

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2017

Natural Resource Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Pat Stevenson, Acting Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
B. Luke Woods	U.S. Coast Guard
Bill Tweit	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
John Gamon	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Vic Reeve	Benton County
Tim Harrington	U.S. Forest Service

Guests and Presenters:

P. Sean McDonald	University of Washington
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jennifer Andreas	Washington State University Extension
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Laurence Schafer	U.S. Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Alexis Haifley	Administrative Assistant
Justin Sharp	Administrative Assistant
Kenzi Smith	Administrative Intern II

Opening and Welcome

Vice Chair Pat Stevenson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, introductions, recording information, and a review of the agenda.

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush updated the council on his work since September's WISC meeting, including a list of trainings and events attended. He also briefed the council on several of the outreach events that have happened since last quarter, and a few upcoming outreach events, including the council's largest event; the Seattle Boat Show. Mr. Bush noted the extensive hours of the show and the size of the event; he called for more volunteers to assist in staffing the booth.

Education and Outreach Report: Mr. Bush reviewed the social media statistics, which are up over last quarter for all accounts. He asked the council to send photos while they are working, both in the field and in the office so he can post them to the Washington Invasive Species Council Instagram account. Mr. Bush let the council know that there is a new Twitter account and that the approval process went quicker than anticipated so they have been able to utilize this new tool already, and hope to focus on Twitter more in the upcoming year. Mr. Bush closed his education and outreach report with the statistics of the newsletter, highlighting the purpose is to keep the council connect during non-meeting months. He asked council members to send topics or events going on in their respective areas.

Sighting reports: Mr. Bush reviewed the invasive species sighting reports from last quarter. Notably the website outperformed the reporting app, and there is only speculation as to why. One thing to note is Stinkbug reports are up from previous months, which is to be expected given the time of year; however, there have been reports from boaters finding them on their watercrafts.

Legislative session: Mr. Bush reviewed a few of the bills that are up for discussion in this coming legislative session directly dealing with the council's work. One prefiled bill involves Atlantic salmon net pens and more bills involving invasive fish are anticipated. Mr. Bush suggested creating a work group to work on this issue to form council recommendations.

- Motion:** Move to create an invasive fish work group with the members from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and/or the east and west side tribes, and additional council members representing groups and agencies as interested or necessary. The charge of the group would be to review legislation in regards to invasive fish, and create recommendations for the executive committee.
- Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member Alison Halpern
- Decision:** Approved

Council discussed membership, what the work group would look like. Several members volunteered.

Mr. Bush thanked the council for the work they do, and closed his presentations with a short discussion about upcoming events, including Washington State's Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Item 2: European Green Crab/ P. Sean McDonald

Mr. McDonald briefed the council on some of the research he has been doing, including monitoring and tracking the movements and spread of European Green Crab throughout the Puget Sound region. He

highlighted ways to properly identify European Green Crabs, and gave a brief life history of the crab, emphasizing many of the traits that make it so successful in surviving in areas other crab species can't.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the work of the citizen science-monitoring program called 'Crab Team.' The Crab Team is a group of volunteers working together to develop a monitoring program in collaboration with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), among others, in the Puget Sound region. The citizen members go out and do targeted monitoring in ideal habitats for European Green Crab once a month during the summer. Mr. McDonald briefed the council on some of the successes this group has had, including the early detection of European Green Crab in several different areas, and the rapid response that follows.

Next steps for the early detection of European Green Crab is to continue ocean modeling, focusing on at-risk areas of potential infestation sites, and monitoring already known and established populations in California, Oregon, and British Columbia.

Mr. Pleus continued the conversation by briefing the council on the mission of the WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. He reviewed the group's core functions and the goal of early detection and rapid response, as it is the most cost effective way to manage an invasive species. He commended the work being done in monitoring the Puget Sound, and other areas, for European Green Crab stating that it's cutting edge and so far, they have been able to find and respond to populations before they have a chance to get established. Mr. Pleus continued by doing a high-level overview of where the funding for the program comes from, and some of the challenges the AIS program may face in the coming year with the lack of capital budget.

Council discussed trapping methods, funding for the program, and challenges moving forward. Council had a few clarifying questions for both Mr. McDonald and Mr. Pleus.

