

*INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL*

*MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING*

May 7, 2008

Room 172, Natural Resources Building  
Olympia, Washington

---

**INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wendy Brown	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dana Coggon	Kitsap County
Kathy Hamel	Washington State Department of Ecology
Gene Little, Vice Chair	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Bridget Moran, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brid Nowlan	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Niles Seifert	U.S. Coast Guard
Mary Toohey	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation

**GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**

Lizbeth Seabacker	Pacific NW Invasive Plan Council
Sarah Gage	Biodiversity Council
Randy Marshall	Co-Chair Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee
Allen Pleus	Ballast Water Work Group
Alison Halpern	WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
Filiz Satir	Writing Consultant

**STAFF:**

Clover Lockard  
Gen Keesecker  
Rachel LeBaron

---

**Convene and Welcome:**

Bridget Moran opened the meeting at 9:12 a.m. She made welcome announcements, went over the Council agenda, and then asked the Council and audience members to introduce themselves.

**Announcements/Hot Topics:**

- Discuss the final review of the strategic plan.
- Establish connections with critical connection partners.
- Discuss budget request for next session.
- Fall rollout event for implementation of strategy.

**Ballast Water Update:**

Allen Pleus of Department of Fish and Wildlife distributed key-chains to everyone present. The key chains are part of the public education outreach for "Clean Boats, Clean Water".

- There is now an educational video available about invasive mussels.
- There are currently two ballast water bills, the House bill has passed, and the Senate bill is ongoing.
- New Environmental Protection Agency permits are coming September 2008.
- The Ballast Water Workgroup is working to create rules governing the number of organisms permitted for release into state waters. They will submit CR102 in June (they plan to submit current emergency rules. These rules will not be final). The emergency rules will act as a placeholder. This is the next step in the permanent rule making process. The goal is to have consistency on a large scale, preferably a regional plan.
- Right now California has the strictest rules. Currently open water exchange seems most effective in preventing species spread.

### **Council Business Items:**

Bridget Moran moved to **APPROVE** the March 10, 2008 meeting minutes as amended. **Wendy Brown SECONDED.** The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the March 10, 2008 minutes.

Bridget Moran moved to **APPROVE** the April 16, 2008, meeting minutes. Gene Little **SECONDED.** The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the April 16, 2008 minutes.

### **Public Comment:**

Fritzi Cohen, of Moby Dick Hotel and Oyster Farm, said she does not want pesticides in water. She feels the *Spartina* issue is not clear in the strategic plan and that there is a lack of emphasis on maintaining water quality. She would like to see more stringent risk assessments. She has seen current news regarding water pollutants and dead zones in water. She discussed current pesticide products currently in use. She fears that pesticide treatment methods are more dangerous than the plants themselves. She would like to see pesticide control handled by a single agency to bring better control over the process.

Bridget Moran clarified that Washington's levels of pollution in rivers are low in most areas except in Wenatchee and in Cranberry production areas. Pesticide issues specifically, are not within the scope of the Council and are addressed by other agencies.

Keith Stavrum, of Independent Fish Growers of Washington State, distributed pictures for the Council to view. The pictures show the results of pesticide spraying on *Spartina* near his home. He tested after the spraying, and found heavy drift coverage on his property. He wants protections built in to the permitting process. Tests showed no living organisms in the muck left by the spraying. He would prefer to see mowing as a control method for *Spartina*, which does not have chemical side effects.

### **Strategic Plan – Final Review:**

The Council reviewed all sections of the final strategic plan draft. Council members noted small changes for staff to address before sending the plan to the printer.

Bridget moved to **APPROVE** the final Strategic plan for printing and distribution. The Council unanimously **APPROVED.**

**Panel Discussion:**

Bridget asked panel members to discuss what type of assistance and coordination they would like to receive from the Council.

Alison Halpern, of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), noted that she sees a lot of opportunity for coordination among the Council and the WSNWCB for public outreach. They can also share data on noxious weed research. She asked the Council for support of the WSNWCB's current programs, which need funding at the county level and for support when asking the Legislature for funding and enforcement of state laws.

Allen Pleus, Ballast Water Work Group and Tunicate Response Advisory Committee, stated that the Ballast Water Work Group legislation states that they must work closely with the Council. He asked the Council how they want to interact with the goals of these groups. The Ballast Water Work Group wants to bring policy level questions to the Council for direction, support, and collaboration, and would like Council support in the legislation process.

Randy Marshall, Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee, noted this committee makes recommendations, writes an annual report, and fosters coordination. They would like feedback from the Council on their "watch-list" and their workgroup charter. They are working on an early detection and rapid response plan and could use assistance with this process. He asked the Council if they would like to endorse the committee's annual report.

