

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 2008

Room 172, Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Christopher	Washington State Department of Transportation
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Bob Koch	Franklin County
Bridget Moran, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brid Nowlan	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Melodie Selby	Washington State Department of Ecology
Ted Smith	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Pene Speaks	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Mary Toohey	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Michael Valenzuela	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Paul Heimowitz	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Allen Pleus	Ballast Water Work Group

STAFF:

Clover Lockard
Lori Lawrence
Rachel LeBaron

Convene and Welcome:

Bridget Moran opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m. She made announcements, introduced new members, asked the Council and audience members to introduce themselves, and then went over the Council agenda. Bridget thanked Kaleen Cottingham, Director of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), for her support of the council.

New members are:

- Susan Spinella, Agriculture Program Manager, U.S. Customs & Border Protection
- Doug Daoust, Assistant Director, Forest Health Protection, U.S. Forest Service
- Ted Smith, Stewardship Program Manager, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Announcements/Hot Topics:

- Chinese Frog: Allen Pleus presented an update. A container from China arrived in Oregon containing a frog. The container shipment of Granite was supposed to go to Pasco, Washington. It was unclear who had regulatory authority over the frog. The U.S. Department of Agriculture did not have jurisdiction, because frogs are not on their list of prohibited species. Since the container was sealed, the state of Oregon kept the container from being opened and did not assume responsibility.
- Washington prohibits the release of an unclassified aquatic species. Consequently, the importer voluntarily fumigated the container. When it arrives in Pasco, biologists will examine the contents of the container to identify the species.
- Ballast Water: The state is working on final rules language. The next meeting of the Ballast Water Work Group will be Wednesday, August 27, 2008 and is a teleconference.

Council Business Items: Bridget Moran moved to **APPROVE** the May 7, 2008 meeting minutes as amended. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the May 7, 2008 minutes.

A copy of the Council Budget Decision Package was included in the council packet. Bridget went over the decision package. Members asked if the database could be housed at RCO. RCO agreed to house the database because no one else has requested to house it. This could change depending on the dialogue during the Workdays. If an FTE as funded to work on this, they would begin work in July 2009, depending on the hiring freeze. This budget request will also go through the Priorities of Government process.

Bridget Moran moved to **APPROVE** the 2009-2011 Council Decision Package. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the 2009-2011 Council Decision Package.

Public Comment:

Fritzi Cohen commented on how beautiful the Invasive Species Strategy is, but expressed concern over current state of pesticide use. There has been recent concern over Vibrio in shellfish. She expressed concern that the increase is connected to pesticide use. She would like to see green options. She suggested instead of spraying, weeds be gathered to create bio-fuel; she feels this would also create green jobs.

Bill Brookreson, Pacific Northwest Invasive Plan Council, is now working with Dr. Sarah Riechard. He is looking forward to further work with the Invasive Species Council and will be attending the Workday events.

Chair/Vice Chair Nominations:

Bridget spoke of how much she has enjoyed being Council Chair. She suggested the addition of language to define the terms (1 year) of Chair and Vice Chair to the council ground rules. The Council then reviewed the nominations. Chris Christopher was nominated for Chair and Brid Nowlan for Vice-Chair.

Bridget moved to **APPROVE** the election of Chris Christopher as Council Chair. The Council unanimously **APPROVED**.

Bridget moved to **APPROVE** the election of Brid Nowlan as Council Vice-Chair. The Council unanimously **APPROVED**.

Melodie Selby thanked Bridget for her work on the Council. There was discussion on whether a chair's term could be extended, if needed. The 1-year term rule discussion will continue at the next meeting. Bridget will remain chair during the Workday events. The workgroups assigned to create the Strategic plan disbanded today. New workgroups may form depending on Workday event outcomes. Bridget will remain on the council.

Set 2009 Meeting Dates:

Each council member received a Calendar in his or her packet. Proposed 2009 meeting dates are:

- Thursday, January 8, 2009
- Thursday, May 7, 2009
- Thursday, September 10, 2009
- Thursday, December 3, 2009

Meeting dates will be confirmed at the next Council meeting.

