

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

September 27, 2012

Room 172, WA State Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (WISC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Anderson	Puget Sound Partnership
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chris Christopher	Department of Transportation
Raquel Crosier	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Rob Fimbel	WA State Parks and Recreation Commission
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Lizbeth Seebacher	Department of Ecology
Andrea LaTier	Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Mackey	Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Tom McDowell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pene Speaks, Vice Chair	Department of Natural Resources
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Lt. Eric Young	U.S. Coast Guard
Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mary Toohey	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lisa Younger	The Nature Conservancy
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Jennifer Knauer
Mike Leech
Allen Pleus
Jesse Shultz
Brad White
Ray Willard

STAFF:

Kathleen M. Barkis
Wendy Brown

CONVENE AND WELCOME:

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

New member, Lt. Eric Young, shared his background with the United States Coast Guard, working on invasive species investigations and ballast water issues.

HOT TOPICS:

Lake Mead Update

Raquel Crosier reported that half of Lake Mead's one million dollar appropriation for invasive species prevention is being used to get two existing decontamination stations up and running and to conduct concessionaire trainings.

Raquel and Wendy drafted and sent a letter to Secretary Salazar on behalf of the Council stressing the need for all of the million dollars to be spent at Lake Mead for increased inspections and decontaminations, rather than being spread out among other facilities and states.

July 2012 PNWER Meeting

Wendy reported that WISC was not represented this year at the Saskatchewan, Canada meeting. It was too costly to attend. PNWER continues its work on their action plan and is moving ahead with implementation. Wendy will keep Council members informed on progress made. Next years' meeting is taking place in Anchorage, Alaska. Mike Mackey announced he plans to attend.

Squeal on Pigs Campaign Update

Wendy reported that the "Squeal on Pigs" campaign has been initiated with the phone number released and posters being designed and printed. There was great media attention following the press releases that went out in the three states. This campaign covers Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Wendy reviewed responses from the "Hog Log" – sightings in Idaho and Oregon but none in Washington. The main challenges will be keeping the number out in front and poster distribution.

Additional agency "Squeal on Pigs" exposure was requested with the following immediate responses: WDFW will post on their web site, USDA will look into it, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection will check to see if this issue affects cross border.

Puget Sound Action Agenda Update

Kevin Anderson reported PSP's leadership just adopted their *2012/2013 Action Agenda for Puget Sound*. Invasive species actions and projects for the next two years are:

- Baseline assessment, Phase 2
- Early detection and monitoring plan and cost proposal
- Recommendations for managing the hull fouling pathway
- Ballast water treatment effectiveness study
- Zebra/quagga mussel and New Zealand mud snail response plans

Kevin announced PSP's new Executive Director, Tony Wright, came on board recently with a career spent in the Army Corps of Engineers. He has already set in motion a number of restructuring opportunities with strategic initiatives.

NZMS Update

Jesse Schultz, WDFW, reported that New Zealand mud snails have been found in Kelsey Creek, King County. Kelsey Creek is located within the City of Bellevue's city limits. *Corbicula* and Chinese mystery snails, both already known to exist in Washington, were also found in the area. The first step in addressing the infestation is to ensure that all people working in the creek and surrounding wetlands are decontaminating their gear. WDFW will stress the use of Virkon® for decontamination purposes. Next steps involve meetings with all local stakeholders to educate them on the situation and need for decontamination and to continue surveying other creeks. The City of Bellevue will conduct the surveys, and the WDFW will play a coordination role.

Further discussion:

- Jesse Schultz assisted the City of Bellevue in getting started with this work.
- There are no New Zealand mud snail survey data for Lake Sammamish.
- Virkon® is used for decontamination only – a very effective treatment.
- These are salmon-bearing streams – ESA listed chinook.
- King County is very proactive and on board with surveying and decontamination.
- We need to look at fish measuring impacts and costs.
- Thornton Creek and Kelsey Creek are the extent of WDFW's management.

The New Zealand mud snail conversation prompted a separate, but related, discussion about how salmon recovery projects need to better address and manage invasive species. The USFWS reported that the recovery projects they fund would bring in more considerations of invasive species. On the state level, it was noted that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board needs to consider how invasive species tie into salmon recovery projects. Pene Speaks stated that Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program projects do not address that question. Wendy Brown said that she gave a presentation on invasive species to the Recreation and Conservation Office salmon outdoor grant managers, giving particular emphasis on decontamination procedures. The Chair solicited Council members to consider participating in a work group to figure out how to bring invasive species awareness into the project evaluation process. A workgroup will be formed, which will bring recommendations back to the Council in December.

Hull Fouling Project

Allen reported that WDFW received EPA grant funds through the Puget Sound Partnership to examine hull fouling risks in Puget Sound – what non-native species exist in Puget Sound, how they got here, if and how they are being managed. WDFW has contracted with Portland State University to conduct the work over the next year.

Attorneys General/Aquatic Invasive Species Meeting

Allen talked about the meeting that occurred in September 2012 among AIS coordinators and assistant attorneys general from most of the western states. The purpose of the meeting was to identify gaps in policy and regulation for the prevention of zebra and quagga mussel spread. In addition to state policy issues, constraints of the federal Lacey Act were also discussed. A regional action plan was developed from the meeting. The western invasive species councils are assigned various tasks that Wendy will report back on in upcoming meetings.

