanup?
- Restoration issues must be placed in the document somewhere. We must show how all the pieces fit into the overall plan.

Education:

Dana reviewed the education workgroup section. The workgroup looked at education to see whom they are trying to educate and reach. When it comes down to it everyone needs to be educated. Dana said they had a lot of information and worked hard to pare it down so it would flow better and be easier to understand. It goes back to what their charter said on who would address specific tasks. Dana would like to see her charter as an appendix item. The workgroup discussed how to get the word out so that people should care when there are so many brochures. She feels a broad-brush education approach should happen first including who to call, before we educate about specific species with the public. The education workgroup also feels strongly that we need a portal for people to contact. We need a web page that is more than a page- sort of a hub. Dana feels this should be one of the first deliverables. A roll-out conference is very

important, she pointed out that John Mankowski had also mentioned the idea, and that possibly this could become a dual conference in partnership with the Biodiversity Council.

Discussion:

- The Council should ask themselves "What can I do in order to educate the public?"
- How do we educate non-plant oriented people? One way is to point out rapid growth in a species; maybe they notice a pretty flower one year hiking and the next year there are hundreds this could clue them in that this could be invasive. Teach the public whom to call.
- Members liked the idea of having response drills on early detection and rapid response.
- There are opportunities to train with other organizations such as The Mountaineers and others for a targeted outreach campaign.
- There are a number of people looking at environmental and economic issues. It is important to get this in the K-12 education plan.
- Education is important, but the Council also needs to address responsibility. For example "If I do not clean my boat, I will be fined."
- It is beneficial for watercraft owners to follow the rules, because if there are weeds they won't have fun on jet skis, if the fish are dying they won't have fun fishing on their boat.
- The group also looked at incentives, for example, if you turn in noxious weeds you get a reward. Then we are going through their pocket book but in a positive way.
- The public will ask "What's in it for me?"
- Part of the message is educating, then providing incentives and fines. However, there is a cost to enforcement.
- The Council we will need to look at how and when to move from education to regulation
- The Council must have a specific goal for how we want the public to respond.
- If society does not see it as important, no amount of regulation will work.

First Draft Strategic Plan Continued

Funding:

Wendy Brown represented the funding workgroup section and discussed the economic impact of invasive species. What is being spent? What is working/not working? Invasive species efforts are funded to varying degrees from universities, the legislature and others. We as a state do not have a good understanding of the economic impact of invasive species. Most projects are being funded separately from one another.

Discussion:

- An inventory needs to be done listing programs and activities, and what is being spent.
- Should we be more specific about funding information? For example, how much money is being generated by boating fees and what is it used for?
- Some members felt it is important to say how people like watercraft owners for instance, are contributing funding, versus how much is from the state government. We should show that this is everyone's issue.
- How is the money targeted and how stable is the fund?
- Funding is not consistent from one county to another or from one species to another.

- Is there a way to see what private non-government parties are spending on invasive projects? This would be very hard to determine.
- Government economic statistics or Washington State University might provide some information. However, this may be beyond the scope of the Council.
- Is this really what the Council needs to show what is being spent?

Regulation:

Melodie encouraged the Council to look at what might be missing. They looked at the conceptual framework. Then looked at statutes that must be taken into account when going after a species, dredging permits, and pesticide permits. We must be aware of both types of law. Looking at gaps, there is very little authority for enforcement. When there is a federal initiative, there is a lot of scrambling with little coordination between groups. A program with nearby states would be helpful because invasive species do not have political borders. The group recommends not having an over arching statute, but instead to make things programmatic or pathway specific. Only the people working directly on the projects/species will know the best ways of regulating these areas. It would be helpful for the group to look at rapid response authority. You must look at what tools and factors to take into account and then decide what truly rapid response is. Spending a year to figure things out does not make sense.

Discussion:

- Melodie strongly encouraged the Council to look through the regulation table to see what could be missing. They also put together some case studies. The problem is they are usually from the point of view of the person who wrote the case study. It would be better if we could get several points of view on each single case study. She asked the Council for suggestions on who to include in these viewpoints because this affects real lives, people, and businesses.
- Does the group feel there is a need for invasive species to be regulated by smaller groups to enable them respond quickly and with flexibility? Should some things be in rules outside of statute?