Item 3: Washington State University Biocontrol Program/ Jennifer Andreas

Ms. Andreas briefed the council on her program at WSU. She covered the main roles of her program, reviewed what biocontrol is, and the focuses of the program moving forward. She noted that she spends the most time on biocontrol implementation and noted that in the last 10 years there has been, on average, 400 biocontrol releases a year. Ms. Andreas then used Scotch broom as an example and took the council through all the steps for releasing a biocontrol agent, the different biocontrol agents that are available, and the research that happens before a release is done. She talked about the long and arduous process for getting new biocontrol agents into the United States, and that it can take decades before a biocontrol agent can be released large scale.

Ms. Andreas closed by noting their funding from the U.S. Forest Service has been cut by over 30% for the upcoming year and the 2018 program is going to be structured very differently than in years past. She asked for the council's help in finding funding to make up the 30% that has been lost, letting the council know that grants often dictate what their research looks like, and that general funding gives more freedom to the researchers and the program.

Council discussed and asked clarifying questions.

Break 10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 4: 2017 Watercraft Inspection Accomplishments & National Park Service Memorandum of Understanding / Eric Anderson

Mr. Anderson updated the council on what has been happening in the WDFW's AIS watercraft inspection program. He started his presentation with a history of the program, which started in 2007. The last two years there has been an intentional focus in bolstering the program, which in large part has been possible with the funding received from an agreement with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission providing pass through funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Anderson continued by noting that the model for 2016 worked well, and it was the jumping off point for the model used for 2017. By building on last year's model, rather than starting from scratch, they were able to accomplish much more. Mr. Anderson then used the example of the AIS and boater safety forms that the Law Enforcement officers use. Instead of having two separate forms, they were able to combine the survey, addressing both issues.

Mr. Anderson briefed the council on the plans for 2018, and the main goal to increase check station days by 100%. He also noted that the program is still working to reach an agreement to purchase a new site just inside the Washington-Idaho border; nothing has been finalized yet, however.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

Item 5: 2017 Pest Trapping Results and 2018 Eradication Planning / Jim Marra

Mr. Marra updated the council on the results of the gypsy moth survey this past year. He noted that the program doesn't just cover gypsy moths, it cover all sorts of terrestrial species. Washington State, in particular, is under a lot of pressure from gypsy moth introductions, Mr. Marra hypothesized that the movement of military families may be the cause, but they haven't been able to look into it more fully yet.

Mr. Marra stated that the Gypsy Moth control strategy is eradication. The goal is to eliminate isolated population areas to prevent establishment in pest free zones. The focus is mostly in urban areas, as that is where the majority of early detection surveys have found breeding populations of gypsy moths. They do not treat every population; they only eradicate reproducing populations. Mr. Marra closed his presentation by reviewing the statistics of the 2017 Gypsy Moth survey.

Council discussed presentations and asked questions about the plans to move forward in the upcoming year. There was discussion of tying the Gypsy Moth program to the Don't Let it Loose Campaign. Mr. Marra also suggested that council members review Pest Program publications located at <https://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/PestProgram/PestProgramProjectsReports.aspx>. Acting Chair Stevenson requested that the Washington Department of Agriculture include a council representative or staff in incident response planning and operations as an observer.

Item 6: Lincoln Rock Mussel Response Exercise and Next Steps / Allen Pleus

Mr. Pleus briefed the council on the mock exercise he organized at the Lincoln Rock State Park. There were several agencies, partners, and districts involved in this drill. The main objective was to test rapid response statues that were passed in 2014 by the legislature and Washington State Dreissenid Mussel Response Plan. For this drill, an Incident Command System was utilized to manage the scope and scale of the drill. Mr. Pleus summarized his takeaways of the event, which included the need for more training and to prepare for an incident before stepping into the Incident Command Center.

Council discussed importance and benefits that come from doing a drill like this, in which deficiencies and weaknesses can be discovered in a safe learning environment. The next attempt at a drill of this magnitude would be 2019 at the earliest.

Item 7: Northern Pike Discussion and Coordination Meeting Update / Joe Maroney

Mr. Maroney briefed the council on a Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting he attended in Portland highlighting northern pike as an invasive species in the Pacific Northwest. The meeting was two parts; first, a funding request on an annual basis which would mainly be used for Northern Pike suppression in Lake Roosevelt. Second, was to talk about Northern Pike from a policy perspective, due to shared waterways with others states and Canada. Mr. Maroney noted that one of his main takeaways is there is a great need to make this a priority for all, as many of the regions and states don't have a preparedness plan developed yet, and his fear is that there won't be one created until it's too late.

Council discussed importance of making this a priority, and what to do moving forward.

Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Item 8: Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush briefed the council on Washington State's Invasive Species Awareness Week, which they were able to work with Governor Inslee to write in a proclamation to have the week coincide with the National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Mr. Bush asked the council members if this week and the focus of it was of value to them and their agencies. He then highlighted some of the events and issues that were held during this past year's awareness week. Additionally, Chelan, Skamania, and Clark Counties issued local proclamations supporting the statewide event in their local jurisdictions.

The council discussed benefits and potential events that could be hosted during the week next year. There was further discussion of potentially calling for the creation of a committee to produce materials for next year. This workgroup would need to meet before the next council meeting in March 2018—the council did not create a work group but directed staff to coordinate activities.

Item 9: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Invasive Ivy Sampling Project / Alison Halpern

Ms. Halpern updated the council on ivy sampling project that the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has been involved with. She summarized that the research has shown two different species of Ivy in the sampling so far, and the majority of the Ivy people see taking over natural areas is Atlantic Ivy, not English Ivy. Ms. Halpern noted that this time they tried to get creative with their funding by doing crowdsourcing on Facebook to raise money for the project. Additionally, many people have been mailing in samples to the project, and have been very generous with their time, information, pictures, etc.

Ms. Halpern summarized that the next steps will be to continue cataloging and running genetic testing on the collected samples, as well as doing outreach to local nurseries to find out what species they are carrying and selling. There are other Ivy species that nurseries are known to sell, that don't seem to be as invasive as English and Atlantic Ivy. The goal is to have a two-step approach, collecting data to form a recommendation that then will encourage policy changes.

Ms. Halpern closed by briefing the board on the completed and adopted new weed list for 2018, highlighting some of the changes and additions to the list.

The council had a few clarifying and detail orientated questions. Ms. Halpern noted that more information could be found on the Noxious Weed Board's website. Acting Chair Stevenson, requested that Ms. Halpern present the study findings to the council once available.

Item 10: Proposed Feral Swine Stakeholder Process and year-end Agency Review Meeting / Laurence Schafer & Justin Bush

Mr. Schafer and Mr. Bush reviewed some of the feral swine reports, removals, and monitoring that has been completed within the last year. Mr. Schafer let the council know that he will be leaving his current role and he does not have a clear idea of what the future will look like yet for the program. Mr. Bush discussed options for filling this gap in the interim and potential opportunities for collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services in the future. Mr. Bush gave some of his ideas for moving forward internally, including hosting a webinar to educate the public (farmers, hunters, etc.) on the dangers of feral swine, and how to report them. He also noted his agency's request for a budget proviso, creating a stakeholder group to move forward. Mr. Bush and Mr. Schafer concluded their presentation by noting that Washington is one of the few states left that is still ahead of this, and that a balance must be created in where known populations are eradicated, sometimes with help of the public, but not creating incentives that would encourage people to turn them loose.

Council had consensus that staff will organize an end of year review with WDFW, WSDA and USDA.

Item 11: WA Pest Watch: First Detector Network Update / Todd Murray & Kenzi Smith

Mr. Murray and Ms. Smith updated the council on a few of the projects that they have been working on since the last council meeting in September. Ms. Smith unveiled the new logo that she has created, with the intent to create stickers, and patches for members of the First Detector Network. She is also hoping to create a handbook, with the purpose being a guide for the members of the network, it would cover topics such as how to take great photos for species identification. Additionally Ms. Smith has been working on creating presentation templates that can be used as trainer tools. With the idea that if someone isn't an expert in a particular species, they would still be able to give a brief and informative overview in a presentation. Ms. Smith briefed the council with the overview of the 1, 2, 3 survey form. The idea will be to use this to track council outreach, as they suspect there is a lot of da-to-day outreach and work that is not being captured.

Mr. Murray reviewed the completed pilot first detector trainings of 2017. This project is meant to normalize efforts going on in the state, and other national communities in order to bring it under the council's umbrella. An additional part of this education effort is to schedule several webinars with the point being to educate the public on how to identify and learn about invasive species. Lastly, there is also the plan to take these trainings and cut them into smaller pieces with the intent on using the smaller clips in presentations.

Council discussed the work that Mr. Murray and Ms. Smith presented.

Item 12: Graduate Thesis and Sighting Reporter Survey/ Kenzi Smith

Ms. Smith updated the council on the progress of her Masters of Environmental Studies thesis. She will be analyzing the data that has already been collected from the invasive species reporting forms and will be using that to work on her thesis between now and June.