Event Work Group Report:

Bridget showed everyone the council website, workday registration page, and gave handouts with information about facilitators, speakers, note-takers, and exhibitors. There will be carpool options available for both events. The council reviewed the "Agenda at a Glance", and the list of attendees (other than council members) who have registered. The council has options for introductory comments. The Tacoma event will have David Dicks from Puget Sound Partnership. A recommendation was to ask Bob Gore, Director of Department of Agriculture, speak in Pasco. Governor Gregoire may provide opening remarks via video. The networking event in Pasco will be the night before the workday. Networking in Tacoma will be after the event. Legislators and other VIPs will be invited to attend. Bridget requested that council members involve people from their agencies with expertise. Bridget also requested that council members check for discretionary funding from their agencies, as federal and state budgets are closing.

Work Session for Fall Events:

The council discussed content development for breakout sessions and facilitator and council member roles. Council members should attend both events. We would like to have a lead council member for each session to assist the facilitator in keeping the group on track, get conversation started, and move to the point of the discussion. There is information about each session on the website. Break out sessions include:

1. Baseline Assessment (Bridget)
2. Information Clearinghouse (Brid)

3. Education and Outreach (Dana in Parkland, Kate in Pasco)
4. Communication and Tools (Melodie in Parkland, Mary in Pasco)
5. Emergency Funding, Early Detection, and Rapid Response. (Wendy)

It was suggested to use Allen Pleus' discussion of the Chinese frog as a work activity for the Emergency Funding, Early Detection and Rapid Response breakout session at the workday events.

Bridget reviewed the facilitator information, and asked for questions from the council. A request came forward to have internet and a projector available for the Information Clearinghouse session. Wi-Fi is available at the TRAC facility. There was also a concern that the registration says people from each group will commit to doing part of the work, and the people attending may not be able to make a commitment without going back to their agencies and councils for further discussion.

Staff will resend the registration information to the council members, and a copy of the current email distribution list. Staff reminded the council to register at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco. Carpool options will be available, and are encouraged.

There will be a press release and a media blitz right before the Workdays. Please send all comments and questions to Clover by close of business Wednesday.

Regional Zebra Mussel Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

Bridget Moran, Allen Pleus, and Paul Heimowitz.

Allen explained the 100th Meridian is an initiative to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic species from the Dakotas west.

Paul Heimowitz called in on conference phone. The Council received a copy of the Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan for review. The plan has been a big effort over the last few years. There is a need for rapid response guidelines that cover all jurisdictions. The plan will help the process of reporting aquatic invasive species and deciding on short and long-term actions. The developers of the plan focused on the organizational section of the plan, since that is where there has been the most confusion. They are going to begin testing this plan with tabletop exercises. The first tabletop exercise was largely successful, but it showed the need for further tabletop exercises and training.

The goal is to have a response plan ready to go in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Nevada. They are still waiting on signatures from NOAA and Washington. Since Nevada has only a small portion of the Columbia Basin, the plan will not be delayed for them or for Canada. We would like to see this signed at the Governor's level in Washington State. Allen Pleus is our state's primary contact in Washington. An infestation anywhere in the Columbia Basin would affect the whole Columbia Basin. Current infestations include Lake Mead, Colorado, and California.

Staff will create a letter with this information and Bridget will carry it with her to her briefing on Friday.

Bridget moved to **APPROVE** the Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan and to prepare a letter of support for the Governor to sign. The Council unanimously **APPROVED**.

Work Session for Fall Events cont.:

What sort of report does the council want to come out of this event? There were suggestions for more definition around each recommendation. This includes how the workgroup plans to achieve those tasks, and clarify the prioritization and initial steps. There will be follow up correspondence with the workgroups afterwards. Members want to ensure that participants understand this is not only a work session, but the council is requesting a level of commitment too. Members also wanted to ensure that attendees know what resources their agency has before arriving at the Workday. If staff let participants know who is attending their group ahead of time they can begin work and discussions before the Workdays. Lastly, the council wanted to make it clear to facilitators that the council is not interested in re-writing the strategic plan. It is time for implementation. Staff and council members will need to keep in close contact with members of the workgroups after the Workdays.

Next Steps:

Update the November 2008 agenda based on today's discussion.

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next meeting:

November 19, 2008

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

Chris Christopher, Chair

Date