

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2016

Bud Van Cleve Community Meeting Room, Luke Jensen Sports Park, 4000 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard, Vice Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
LCDR Xochitl Castaneda	U.S. Coast Guard
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington Department of Ecology
John Gamon	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Rachel Bomberger	Washington State University
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Steven Burke	King County
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County

Guests and Presenters:

Casey Gozart	Clark County
Laurence Schafer	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rian Hooff, Chair	Oregon Invasive Species Council
Rick Boatner, Vice Chair	Oregon Invasive Species Council
Jalene Littlejohn	Oregon Invasive Species Council

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council
Wendy Loosle	Board Liaison

Opening and Welcome

Chair Bill Tweit opened the meeting at 9:09 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, introductions, recording information, and a review of the agenda.

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Council Welcome and Clark County Vegetation Management Overview / Casey Gozart

Mr. Gozart welcomed council members from Washington and Oregon, sharing a brief overview of the vegetation management strategy in Clark County. Mr. Gozart shared details of the field inspection and spray programs, including their weed targets' class levels, how much time and effort is spent addressing specific weeds, and how the County is addressing recently discovered invasive weeds. He responded to questions regarding access online resources and shared invasive weed issues across the Washington/Oregon border.

Item 2: Executive Coordinator's Report / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush highlighted several topics in his report, including an overview of meetings with partners occurring June through September, representation of the council at various events and tours statewide, and upcoming training. Mr. Bush discussed his coordination and outreach efforts, explaining the increased priority of press releases and media coverage as it raises public awareness of the council and invasive issues. Mr. Bush shared that issues identified with the WA Invasives app are scheduled for repair in October, as well as solutions established for tracking uniform data in partnership with the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Mr. Bush shared information about invasive sightings reports and results from June through September. He updated council members on two projects: the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Farm Bill and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2016 Pulling Together Initiative pre-proposal process. Mr. Bush concluded by sharing suggestions for the FY 2017 Farm Bill and for submitting the council's biennial report, due in December.

Item 3: Council Member Introductions / Round Table

Council members from Oregon and Washington introduced themselves, as did members of the audience. Members described their participatory council roles, sharing brief details about current efforts and ongoing projects within their respective agencies.

Item 4: Oregon Invasive Species Council Introduction and Overview / OISC Members

OISC Chair Rian Hooff, OISC Vice Chair Rick Boatner, and OISC Coordinator Jalene Littlejohn shared information about the organizational structure of the OISC, established in 2001. Mr. Hooff provided a brief background and history of the OISC, describing the role of the OISC in maintaining public awareness and education efforts, developing a statewide strategic plan for invasives, and providing grants or loans for education and eradication. The OISC is comprised of sixteen members, a council coordinator, and an advisory committee. Mr. Hooff described some of the campaign successes achieved by the OISC to foster public awareness; coordinate within the region; manage, report, and share data; garner legislative support; develop and implement an action plan; and convening statewide stakeholder summits.

Ms. Littlejohn described the OISC's recent activities, including changes to the council's structure and leadership style. In the past year, the OISC updated their hotline, website, and mobile communication network. Ms. Littlejohn highlighted several projects that address international invasive issues, Don't Let It Loose campaigns, and educational support around Asian Gypsy Moth eradication. The current priorities of the OISC include drafting a statewide strategic plan, updating council products, revitalizing the invasive species network in Oregon, and securing funding to implement their strategic plan. Finalization of the strategic plan is scheduled to occur in December.

Item 5: OR/WA Invasive Species Council Collaboration Discussion / All

The councils covered three main areas of discussion: education and outreach, prioritization of efforts, and continued cross-council collaboration. Members discussed continuing regional campaigns, sharing resources across agencies and councils, aligning across the border to promote consistent messaging, ongoing funding needs and strategies, and developing communication around the nexus between climate change and invasive species.

Break 11:00 – 11:20 a.m.

