

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

September 11, 2014

Natural Resources Building, Room 172
Olympia, Washington

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pene Speaks, Vice Chair	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Mike Mackey	Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Lisa Younger	The Nature Conservancy
Diane Cooper	Taylor Shellfish, Pacific Shellfish Growers Association
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rob Pedersen	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Guests and Presenters:

Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Aquatic Invasive Species Unit
Margaret Tudor	Pacific Education Institute
Chad Phillips	Washington Department of Agriculture
Jesse Schultz	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jill Silver	10,000 Years Institute
Jen Masterson	Recreation and Conservation Office

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Wendy Brown	Policy Director
Kathleen M. Barkis	Administrative Assistant
Wendy Loosle	Board Liaison

Opening and Welcome

Bill Tweit, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. with welcome, announcements, facility safety information, introductions, recording information, and a review of the agenda.

Due to scheduling conflicts of the presenters, the council adjusted the order of the agenda to allow a recent incident report to be presented first, followed by items 1, 2, and 9.

Incident report

Allen Pleus reported on a recently discovered infestation of New Zealand mud snail (NZMS) in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Ringold Hatchery complex on the Columbia River, located north of Richland. Staff began to scope the situation by assessing population density, and, based on the test results, it appears that the population has been established for three to four years. Staff also discovered that there are springs affected near the hatchery.

A [press release](#) will be issued, stating that the infested area covers about 100 acres and impacts approximately 200,000 fish. WDFW staff are exploring options to manage and mitigate the infestation. During the current salmon run, Ringold Hatchery would normally be operating at peak use, supporting a popular fishery along sections of the Columbia River. The hatchery has temporarily stopped releasing fish until decontamination measures are taken.

Jesse Schultz, WDFW, was onsite surveying the extent of the infestation. He collaborated with Dr. Caren Goldberg, Washington State University, to test the water systems for the presence of environmental DNA in order to detect invasive species.

Management of the infestation is still in progress, and a stakeholder's meeting will take place next week to gain input and assistance from other agencies. As part of the larger statewide effort, hatchery locations are being documented in order to develop a plan for initial triage, i.e. determining which agency or organization receives information, when, and in what priority order. The current situation at Ringold Hatchery was initially discovered by facility personnel, which provides an example of the necessary policies and procedures that need be in place in order to expedite reporting and management of infestation issues.

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Nutria Control at Capitol Lake / Jesse Schultz

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) reported that ten nutria were identified at Capitol Lake and three were removed. Staff have followed up with the option to selectively shoot nutria (as discussed at the last council meeting) and are maintaining the necessary safety protocols. DES and WDFW have stated that their ultimate goal is full eradication. To date, no public concerns have been voiced in opposition of this goal. Some citizens asked permission to shoot nutria for taxidermy purposes, although these requests have been declined.

Carrie Martin, Department of Enterprise Services, is the contact available for further questions regarding this issue: carrie.martin@des.wa.gov.

Item 2: Outcomes from the Regional Tunicate Management Workshop / Diane Cooper

Diane Cooper, Taylor Shellfish representative, provided an update on behalf of Jesse Schultz covering the recent Regional Tunicate Management Workshop. This first-time workshop was a gathering of industry representatives, tunicate experts from the Western Regional Panel, and Gretchen Lambert, a world renowned expert on tunicates. The workshop was well-attended and sponsored fruitful discussions regarding risk assessment and gathering information to support the development of a regional strategic plan. Ms. Cooper shared that representatives from the shellfish industry delivered a presentation that was well-received by other attendees.

Item 9: Tsunami Debris Update / Allen Pleus

**This agenda item was presented out of order.*

Mr. Pleus updated the council on recent Japanese tsunami debris. Since the June meeting, WDFW has only been notified of smaller debris such as tires, Styrofoam, and buoys, with no further reports of skiffs or larger debris. Seasonal trends affect the amount of debris washed ashore, and, with winter storms, it is anticipated that reports of larger debris will be more frequent.