Tsunami Debris Update

Bill reported that the state plan to respond to tsunami debris was approved by the Governor. Invasive species evaluation and management are addressed in the plan. The Department of Emergency Management is the lead agency with the Department of Ecology as communications lead.

Green Crab Update

Allen gave a brief history of the European green crab's introduction to the United States in the early 1990's, starting north of Vancouver Island and making their way south. The first sightings of green crab in the U.S. were in Willapa Bay, Washington. At that time, funds were allocated for research, monitoring, and risk evaluations, and trapping efforts yielded relatively few crabs.

Currently, the green crab population on Vancouver Island appears to be growing and spreading with the most recent new invasion found in July in Sooke Bay. This is cause for concern given their close proximity to the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Discussion:

- The Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel is evaluating their science policy for Washington State and Canada. The green crab issue was proposed to them for further investigation, but there are many other competing issues for the Science Panel.
- The only monitoring currently being done is by the Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge and the Department of Ecology in Padilla Bay.
- Allen proposes convening a science panel to re-evaluate this species in terms of ecological and economic risk so that clear policy can be determined.

Potential Gypsy Moth Infestation Update

Brad White, WSDA, updated the Council on a potential gypsy moth invasion in western Washington. WSDA field staff are currently surveying for egg bundles to delimit the extent of the population. More information will be forthcoming.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Action Item: Approval of June Minutes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Kevin moved to **APPROVE** the June 14, 2012 minutes, and Mary **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the June 14, 2012 minutes.

WDFW INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION

Allen presented WDFW's proposed aquatic invasive species legislation for 2013. The bill proposes to update and re-organize their current statutes on invasive species and provide a comprehensive modernizing of AIS management authorities to address the continued and growing threat of AIS to Washington. Using the Washington State Noxious Weed Board's model of classifying species based on level of risk, WDFW is proposing to divide species into categories of 'prohibited' and 'regulated' and, within each, have three levels of classification. Other changes, primarily technical provisions or 'housekeeping' issues, were also discussed and commented on by the Council. WDFW is currently reaching out to stakeholders for review.

Wendy will send the draft language out to Council members, who are strongly encouraged to review it and provide input before October 15th. The Council will also work on preparing a statement in support of the bill.

BREAK

NOXIOUS WEED LIST CHANGES, 2012

Alison presented a PowerPoint detailing proposed changes to the 2013 noxious weed list. She discussed the simplification of weed regions, so that counties are no longer split between 2 regions, as well as shifts in the current noxious weed list. Species newly proposed for listing include French broom, tall hawkweed, common teasel, and common barberry. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Washington State Department of Agriculture Building in Yakima, located at 21 North First Avenue Yakima, WA 98902. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit citizen comments and opinions about these proposed rule changes.

Alison also mentioned the Weed Board's new outreach campaign: 'WEED EM OUT' and 'WEED EM and REAP.' They have produced outreach materials for WEED EM OUT, including road signs, brochures, and bumper stickers.

DRAFT LETTER TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ON SCIENCE KITS

Wendy reported the letter is not ready. Over the next few months, she will work with the Pacific Education Institute to prepare a more complete draft for Council review at the December meeting.

LUNCH

The Chair followed up with the group on recommending the formation of a Green Crab expert panel and a workgroup to discuss the intersection of invasive species management and salmon recovery. Those interested will contact Wendy.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT PROJECT, PHASE 2

Wendy introduced Mike Leech from ESA and welcomed back Jennifer Knauer from Hook-Knauer.

Michael is the project manager and technical GIS lead. He comes to the project with broad experience working with mapping King County's invasive species and the invasive Argentine ant populations on Maui and Oahu.

Jennifer is a landscape architect/planner bringing her company's programmatic, project oversight and policy expertise to the Council's project. Jennifer is currently working with the Puget Sound Partnership.

Phase 2 Project Overview:

As with the Phase 1 project, the emphasis will be on soliciting information from organizations and agencies and then forming expert groups to review and provide quality control input. A survey will be sent out to agencies in the next couple of weeks and assistance of the council is needed now in making sure the right people are to be contacted and that the right questions will be asked. In the near future, Mike will create a web portal to house project files and documents, a project calendar, and possibly some web mapping functionality.

Terrestrial and aquatic work groups will be formed in the March timeframe and will work until June 2013. Data will then be analyzed, with a draft report presented in August or September 2013 for Council review. The final report is due in December 2013.

Council feedback on 1) the questions included in the survey and 2) the list of agencies and organizations to be contacted is requested by October 5, 2012. Comments should be sent directly to Wendy.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF INVASIVE SPECIES MAPPING NEEDS

Wendy presented a table comparing two mapping software packages: iMapInvasives and EDDMaps. The Council had a discussion about what their needs are for mapping capabilities, two of which included enhanced ability for early detection and rapid response and education. Maps produced would also benefit natural resource managers.

It was recognized that this work would add to the efforts of the baseline assessment, potentially adding new data points to the baseline on an on-going basis.

NEXT STEPS

2013 meeting dates were scheduled:

March 14, 2013

June 20, 2013

September 19, 2013

December 5, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Bill thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting:

December 13, 2012

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

Bill Tweit, Chair

Date