

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

June 14, 2012

Room 172, WA State Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (WISC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Anderson	Puget Sound Partnership
Raquel Crosier	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Doug Daoust	U.S. Forest Service
Kathy Hamel	Washington Department of Ecology
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Andrea LaTier	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Mackey	Chelan County
Tom McDowell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pene Speaks, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Mary Toohey	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation
Lisa Younger	The Nature Conservancy
Rob Fimbel	WA State Parks and Recreation Commission

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Lisa Debruyckere
Greg Haubrich
Lizbeth Seebacher
Annie Szvetecz
Margaret Tudor
Lindsey Wise

STAFF:

Wendy Brown
Stephanie Fudurich

CONVENE AND WELCOME:

Bill Tweit opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, and introductions.

HOT TOPICS:

State Response to Tsunami Debris and Invasives:

Chuck Matthews from Ecology and Dave Hodgeboom from Agriculture discussed the state response to Japanese tsunami debris. A committee has been established to identify funding needs, and they will meet next week to begin these discussions. Efforts have been underway to develop a state response plan. On April 25, 2012, a meeting was held in Ocean Shores, WA to get input from stakeholders on the plan. They

had not considered invasive species until the dock washed up on shore in Oregon. Funding has been a struggle for this group.

Discussion:

Has State Parks been involved in the planning process? Aside from NOAA, what other federal agencies have been involved in this planning?

- Yes, representatives from State Parks have been involved in developing the response plan. NOAA has been the federal agency in the lead role, but the other agencies involved, to a much lesser degree, are the Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service.

Following the landing of the dock on the Oregon Coast, the Oregon Invasive Species Council has been working with NOAA to set up a regional meeting on how to deal with invasive species that wash up with tsunami debris. NOAA will lead the meeting, and a draft agenda will be available end of next week.

Does the Washington Invasive Species Council have any role?

- Are we dealing with invasive or natural causes?
- Lisa DeBruckere will talk about the role of the Oregon Invasive Species Council during her hot topic.

Bill would like to commit to some sort of email effort as decisions are made, to keep council members informed. Particularly over the next couple of weeks when decisions are being made rapidly.

Invasive Species Response in Oregon (Tsunami Debris)

The Oregon Invasive Species Council's interest in tsunami debris is strictly on the invasive species piece. When the dock washed ashore, all invasive marine life attached to the dock was removed within 48 hours. This event led to questions about what policy, research, and risk assessments need to be in place before the next infested debris hits. To begin discussing answers to those questions, a meeting will take place in Portland in late July. Representatives from west-coast states, Hawaii, and Canada, as well as several federal agencies, will convene to focus on how to be better coordinated and prepared for invasive species coming to our shores on tsunami debris.

The outcome of meeting will be a set of action plans.

Squeal on Pigs Regional Outreach Campaign:

The number of wild pigs in Oregon is estimated to be between 2,000 and 3,000, located mostly in the south and central parts of the state. Oregon has a pig eradication plan, but they are just now getting some funding for implementation. Oregon also recently passed legislation that makes it mandatory for landowners to report wild pigs on their property within 60 days.

This outreach campaign is modeled after the 'Don't Move Firewood' campaign, where the three states developed and used the same outreach materials. We have a logo and telephone number and will use a call center in Portland to answer calls for all three states. Messages will be created from the calls and sent out to the appropriate state contact. The goal is to educate people and make them aware of the impacts of feral swine, particularly to watersheds, and to get people to report feral swine when they see them.

Eurasian Milfoil Control in the Columbia River

The Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Program has been working with Okanagan County and Canada to control Eurasian water milfoil in the Columbia River. Their plan calls for working at the headwaters first and then working down river. They have developed a coordinated weed management area, with 20-30 partners, and have a \$30,000 grant to create a plan. Their goal is not to eradicate the invasive species from the river but to control it first with chemicals and then to bring in a biological control agent to keep the

infestation at a low level. They also are working with federal agencies to research toxicity and to conduct a flow and dye test in the river.

Baseline Assessment 2 Project Update

The work order request has gone out to request proposals from consultants. Proposals are due at end of June.

Lake Mead Outreach

At the March meeting of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the Council decided to send a letter to Senators Murray and Cantwell and Congressman Hastings that requests \$2 million to Pacific Northwest states for zebra and quagga mussel prevention. The Invasive Species Council agreed to write a follow-up letter directed at the use of a one-million-dollar appropriation for inspection and decontamination at Lake Mead. Raquel will work with Wendy to draft letter.

Didymo Update

Didymo is an algae. It is native to Washington and typically occurs in high-alpine lakes. It has caused ecological problems in New Zealand and other countries, so Ecology has put Didymo on its list of algal species of concern. WDFW recently found a large growth of Didymo in the Skokomish River, which is a concern because of the high degree of fishing activity there and the fact that Didymo is so easily spread on felt-soled waders. Ecology will put together a web page on Didymo and will continue to track its spread.