The Japanese government gifted funds to the U.S. to address debris issues, and WDFW has decided to use the funds in part to hire a one-year full-time employee. The position will begin in late November and responsibilities will include collecting debris, both large and small, in a systematic way for researchers to examine. The emphasis will be on rapid response to reported sightings of coastal debris. The staff person will work closely with Dr. Jim Carlton and other nationwide researchers who are focusing on the types of organisms potentially arriving from Japan.

Mr. Pleus added an update not previously on the agenda regarding the European green crab. He collaborated with other WDFW staff to develop and implement an early detection program for green crab, receiving \$100,000 in funding through the University of Washington's Sea Grant program. The two entities are finalizing a contract which will begin next season and continue for two years, focusing on data collection primarily in the north Puget Sound and a monitoring program.

Item 3: 2014 Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Meeting / Bill Tweit

Bill Tweit, Chair, shared information about PNWER 2014 Annual Summit Meeting, held on July 20 – 24 in Whistler, British Columbia. Washington State was represented by Wendy Brown, Mike Mackey and Senator Jim Honeyford.

There were two breakout sessions with a focus on invasive species in the Pacific Northwest region. Related presentations were provided by speakers from:

- 1) The British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding biological control of invasive plants;
- 2) Thompson Rivers University regarding invasive ant species in the Pacific Northwest;
- 3) The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia regarding industry initiatives to prevent the spread of invasive species in horticulture;
- 4) The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding their response efforts to the Lake Powell quagga mussel infestation;
- 5) Beyond Attitude Consulting, Inc. regarding mechanisms to change behaviors that can lead to infestation or prevention;
- 6) Alberta Rat Control regarding invasive rats, management, and the laws according to the Agricultural Pests Act;

- 7) The Manitoba Aquatic Invasive Species Program regarding zebra mussels in Lake Winnipeg;
- 8) Creative Resource Strategies, LLC. regarding a U.S. focused update on zebra and quagga mussel prevention;
- 9) The Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Department regarding their aquatic invasive species program; and
- 10) A joint presentation by the BC Ministry of Environment, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the Alberta Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development program regarding aquatic invasive species prevention in the western provinces.

Regional coordination and planning efforts will continue, though as a result of the meeting's limited attendance there remains several action items that need to be addressed. The winter PNWER meeting will take place in Seattle on November 21, 2014, with one full day devoted to zebra and quagga mussels. Those interested in enforcement and containment of the species are encouraged to attend.

Mike Mackey shared that within the Pacific Northwest region, the U.S. states (there are 6, including Washington) and the Canadian provinces are working diligently to find funding for invasive species management. At the upcoming PNWER meeting in November, the decision to focus on zebra/quagga mussels and milfoil came from the general acknowledgement that these species are currently spreading and coordinated strategies need to be implemented. Tom Woolf, Idaho's Invasive Species Coordinator, shared with Mr. Mackey that zebra/quagga mussels were recently found ninety miles from the Idaho border, near a site that performs up to 43,000 inspections annually. This news is evidence of the moving infestations, and all possible cautionary measures should be taken.

Item 4: Spartina and Gypsy Moth Control Update / Chad Phillips

Chad Phillips shared information about the Spartina Program, funded collaboratively through the Department of Natural Resources, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and implemented through partnerships among state agencies, universities, counties, tribes, private organizations, and private landowners.

Spartina, commonly known as cordgrass, is an aggressive noxious weed that has severely disrupted the ecosystems of native saltwater estuaries in Washington State. With the largest of Washington's infestations coming under control, the effort has transitioned into a "survey and eradicate" model, focused on finding and treating the remaining individual plants and scattered infestations that exist throughout the previously infested area. At one time *Spartina* covered 9,000 acres; currently these populations are down to less than 10 acres.