Sarah Gage, Washington State Biodiversity Council, stated that invasive species and biodiversity are interrelated; both Councils have much in common. A new Executive Order has extended the Biodiversity Council and requires them to begin working on early implementation of their strategic plan. Conservation Framework Maps are one area they are focusing on at the local level. There are opportunities for coordination between the two councils on messaging to the public and other audiences, and on the conservation framework and scorecard.

Kevin Anderson, Puget Sound Partnership, explained that they are working on their Action Agenda. They recognize that invasive species are a threat to Puget Sound. They are determining funding needs among their partners. They are also working to find new funding sources. Their science panel is developing a strategy as well; they will conduct a survey of current monitoring efforts. Items from the invasive species strategic plan might fit into the Action Agenda. Kevin hopes the Council is part of this discussion. He asked the Council to stay involved with these forums and to review draft plans.

Lizbeth Seebacker, Pacific NW Invasive Plant Council, noted that they are working on public outreach, early detection, rapid response, promotion of information exchange, and increasing communication on environmental and economic impacts of invasive species. They would like the Council to assist with policy level direction, strengthening invasive species laws, and to support funding for invasive species control. They are piloting an early detection and rapid response program with the State Noxious Weed Control Board on a few specific species. The information will go into a comprehensive list serv.

Bridget reviewed the Council's potential roles and levels of coordination including topics such as policy level assistance and support for funding.

To meet the opportunities presented, the Council may need to divide tasks among themselves. With the upcoming development and work of the Puget Sound Partnership, the Council is at an important juncture in determining how to move forward.

The Council agreed to have a broader discussion about this topic and to explore their role with partners. The Council needs a lot of background information about topics before providing policy level direction and recommendations to make knowledgeable and informed decisions.

The Council discussed what "higher policy level direction" really means for them and their relationship with partners. They can provide a place for dialogue but not make specific recommendations in areas where they might not have the expertise. Partners also need clarification of the Council's role. The Council wants to be a neutral, intermediary body rather than a governing body. The Council needs a document "developing guidelines" or "guiding principles" that describes its role and its relationship with various partners. The Council will develop this document with its partners.

**Next Steps:**

The Council discussed Gen Keesecker's upcoming maternity leave and the additional assistance from Lori Lawrence during her absence. Lori has assisted with the Biodiversity Council. Her experience will be a great asset to the Council.

**Fall Event Launch Event:**

The Council will use the August meeting as a time to plan implementation. Later meetings will be scheduled to launch sections of the strategy. When the strategy is complete in early June, it may be wise to schedule early briefings and one-on-one meetings to get the word out to key audiences and decision makers. The Council should have a press release ("First Ever State-wide Strategic Plan") to announce the strategy and to communicate implementation plans.

Bridget encouraged all Council members to spread the word about the strategic plan. Speaking points should be crafted to prepare Council members for Strategic Plan discussions. A one-page document will list the top five recommendations of the strategy, and information about the fall launch event.

The launch event could include field trips, workshops, or a social event with press coverage, and a "Defenders at the Gate" award to recognize local success. A workshop or seminar could be used to solicit involvement and explain implementation. The Council should invite important local groups, representatives, and members of the public who work on the ground, so they can be involved in implementation.

The Council formed a group to plan the Fall Launch event. The efforts and ideas generated by this group will be emailed to all Council members. Bridget asked members to volunteer to join this group.

Members include: Alison Halpern, Dana Coggon, Wendy Brown, Ray Willard, Bridget Moran, and Brid Nowlan. Confirmed dates for fall launch events will be posted on the Council web site and in Council and partner newsletters. Council members will hand deliver the strategy to state legislators.

**Budget:**

The Council will create a new budget package since the supplemental budget was not approved. The Council will approve the budget proposal at the August meeting. If it needs approval sooner, the Council will call a special meeting.

**Chair/Vice Chair Discussion:**

Council members interested in serving as chair, can discuss the position in further detail with Bridget. It is a good time to switch Council chairs, as the strategic plan will be complete and moving to implementation. The Council will vote on the chair and vice-chair in August.

**New Membership**

The Council suggested Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection as potential new members for the Council. The Council agreed it is best to add new members after the strategy is complete. Staff will contact the U.S. Forest Service regional office to request a representative who has worked with invasive species. The Council also discussed finding a replacement Council member to represent the Environmental Protection Agency following Joan Cabreza's retirement.

The Council unanimously **APPROVED** to send letters of invitation to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Next Steps:**

- August 20<sup>th</sup> agenda review
- Complete strategy and get to printer
- New fall event planning committee
- Budget package development
- Preparing for next step and implementation

**Adjourned:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Next meeting:

August 20, 2008

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:



Bridget Moran, Chair

August 20, 2008

Date