

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

May 17, 2007

Room 172, Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Pene Speaks	Department of Natural Resources
Joan Cabreza	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Barbara Chambers	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chris Christopher	Department of Transportation
Dana Coggon	Kitsap County
Bob Koch	Franklin County
Gene Little, Vice Chair	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board
Bridget Moran, Chair	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brid Nowlan	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Randy Marshall	Department of Ecology
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Brad White	Department of Agriculture

Call to Order:

Bridget Moran opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

Welcome announcements were made by Bridget Moran, Council Chair. The day's agenda was reviewed and there was discussion concerning why the public comment period was moved to the first part of the meeting agenda.

The Council and audience members introduced themselves.

Council Business Items:

Gene Little **MOVED** to approve March 20, 2007 meeting minutes. Bob Koch **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the March 20, 2007 minutes.

Gene Little **MOVED** to approve April 25, 2007 meeting minutes. Joan Cabreza **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the April 25, 2007 minutes.

Public Comment:

No public comment

Questionnaire Update:

Background was provided on this agenda item and it was noted that there are a total of 10 responses to date.

- A copy of these comments was provided to the Council members.
- This questionnaire was sent to 124 people.
- Staff will need to send out a reminder to see if the Council can get more responses.

State Noxious Weed Funding Report:

Bill Brookreson presented this agenda item. A copy of the report was provided to the Council members and the findings were reviewed with the Council.

Discussion:

- Interest was expressed in checking on budget amounts with universities. It was suggested that we may want to look at more than just dollar amounts and include the in-kind and intern work since much of invasive species work at universities fall under the “other” category. That does make it hard to get exact figures.
- The current focus is on actual figures but hopes to include those other calculations such as intern work in the future.
- On Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land being leased the lessee is the one that does the weed control. We do not have the dollar figures on that. We’re trying to pick up some of that information through the agency write-ups. Dollar figures were requested, as well as other efforts around the state, and expectation for weed control by lessees.
- Grant programs that include invasive species control funding such as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), and Centennial we discussed.
- Also, need information on how much money is being spent on federal lands?
- This report addresses state funding going toward invasive species. Federal funding may be something the Council will want to look into at a later date. It may be a very valuable assessment.
- All the state agencies that provided information did a good job. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) did an excellent job breaking down all the information and calculating the results. He provided a very detailed analysis.
- There isn’t a standardized way of monitoring invasive species control and the Council may want to recommend this in the strategy.
- It was asked if there is a common denominator that could be used for monitoring this information. The response was that there are some trends but that this is something for the funding workgroup to address.
- There is a lot of data in the report that is in text only at this point. It was suggested that it would be good to talk to someone who knows about databases to get this information into a database since there is a lot of good information in this report. It would be useful to have the information standardized and in a database soon.
- We need to think carefully on what data is needed. The data in this report and the information coming in from the questionnaire will help identify what is needed.
- There is difficulty in separating the invasive species from the weeds. Farmers want to keep the weeds out and not kill the plants and don’t care if it is an invasive, noxious weed or a native weed. This makes it very difficult to separate the research funds for the universities.

- It was suggested that Kim Patten, Washington State University (WSU) extension, be added to the Council's contacts.
- The WSU Master Gardner program is also amazing and provides a lot of free labor. It was noted in the work related to weeds that there are a lot of volunteer efforts.
- Bill asked if this report was in a good format and asked what needs to be done to make it a better report.
- Appreciation for the report was expressed by the Council members and they will make comments and suggestion on format and content and send to Bill. The Council likes the way the report was laid out, but they need to figure out a way to put a lot of the information in the appendices. It needs to have a summary report with the back up information attached. This is a piece that will be pointed to in additional reports that will be generated by the Council.
- Perhaps a database can capture this information better. Although it is hard to find all of the information about volunteer efforts, it needs to be represented somehow.

Next Steps:

- Need to synthesize to report for Legislature.
- Need to bring forward thoughts and observations in the report to use as a hook to get people interested in reading the report.
- Funding workgroup will work with Bill to get the next draft ready for the Council.

Work Group Reports:

A handout summarizing the Work Group Leaders Work Session held on April 18, 2007 was provided to Council members. Jane Banyard from Department of Fish & Wildlife was introduced at this time. Jane is assisting the Council Chair.

Discussion:

- The Council's work as discussed and what needs to be created to help the entities who are doing the work. It would be easy to just write a report on what is needed but they need to have something that is more useful and helpful for people. They want to leave more than a legacy of a nice report that sits on people's shelves.
- One option to consider is a Web-based, living tool that is searchable and reportable instead of a hardcopy report.
- The strategic plan and the action plan in this day and age need to have the web based resources. There are other web resources out there now that link resources. We don't want to be the last link. The Council should be the central hub of the wheel.
- This is an excellent idea but the Council also needs to consider the non-web savvy legislators who need this and how to get them what they need.
- There is also a need for a gap analysis on what is needed and what needs to be linked.
- A web based system will continually need to be updated. The Council would have to consider the maintenance of this.