The addition of iForms and cloud-based data collection among agencies is helping to facilitate communication and provide up-to-date information at any given time. Other benefits include early identification of data gaps and addressing them prior to the next season's data collection efforts. Challenges include areas that have previously declared as eradicated, yet single plants are discovered and resources must be dedicated to re-assessing the area.

Jim Marra informed the council of WSDA's fourteen entomology programs that target twenty-four invasive species. The Entomology Branch places up to 40,000 traps statewide each year, carried out by about sixty-five to seventy field personnel. Mr. Marra also provided information about the 2014 gypsy moth survey. The results have not been finalized yet, but data reveal an increase in the number of moths trapped from last year: one in 2013 and twenty-five in 2014. Many of these catches were of a single moth, at sites located in Western Washington.

Ms. Yund added that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection unit inspects Asian-Pacific vessels. Invasive species findings are followed by treatment and cleaning protocols.

Item 5: Proposed Changes to 2015 Weed List / Alison Halpern

Alison Halpern briefed the council on the 2015 proposed changes to the noxious weed list. Changes include the following additions:

- 1) Ravenna grass, *Saccharum ravennae*, proposed Class A noxious weed;
- 2) Pampas grass, *Cortaderia selloana*, proposed Class C noxious weed;
- 3) Jubata grass, *Cortaderia jubata*, proposed Class C noxious weed; and
- 4) Italian arum, *Arum italicum*, proposed Class C noxious weed.

More information about the proposed changes can be found on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board website at: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/whatsNew.html#line1> .

Item 6: Proposed Additions to Weed Quarantine List / Brad White

Brad White shared the recent changes to WSDA's quarantine list, managed through WAC 16-752. Amendments include three species added to the prohibited plant list - oriental clematis (*Clematis orientalis*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), and giant reed (*Arundo donax*); combines five quarantines into a single prohibited plant list; repeals an obsolete quarantine (yellow nutsedge); and adds language that will allow the issuance of compliance agreements for growing or transporting regulated articles. The quarantine is being amended as a result of a petition submitted by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The State Weed Board had requested that butterfly bush (except for interspecific *Buddleja* hybrids), yellow archangel, lesser celandine, and all non-native hawkweeds and their hybrids be added to the WSDA quarantine list, with an effective date of October 2015.

Staff from the State Weed Board and WSDA mailed 200 surveys as well as opening an online survey to collect from over 1,300 nursery licensees. At this time, 61 surveys have been mailed back and 73 nurseries have responded to the online survey, totaling 134 responses. Mr. White summarized the results, noting that while many reported an economic impact as a result of the proposed changes, no monetary figures were provided.

Ms. Cooper inquired about methods other than surveys that WSDA uses to cooperate with plant nurseries. Ms. Halpern and Mr. White explained that the rule-making process is beneficial to the working relationships, as public comment is a part of the process. Generally, communications between WSDA, the Washington State Nurseries and Landscape Associations, and national associations have improved. Ms. Cooper offered to contact the associations with a request to join the Invasive Species Council Industry Panel.

Item 7: Eurasian Water Milfoil Control / Mike Mackey

Chelan County Noxious Weed Board has undertaken a milfoil control project in a small section of the Columbia River in front of Entiat Park in Chelan County. This highly-used recreational park area is being reconstructed to include a new park with a large amount of trees planted. The Eurasian water milfoil on the shoreline of this project is uncontained and has been well-established since the 1980s.

The Chelan Conservation Board obtained a planning grant from the Department of Ecology and developed a design and implementation plan with a team comprised of representatives from multiple agencies (U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, and others).

The Department of Ecology also approved chemical application of *tricolpyr* (Renovate 3™), which is potentially harmful to fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the applicable “fish window” from August to September for bull trout, steelhead, and various salmonids, during which application would have a more negative impact. Mr. Mackey attended multiple meetings addressing concerns about smolts potentially getting killed, including an email from a NOAA Fisheries representative stating that the chemical would benefit the habitat more than harm it. The chemical precaution is one part chemical to one part water, or a waiting period of 120 days before irrigation can take place.