Common Elements that have come out in all of the workgroups:

- Conceptual Framework
- Centralized hub/clearinghouse/portal
- Education (why should people care)
- Standard Operating Procedure
- Survey/inventory
- EDRR

Comments from Filiz Satir, Strategic Plan Technical Writer:

- Filiz commented that she heard in several instances that the format needs to be reconsidered as the workgroup format currently causes much overlapping.
- She reminded the Council that this is the first Strategic Plan. It is a living document that will evolve.
- She suggested adding an action plan going beyond the recommendations; she feels this will be important.

- The workgroups and Filiz will work back and forth on format. In March, it should be ready for review. It is Melodie's expectation that we include more than we need and it cut down later.
- Filiz offered to come up with a new way to organize materials within the next few days for the work groups to use.
- The Council needs to define the problem in a very real way, so that the reader knows what is at risk. She wants to look at strategic alignment to show how we are currently working together and how to fill the gaps, and then follow with recommendations and then the action plans.
- It is very important that Council members bring the strategy to their agencies for review.

Strategic Plan Roll Out Discussion:

Does the Council want a press events or conference? What is feasible? The conference would have to wait until the fall. The Council does not have enough money at this time for an elaborate conference. Sponsors would be needed.

It is important to get people engaged during the public comment period as well. Word of mouth works well. The Council could do an inventory of annual events, then staff or Council members can get on their agendas to speak about the strategic plan. Identify key people for the public review period. Melodie suggested a small group to work on this Brid, Wendy, and Mary volunteered.

Ballast Water Legislation:

Allen Pleus presented this agenda item.

We do not want other aquatic species traveling by ballast water. Currently ships must exchange port ballast water for ballast water collected in open ocean, (there are fewer species in open ocean water, and are less likely to become invasive in a port). They are looking at possible filter systems, for example, chemical and UV light, however this affects water quality. What is worse though invasive species or chlorinated water? Current standards are not enforceable.

Allen explained the Revised Ballast Water standards Comparison Worksheet. The ballast water workgroup, and other state and federal agencies, are looking for the best way to align Washington State. He is hoping to have recommendations to tell the Council about by the next meeting.

Budget Discussion items:

- Remainder of this biennium
- Developing budget for 2009-2011

The Council's supplemental budget was not included in the Governors budget. Kaleen Cottingham noted that the Recreation and Conservation Office is working until June on the upcoming 2008-2011 budget. She would like input on the Council's needs. Melodie asked if the Council had ideas for other ways to get money sooner.

Brid commented that in the private world people do not like to give money to the government, and the stock market has been down.

Kaleen asked about grants. Joan Cabreza said the Environmental Protection Agency may have grant money under "Regional Geographic Initiatives". Joan will look into it.

Melodie called for a vote to allow Council members to look for grant opportunities on their own to cover items that had been in the budget request. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** for Council members to look for grant opportunities.

Discussion – Chair & Vice Chair Terms

The current chair and vice chair were originally voted in for a one-year terms; however, there is no official timeline. It does not seem like a good time to have a changeover because of the current legislative session and strategic plan drafting. Bridget Moran and Gene Little have agreed to remain chair and vice chair until June 2008. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the motion to keep Bridget Moran and Gene little as Chair and Vice Chair though June 2008.

Next Steps:

- Workgroup meetings are scheduled through February. The Council must meet their deadlines.
- Clover shared a revised agenda for March. Agenda items included approving the strategic plan for public comment, discussing the launch and outlook along with the action plan. There will discussion on Zebra mussels and a ballast water update. The council will look at having a meeting in eastern WA and possibly tours.
- Bob discussed a regional county cooperative to look at yellow star thistle. He may bring them to the next meeting.
- Members noted that they must be very protective of agenda time in March in order to have time for the strategic plan.
- Members suggested adding an hour to the agenda in March and to have a working lunch.
- Staff will return to the Council with reformatting of the strategy. They will also work on the outreach strategy.
- Council members need to get authorization from their agencies and be ready to approve the plan at the next meeting.
- Kaleen asked Joan about a Council replacement from her agency. Joan will discuss this with Clover as she learns more. The Recreation and Conservation Office will officially request a replacement person from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next meeting:

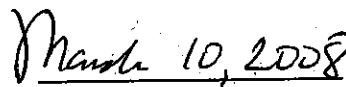
March 13, 2008

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:


Bridget Moran, Chair


Date