Budget Discussion:

- The Council needs to work on budget numbers soon in order to develop a supplemental request. The Council would like to look into costs for a web based effort and at existing efforts and what is being done through the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and The Washington Biodiversity Council and others.
- We should also look into funding a web master for updating information. The Council was reminded to think about the end user and how they will use it. Make sure it is accessible to dial up and all computer types.
- The Council unanimously agreed that they would like staff to develop a budget with details about a web based system, on-going maintenance costs, and costs for the production of a paper report (including costs for the traditional approach) for the August meeting.
- The Council discussed the possibility of getting one-time funding from the Legislature or a grant to fund the development of this system.
- What would the Council budget for a workshop/symposium and how much should be budgeted for it.

Summary of Work Group Lead Meeting:

- This group will meet on a monthly basis to coordinate efforts of all work groups.
- Outline of the strategy needs to be done by fall with a preliminary draft by December. A final draft is due in the spring with the final plan to the Legislature in July.

Program Coordination:

Agenda item presented by Gene Little.

This group has not met but will have first meeting in early June.

Education/Training:

Agenda item presented by Dana Coggon.

- This group hasn't met yet either and instead of having a face-to-face meeting are planning to have a conference call.
- The group is trying to consider who their audience is. As an education group, who do they want to have them focus on, general public, legislators, and etcetera?
- They should focus on everyone, but they may want to focus on the citizens and legislators as the technical people are already pretty familiar with this information.
- The Chair recently presented to the Aquatic Nuisance Committee and Oregon is focused on the educational side of things. They are conducting a survey regarding what people know about invasive species.
- Council discussed how important education and outreach is to the effort. Dana volunteered to have the education group do some of the follow-up with the Oregon group.

Legal/Regulation:

Agenda item presented by Randy Marshall

Randy reported that Melodie Selby would like more volunteers for her group. This group has not met.

Technical:

Mary Toohey was away for two weeks and the group had not met.

Discussion:

- Leads of the groups can identify and invite groups that need to be involved in each particular workgroup.
- IAC staff members are available to help the workgroup leads set up meetings and materials for meetings.
- Encourage interested groups to contact IAC to be included in the different workgroups.
- Want to make sure we include the public in this process.
- Send update listing workgroups and who to contact to get on to the different workgroups.
- Need a draft by this fall from the workgroups. The Chair encouraged groups to schedule meeting for several months out. Workgroups can get a hold of staff for assistance in setting up meetings.

Biodiversity Strategic Plan:

Bridget presented this agenda item as the WISC's representative to the Biodiversity Council because Wendy Brown was unable to attend today. A handout was provided.

- Part of the Biodiversity Council's charge is to get information from the WISC to include in their 30 year strategy. Meeting the timing requirements will be hard since the Biodiversity strategy is due December 2007 and WISC is just getting started and will probably not be ready to provide a full chapter's worth of information by that time.
- Discussion follow regarding the possibility of pulling out one or two topics that depict successful efforts being done around the state.
- It was noted that it would not be hard to come up with the top 12 invasive species, but that things can change if a new threat is identified.
- It would be nice to have a one-page summary of what has been done and what didn't work as well as planned. Bridget suggested picking one or two examples of aquatics, plants, insects, etcetera and what has worked well and what could have been done better.
- How is the Washington Biodiversity council addressing invasive species?
 - They are counting on the WISC to take care of this issue for them.
- Wendy Brown is working with Lynn Helbrecht, executive coordinator of the Washington Biodiversity Council and WISC staff to determine what is needed.
- The Council hopes to have a draft plan by August for the Washington Biodiversity Council.
- Identify early successes to make sure we get early recognition and support needed to keep this Council going. Council tabled this discussion until the August meeting. If Council members have relevant success story information they should send it to staff.
- Council members debated the topic of Zebra mussels. Should they begin educating people about them now, before they become a major problem, or focus on other things that are already in Washington State?

- If agencies have info on successes that can be shared, send to Clover.

Strategy Discussion:

Vision/Mission Statements:

The Chair asked one of the Council members to work the development of the vision/mission statement through during the summer. In July it will be sent out to the Council for comments and then finalized in August.

Next Steps:

August Meeting Agenda:

- The National Invasive Species Council Director is an invited guest for the August meeting. Add other perspectives such as Oregon and Idaho.
- Budget
- Early successes
- There was discussion regarding an MOU issue and input on a Tunicate Plan

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Next meeting:

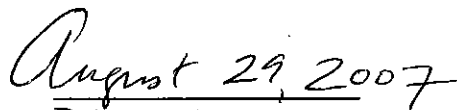
August 20, 2007

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Washington Invasive Species Council Approval:


Bridget Moran, Chair


Date