Mr. Mackey reiterated to the Council that the spread of milfoil needs to be addressed particularly on the Columbia River.

Item 8: “WA Invasives” App Use and Upgrades / Bill Tweit

The WA Invasives app is now available for both iPhone and Android platforms. Over one hundred responses confirm that this platform is more accessible than the online reporting methods. There is a quality assurance group continuing to improve and support the app.

Additional funding provided the means for hiring a firm, Spatial Development, to make some upgrades to the app, including:

- 1) Upgrades to the map feature, which needs to include everything in the baseline assessments (both phases);
- 2) Beginning to incorporate data from the City of Bellevue’s New Zealand mud snail reporting app;
- 3) Improving the interface for end-users by creating a more searchable database of all noxious weeds, and allowing users to select lists and add new species; and
- 4) Incorporating additional links to other agency web sites.

Chair Tweit requested the council to continue providing input on the app’s improvement. Suggestions may be submitted to Wendy Brown, who will refer them to the new executive coordinator once they are hired. Chair Tweit also encouraged the council to assume the task of promoting the app and encouraging all state agencies to use it, particularly after the upgrades are made. The topic will be brought back to the December meeting in order to create broader strategies and to provide an update on the app upgrades.

Item 10: USDA / Customs and Border Protection Guidance on Carrier Contamination / Vicki Yund

A joint USDA/CBP presentation on carrier contamination was issued recently. Ms. Yund showed an overview of selected slides and encouraged members to make use of any or all of the information as appropriate for their needs, and to share the presentation with other interested parties. The presentation can be found at: <http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/protecting-agriculture> – it is the second item listed on the right (Carrier Conveyance Contamination: Trade Outreach.) Ms. Cooper inquired about the carrier initiative outreach and regulatory border control, noting that delaying perishable cargo is an issue. The shared goal should be more prevention-based, e.g. helping carriers assess for potential contaminator prior to arrival at the border. Ms. Yund invited further questions to be addressed by contacting her via phone or email.

Customs inspects conveyances with the authority to stop the carrier and/or make it return to where it came from. This is an effort to avoid carrier conveyance contamination by informing the trade community,

importers, trade associations, trucking companies, and shipping lines. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Inspection Service, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Commercial Operations Advisory Committee established by the U.S. Treasury Department, are all working together.

There are numerous opportunities for public education to stop the spread of noxious weeds on truck grills etc., noxious seeds and insects imbedded in carrier conveyance parts. The initiative aims to increase outreach to trade entities, teach methods and techniques that will minimize contaminants in conveyances, and ultimately result in less holds, delays, and commodity re-exportation or treatments.

Item 11: Recent Inspection Incident at the Blaine Border Station / Vicki Yund

As a result of zebra and quagga mussel concerns raised at WISC meetings, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) developed a cooperative plan with U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USF&W) to address a potential problem with vessels being transported across the land border from Canada. The state of Washington provided training at Blaine to CBP personnel on identifying infested vessels. Recently, a boat arrived at Blaine, and CBP found it to be infested with mussels. CBP transmitted digital pictures to a USF&W expert for identification. Although in this instance the mussels were determined not to be zebra or quagga, the protocols and training worked as designed.

Break: 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Briefings

Item 12: WDFW 2015 Proposed Legislation / Allen Pleus

Mr. Pleus provided a two-page draft summary to the council summarizing the proposed 2015 legislation, including policies for watercraft excise tax, optional donation in lieu of permitting fees, ballast water program funding. Last year WDFW had agency legislation and comprehensive rewrites highlighting a new aquatic species chapter in a request package for \$3.8 million in funding. The Legislature only passed the policy portion. WDFW intends to propose funding options to the Legislature next session.

There has been a significant drop in annual boat registrations, both in-person and online. Part of the cause may be that licensing is for boats only and does not include trailers. Any enforcement agency may check boat registration tabs and/or issue a ticket; all payments received from tickets are placed in the general fund.