Ms. Smith continued to brief the council on several observations she's had in regards to the sighting reporter survey. She has several questions centered on how people are finding the form, how the heard about it, and how accurate their identifications are. Ms. Smith reviewed the findings of reading several peer review publications on citizen science groups, and briefed the council on her observations.

Council discussed her findings on citizen science groups and the other projects she's been working on.

Item 13: 2017 Outreach Accomplishment Summary/ Justin Bush

Mr. Bush updated the council on the outreach accomplishment summary for 2017. He reviewed statistics for both social media accounts, noting that the trend for visitation is up this year over previous years. The effort was to focus on the six main messages of the year, and connect them to the social media account as much as possible. Mr. Bush reviewed metrics of the past year from two websites that the council manages. Interacting with social media accounts is where Mr. Bush sees the council being most successful moving forward, which led to the revision of both websites to make social media links and email list links more prominent.

Mr. Bush reviewed the summaries of the various press releases throughout the year, noting that each press release was a partnership between the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and at least one other agency. He then noted that an ArcGIS Online map was used to track the councils outreach in 2017, which is how a gap in efforts was found in eastern Washington. This gap will be addressed in the 2018 plan later in the meeting.

Council discussed accomplishments from the past year.

Break 2:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Item 14: 2018 Outreach Accomplishment Summary/ Justin Bush

Mr. Bush updated the council on the plan for 2018. He summarized for the most part it is the same template from 2017, and there will not be any new messaging this year. However, they have created an additional social media account, Twitter. The biggest change to the plan is addressing the outreach gap discovered in 2017, which has led to the intentional decision to hold several events in Spokane, Washington in 2018. Mr. Bush highlighted several of the events on the calendar for 2018, noting that not all of them have been committed to yet.

Mr. Bush spoke more about the event reporting form for council members, noting that there is great value in this system beyond showing what the council members are working on. There is the ability to run reports to show specific statistical data that will prove helpful moving forward.

Council discussed planning and events for the upcoming year.

Item 15: Council Business/ Vice Chair Pat Stevenson

A.) Approval of 2018 Outreach Plan

- Motion:** Move to approve the 2018 Outreach Plan recognizing that it is to provide guidance, and not to be totally prescriptive, meaning that it is a living document.
- Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member John Gamon
- Decision:** Approved

B.) Welcome to new council alternatives

Mr. Bush provided a quick review of the alternates of council members, and gave introductions where they were needed. He closed by asking each council member to consider if there is an alternate they would want in place should they not be able to attend the meeting.

C.) Decision on additional council member

Council discussed what adding a member could mean, the benefits of coordinating with other Department of the Interior agencies, and the role that the council could serve by filling gaps or potential oversight within the Department of Interior (DOI).

- Motion:** Move that the WISC send a letter to the DOI invasive species coordinator stating that WISC is willing to add an additional member representing the other Department of the Interior bureaus not currently represented on the council. The intent would be to have one member, and several alternates.
- Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member Pat Dehaan
- Decision:** Approved

D.) Approval of September Minutes

- Motion:** Move to approve the adoption of the September 2017 Minutes.
- Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member Joe Maroney
- Decision:** Approved

E.) March 2018 Roundtable topic requests

Mr. Bush suggested asking Mr. Marra back to speak about the Mediterranean Snails project since they ran out of time for him today.

Mr. Seaman asked that there be follow up regarding the invasive mussel drill in which Mr. Pleus was a participant. Would like potential data points and an update for the next meeting.

Mr. Stevenson asked that the conversation on Atlantic farmed salmon continue, and potentially have someone come and speak to the council with updates.

F.) Next meeting information

The March 29th, 2018 will be held in the Natural Resources Building in Olympia. Mr. Bush offered up all the meeting dates for 2018, and noted that there is still a need to make a commitment for the travel meeting.

Public Comment:

Teegan Ward, City of Bellingham, AIS coordinator, updated the board on several of the projects and issues that have been going on in the most northern part of the state. She noted that her program provided five decontaminations this year on boats from all over the county. She noted that several of the boats they inspected has issues that they found after the boats had been inspected by other states and agencies, meaning that there is still training to be done regionally as people are missing things. Ms. Ward also noted a partnership with WDFW in which the Bellingham AIS program received a grant to treat Eurasian Milfoil in Whatcom County. She closed by noting her program worked closely with Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board and after a completion of their survey, no new aquatic invasive species were found which leads her to believe their program is successful as of now.

Council discussed the work being done in Bellingham, and asked Ms. Ward clarifying questions.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

3/23/2018

Date