Discussions and Decisions

Item 6: Washington Feral Swine Interagency Response Updates / Laurence Schafer

Mr. Schafer provided information about the recent metrics and actions taken for managing feral swine in Washington. Updated signage has supported and greatly improved rapid response efforts and coordination among agencies to address sightings. Mr. Schafer responded to audience questions about disease sampling, sharing communication resources, potential tracking measures, and addressing issues with private hunters and other agencies.

Item 7: Regional Don't Let it Loose Campaign Updates / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush provided updates on the Don't Let it Loose campaign. The active committee includes Mr. Bush, Allen Pleus (WDFW), and Lizbeth Seebacher. Mr. Bush shared information about recent and upcoming outreach events and associated communication materials. A recent inventory of pet store and pet rescue centers' locations supported the collection of necessary data that will help focus outreach efforts. The council members discussed collaborating across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, highlighting the overlap of species on states' respective species lists and addressing smaller businesses that may continue to have issues.

Item 8: Economic Analysis of the Impact of Invasive Species in Washington / Alison Halpern

Ms. Halpern shared that the analysis is nearing completion. She provided background on the species selected and process for quantifying the economic impact of these species, including the influence of the expansion rate on lost revenue and jobs. Other predictive metrics include examining the potential impacts to Washington of species that are not yet present, but have had analysis done in other states where the species is present. Mr. Bush shared the intention to share the economic analysis online as an interactive site for public information and legislative outreach.

Item 9: Top 50 Species Review Process / Justin Bush

The Top 50 list was last updated in 2008. Mr. Bush summarized past council discussion regarding revisiting the list, sharing that several review teams were convened based on species type. Most teams have met and are currently underway reviewing the current list, identifying potential changes or evaluating for new species to be added, and preparing recommendations for the council to consider. Suggestions for improving the process included characterizing the pathways of each species on the list.

Break 12:20 – 12:40 p.m.

Item 10: Council Business / Chair Tweit, Justin Bush

Strategic Plan Accomplishment Update: Mr. Bush summarized the progress made in tracking strategic plan accomplishments for Tiers 1-3, requesting feedback on the dashboard tool.

Chair and Vice Chair Discussion and Nominations: Chair Tweit shared that he will continue to serve on the council, but has considered stepping down from the role of chair. He opened the discussion to the council for selecting a new chair, suggesting that current Vice Chair Ray Willard may assume the role. He asked that the council consider this proposal and if accepted, select a new vice chair at the next meeting. Chair Tweit nominated Mr. Willard for the role of the chair; Mr. Maroney seconded the motion. The council expressed consensus of the nomination. Mr. Willard will assume the role of chair at the December 2016 meeting. Chair Tweit requested the council to consider vice chair candidates.

Play Clean Go PNW Invasive Plant Council Request: Mr. Bush provided background on the collaborative effort spearheaded by the PNW Invasive Plant Council to create trailhead signs and boot-brushes near Mt. Si that educate the public on minimize the spread of invasives. The suggestion has come forward to encourage this messaging where footwear is purchased, increasing public awareness at additional interaction points. Mr. Bush asked for council feedback on supporting this as a council initiative, for which he would attend meetings and approach REI stores about placing signage and boot-brushes for public display. Ms. Yund suggested including Cabela's stores as part of the initiative; the council expanded the discussion to include outdoor retailers based on scalability. Mr. Willard moved to adopt the initiative naming Mr. Bush as the project lead; Ms. Halpern seconded. The council expressed consensus for the motion.

2017 Meeting Calendar: Proposed dates for 2017 include March 23, June 8, September 21, and December 14. For the annual travel meeting, suggestions included a northern or eastern side meeting at which provincial or Idaho representatives could attend. Mr. Bush will research locations and potential partners, then communicate options with the council. The council agreed to maintain the standard 9-3 meeting time.

Meeting Minute Approval: No additions or corrections were requested for the previous meetings minutes from June 2016. Mark Taylor moved to APPROVE the June 2016 minutes. Anna Lyon SECONDED. The Council unanimously APPROVED the June 2016 minutes.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at the meeting.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be held December 15, 2016 at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia. The location may change; current information may be found at: <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/meetings.shtml>.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

12/15/2016

Date