The council will continue to pursue federal funding, despite the inherent challenges. Mr. Pleus reiterated the need to shift the program from approaching goals in a "reactive" manner versus a "proactive" one. Next steps for WDFW will be awaiting the review, modifications, and decision on the proposed legislation from the Governor's Office. As changes are ever possible, Mr. Pleus urged agencies to submit letters of support.

Item 13: Assessment of Marine Biofouling Introductions to the Puget Sound Region of Washington State / Allen Pleus

WDFW successfully petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a nearshore grant that will help fund a project to assess the risks of biofouling to Puget Sound, as well as its marine life, commercial vessels, and recreational watercraft.

Biofoul, which basically consist of marine organisms that grow attached to solid objects, has been found to be an equal or greater risk than ballast water with regards to bringing invasive species into Washington State. More than ninety non-indigenous species are currently established in marine waters; Puget Sound has seventy-four and the majority are biofouling species. Monitoring of the impact over time has indicated that an increasing amount are being introduced into Washington waters. In-water cleaning is not an option, as it would further release invasives in our state. West coast states are working together to development management options.

WDFW recommends developing a biofouling management program through a collaborative state-agency effort, as it's an on-going issue that affects the full spectrum of recreational and shipping vessels. Suggestions for management include an emphasis on non-toxic paint and requiring vessels to be cleaned more frequently. WDFW intends to include an update on their progress in the 2017 report to the Legislature, and will follow up with the council afterwards.

Item 14: Industry Advisory Panel White Paper / Diane Cooper

Ms. Cooper expressed her appreciation to the council for engaging the trade industries and acknowledging their perspectives on invasive species. The Industry Advisory Panel (panel) currently consists of four members who have held two conference calls since establishment of the group earlier this year. Representative include members from the public utility districts, shellfish associations, the irrigation districts and plant nurseries; however, the pet industry and education industry are not yet represented at this time.

The panel developed an informational mission and purpose statement, which also discusses the background, roles, and responsibilities of each member, as well as the expectations for how they coordinate with and participate on the council.

Ms. Cooper was designated as the representative for the panel and will attend council meetings. Through the panel, industries are encouraged to be more proactive, and it also provides a mechanism for building relationships, engaging and informing others, and making better rules and decisions that will in turn lessen negative economic impacts. Chair Tweit commented on the "Communications" section of the panel's report concerning the need for consensus among the panel. Ms. Cooper explained that the report will be revised to include more diverse industry representation and encouragement of both individual and group communication needs.

Ms. Cooper invited the council for feedback on the panel. Chair Tweit would like the council to actively support the panel through their contributions and collaborative efforts, noting that clearer expectations from both council and panel will be outlined and distributed for comment and review.

The council will continue to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the panel, and will make a decision to finalize the partnership in March 2015.

Item 15: Options for a Washington Weed Economic Assessment and Legislation / Jill Silver

Jill Silver is with 10,000 Years Institute, a small non-profit working on a number of watershed and eco-system valuations, sustainability issues and broad education and research issues. She is also Chair of the

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Board and a member of the Wetland Advisory Committee and Scotch Broom working group.

Ms. Silver presented two documents to the Council: 1) Resolution: Request a Study of the Economic Impact of Noxious Weeds presented to the Jefferson County Democrats, to be presented to the Legislature and the Governor; and 2) Body B of the Oregon Economic Impact Analysis, which was also emailed to the council.

Ms. Silver presented information on the economic assessment of the threats from invasive species. She focused on early detection and response to reed canary grass, which has spread rapidly over the peninsula since the 1940s, when it was initially planted in pastures to absorb water. Cattle do not consume this species, and, left alone to grow, it will create three-foot stands with intense root mats, disseminating about 300 seeds per head. The populations spread along roads, creeks, streams which ultimately impact fish habitat and populations. Ms. Silver emphasized taking action to manage and control this species, preventing the need for costly salmon recovery projects.