ISAC Presentation on Transportation

Ray Willard gave a presentation on transportation and invasive species issues to the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee when they met in Portland, OR. As a result, the Committee drafted a resolution that would require federal highway construction projects to address invasive species in order to be eligible for federal funds.

Japanese Eelgrass Permit

The draft permit to allow chemical control of Japanese eelgrass is almost ready for public comment. The permit will allow the use of chemical control only on commercial manila clam beds in Willapa Bay. The permit will allow a two-month spraying window, require a buffer, and be limited to 500 acres per year. Ecology will conduct extensive monitoring.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Action Item: Approval of December Minutes

Pene moved to **APPROVE** the March 15, 2012 minutes. Kevin Anderson **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the March 15, 2012 minutes.

iMAP INVASIVES PRESENTATION

Lisa Debruyckere, coordinator of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, and Lindsey Wise, data specialist with the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, gave a presentation on the use of iMapInvasives in Oregon. iMapInvasives was found to be the best fitting data mapping/database system for Oregon. It costs \$7,500 to start using the program and then \$2,500 per year. The Oregon Invasive Species Council bought one license and made it available to everyone in the state. They hired Lindsey part-time to manage the database. Sixty-four agencies and organizations currently contribute data to the system, and there are 2,000 observations in the system. There are many ways to use the system, from simply tracking locations to using it for management. Oregon would like iMapInvasives to be used regionally.

BREAK

WSDA WEED MAPPING EDDMapS

Greg Haubrich from the Washington State Department of Agriculture gave a presentation on EDDMaps, another invasive species (though this one is currently only used for plants) mapping tool.

This system mostly is used for mapping locations but can also be used to track management and treatment of infestations. It is free to use, has apps developed for iPhones and androids, has email alert capability, etc.

Discussion:

The Council needs to focus on our needs and how we want to manage data. What do we need to get out of any mapping system?

EDDMaps does not take animal reports. Greg will investigate if animal reports will be accepted in the future.

There may be unresolved questions with iMapInvasives regarding public disclosure. The Council needs to understand those issues if council is going to choose one or the other.

SEPA AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Annie Sztvetecz from the Department of Ecology gave an update on how invasive species were incorporated into the SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) environmental checklist guidance. Annie explained that the guidance document has been updated, with invasive species considerations and links to information and 'tips' included throughout the document. The plan for the revised guidance document is to have it on-line, but it is not quite finished. She would like to have a targeted group review the document and links and provide feedback to her.

LUNCH

INVASIVE SPECIES IN SCIENCE KITS

Margaret Tudor from the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) discussed their invasive species education plan for 2012-2013.

Last year studies were conducted to understand how many science kits were out there, what was in them, and how many were being used by elementary, middle and high school teachers. Just by asking what was in the science kits raised awareness of the issue among teachers and school administrators. Over the course of the next year, PEI will get a more complete list of genus, and species if possible, of the plants and animals contained in the kits. Known quarantined species will be removed, and a guidance document will be developed for kit centers. WDFW will work on developing a list of recommended replacement species, once it is known how the different plants and animals are used in the classroom.

PEI will also continue working on targeted professional development, focusing on educating teachers in skills centers, high school environmental science teachers, and career and technical education teachers. They will also work with other organizations like Sea Grant and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop invasive species curricula for schools.

Discussion:

Next piece of work would be to work with every kit center in the state – to expand this work beyond the Puget Sound Basin.

Council should consider some sort of communication to express concern about invasive species in science kits to the National Science Foundation.

Pene makes request for Margaret to work with executive team to make a communication plan or outline for letter. Once we have a solid draft, it would be worthwhile to work with our regional partners to send similar letters.

BALLAST WATER UPDATE, FEDERAL RULES, WDFW PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill Tweit began the discussion with the topic of WDFW proposed legislation. They are currently writing legislation that would bring all of their invasive species statutes in one place, change how invasive animal species are classified to better line up with the noxious weed classification system, and adding some new authorities for the agency. They are unsure yet if funding will be addressed in the draft bill. Once the draft is in good working order, it will be shared with the Council for review and comment.

Ballast Water Issues:

WDFW intends to meet with the U.S. Coast Guard district office to come up with an informal agreement to express state issues regarding ballast water. WDFW will have to mesh state law compliance rules and efforts with Coast Guard rules and inspection compliance. They will develop a cooperative agreement with Coast Guard.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment during this time.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Lake Mead Letter – Wendy and Raquel will write a draft letter. Tom McDowell will consider role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the letter and will coordinate with Wendy on how to proceed.
2. Tsunami Debris – Wendy will provide updates on tsunami debris and coordination efforts.
3. Is there a need for a mapping system? Wait until next council meeting to discuss our needs or put together a small group to discuss options.
4. Squeal on Pigs – Wendy will communicate with Lisa DeBruyckere, to create graphic design, logo.
5. Wendy will craft a grant agreement with PEI and work with Margaret on draft letter concerning invasive species in science kits.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m. Bill thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting:

September 27, 2012

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

Bill Tweit, Chair

Date