Ms. Silver advocated prioritizing management of invasive species, obtaining funding for education, and removing invasive species in order to stop the cycles of damaged habitat, further invasive species and the necessary restoration of damaged habitats.

Other invasive species Ms. Silver and Mr. Willard are working on are everlasting peavine, Scotch broom, knotweeds and tansy ragwort.

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Item 16: Pacific Education Institute (PEI) Update / Margaret Tudor

Margaret Tudor shared the Pacific Education Institute's 2013 Annual Report. She briefly described the organizational and program goals covered in the report, as well as an explanation of their strategic vision and involvement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. She also shared information about an upcoming launch for their recent field guide, "Designing High Impact Field Experiences," which will be held on October 1 in Seattle.

Ms. Tudor summarized PEI's Invasive Species Education Plan for 2013-14, focusing largely on the successful partnership with the Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform Program (LASER). PEI worked with two education service districts to bring STEM education with an invasive species focus to teachers for use in their classrooms. LASER was responsible for developing the kits and training teachers through a workshop setting. LASER's Washington Kit Center Staff are planning to share the kits and training at a statewide level and have recruited a kit liaison to represent the Center's needs and to monitor progress. The liaison will also support an invasive species education campaign that focuses on proper handling and disposal of invasive species, including professional development for teachers and information posted online for public access. The campaign also includes a project-based learning component, wherein eight workshops will be held across the state with an invasive species focus in Spokane, Pasco, Coulee Dam, Everett, Stanwood, Aberdeen, Puyallup, and Shelton.

As a result of the partnership with LASER, PEI was invited to join the LASER advisory council to inform further implementation of the kits, as well as participating on the Professional Education Standards Board (PESB) to assist with revision of the teacher preparation standards in science. Their recommendations were

approved by PESB this year, and included guidance on responsible use and disposal of live organisms to prevent invasive species' accidental release or establishment.

Ms. Tudor shared the recommendations for the 2014-15 Invasive Species Education Plan. They include:

- 1) Defining responsible use and disposal of organisms according to state law.
- 2) Designing and disseminating invasive species performance tasks (e.g. Invasive Plants task with video, fact sheets, and research questions which supports STEM learning with hands-on research projects and oriented learning) which will guide students towards examining the Washington State Invasive Species Council website.
- 3) A citizen science field study using the WISC app in line with Next Generation Science Standards in order to inform the design and use of ISC app.
- 4) Support LASER with kit centers' needs.

The council discussed their potential role in supporting the PEI/LASER workshops. Ms. Tudor suggested queuing up potential speakers that are place-based and locally relevant. Conservation districts may be an option as they are close to local concerns, as well as county extension offices and county weed boards.

The perspective towards invasive species constitutes a change in teaching culture, with more emphasis on proper disposal protocols. It is necessary to change both students' and teachers' habits to dispose of invasive organisms versus sending them home with students or releasing them to the wild, reframing "disposal" instead of "killing," as necessary to protecting habitat and other species.

Mr. White offered potential quality assurance/quality control for the information submitted for the classroom kits that use the Invasive Species app, as it requires resources and man-power to ensure timely updates and responses. PEI anticipates needing a year to develop school materials, so there is time to find a replacement prior to a large influx of use, as well as time for field testing and upgrades. PEI will need time to pilot products as well, particularly in light of the NEXT Generation Science Standards which focus on STEM concepts that are hands-on and interactive.

The council expressed interest in kits that promote use of the app, and asked how students would gain access. If the tasks are available outside of the classroom as well, i.e. using a cell phone, then the kits and related information will receive more exposure. Ms. Tudor referred to this as the 'digital backpack,' whereby guilting a curriculum around the Invasive Species app will generate continuous feedback. The challenges presented include the lack of resources dedicated to keeping the application up to date (i.e. technical support, funding, etc.). The main highlight of the proposal involves using the K-12 system as a long-term prevention program, providing information and resources to students early.

In response to the funding challenges, the Educational Service Districts were mentioned, both as a potential distribution mechanism and a potential funding match. Ms. Tudor will be coordinating participation with the ESDs and can track time and match for possible funding use and awards. The council generally agreed that having contacts at the local level across the state would be beneficial.

Ms. Tudor concluded by inviting a council representative to join the PEI board.

Item 17: Open Public Meetings Act Training / Jen Masterson

Jen Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager, provided mandatory open public meeting training which included a 16-minute video produced by the Attorney General's Office. All council member

participation will be documented and kept on record. Information about these resources may be found at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/OpenGovernmentTraining.aspx#.VFgaAKPTmUk> .

Per RCW 42.56, public records must be released upon request. Ms. Masterson shared a high-level definition of public records as it pertains to the council, as well as information regarding RCO's process for responding to requests according to law. The law applies to boards and commissions of public agencies, with the primary responsibility upon the agency receiving the request to provide the records. Council members may be asked to provide records that pertain to council business upon request.

Wendy Loosle is the RCO agency contact for public records and disclosure and is available to answer questions in the future.

Discussions and Decisions

Item 18: Council Business / Bill Tweit

No additions or corrections were requested for the previous meetings minutes from the June 11, 2014 meeting.

Action Item: Approval of June Minutes

Pene Speaks moved to APPROVE the June 2014 minutes. Pat Stevenson SECONDED. The Council unanimously APPROVED the June 2014 minutes.

Wendy Brown provided an update on the recruitment process for the new WISC executive coordinator. RCO has completed the interview process and is conferring on the successful candidate.

Item 19: Strategic Plan Update / Wendy Brown

The strategic plan guiding the Washington Invasive Species Council was last updated six years ago in 2008. During the last council meeting, Ms. Brown shared several examples of other states' rapid response plans for the council to consider and requested feedback on the preferred format for Washington's plan. Prior to the September meeting, the executive committee met and drafted recommendations for updates to the plan.

Ms. Brown reviewed the strategic plan documents and proposed changes, asking the council for feedback on the executive committee recommendations. The council provided their suggestions and input, which include missing information, formatting, naming conventions, scale, and timeframe edits.

In light of the recent presentation by the Pacific Education Institute, Chair Tweit requested inclusion of education components (or clarification on where the components would align within the existing framework) and the public outreach that is involved in that work. Ms. Cooper suggested that with the importance behind education at all levels that it be included as an individual heading, i.e. to call it out specifically as it relates to each objective.

The council considered the challenges involved in creating a timeline for goals that don't have a definite end date, but are ongoing. Suggestions included drafting the strategic plan with a reporting framework focus, knowing that some actions will occur every year but not all will be acted upon. A broad strategic plan can serve as a measure for direction and guidance, however an action plan requires more detail and steps with metrics that document progress and measures success. The council discussed how to report and measure progress in order to share with the Legislature, outside partners, stakeholders, etc.

The council reviewed the existing objectives for clarification, inclusion/exclusion, and edits. A discussion was held regarding developing accountability within agencies to enhance prevention measures to the extent that they are able, recognizing that the need for a regional approach is necessary. Terms in the objectives may need further definition, for example "support" and "promote", and the intention behind these phrases needs to be clarified. Restoration with native species also brings up the need to be clear on the distinction between "non-native" and "non-invasive" and whether the latter term is appropriate without a risk assessment. Communication about the strategic plan is necessary, which includes crafting messaging that focuses on measureable and feasible goals.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Next Steps

The council discussed potential dates for meetings in 2015. Proposed dates included the following:

- March 12
- June 18
- September 24
- December 3

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Next meeting

December 4, 2014
Cherberg Building, Hearing Rooms A & B
Olympia, WA

Minutes approved by:

Bill Tweit, Chair

Date