

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2017

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Stillaguamish Tribe Natural Resources Department Meeting Room  
22712 6th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223

### Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe
Alison Halpern	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe
Kendall Farley	NorthWest Power and Conservation Council
Rachel Bomberger	Washington State University
Rob Fimbel	Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
Steven Burke	King County
Tim Harrington	U.S. Forest Service
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Vic Reeve	Benton County
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County

### Guests and Presenters:

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Charles Cunningham	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Linden Lampman	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Jesse Schultz	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lt. Eric Anderson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council
Wendy Loosle	Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office
Kenzi Smith	Council Intern, Recreation and Conservation Office

## Opening and Welcome

Chair Ray Willard 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 summarized recent meetings he attended as representative from the council. He highlighted two meetings in particular: on March 28-29 the Washington State Department of Agriculture held their annual Pest Program Staff Meeting; and on May 31 the first Columbia Basin States Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Steering Committee Meeting led by Leah Elwell.

Mr. Bush attended outreach events in April and May, highlighting the 2017 Salmon Recovery Conference and a guest lecture at Green River Community College. Upcoming events in June include the NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy and the Seattle-Tacoma Pet Convention.

Outreach and education efforts continue to reach broader audiences, with social media participation up 4% in the last quarter. Since the WA Invasives application was merged with the national dataset, reports of invasives on the app have now surpassed website-based reporting. Additional sightings continue to be supported by field cameras, facilitating the image capture of species such as feral swine, bull frogs, and nutria.

Mr. Bush provided updates on two projects agreed upon by the council. Updates on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Farm Bill Cooperative Agreements include expanding the Columbia River Gorge Invasive Species Project using a multiregional approach and establishing a First Detector Network in Washington State. The council entered into an interagency agreement with Washington State Department of Agriculture to track and monitor council accomplishments, including public impact and participation. He concluded by providing updates from the Flowering Rush Regional Collaborative Group, tasked with creating a sustainable group; holding a regional summit, and developing a regional management plan.

### Item 2: Customs and Border Protection Agricultural Inspections / Charles Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham, Agricultural Chief for the Port of Blaine, provided an overview of the [agricultural specialist positions and staffing at U.S. ports of entry](#). Agricultural staff at these ports are responsible for enforcing Title 7, preventing the introduction of injurious pests and diseases into the country. Species not under their jurisdiction include fish and shellfish, including the known invasive zebra-quagga mussel. Inspections are conducted at multiple checkpoints where passengers cross borders (cars, ships, trains, etc.), international shipping routes, and airports. Other facilities include naval bases and maritime industry areas.

Mr. Cunningham provided high-level statistics for the number of passengers and vehicles traveling through Blaine annually. Staff are trained on identifying high-risk factors that facilitate introduction of invasive species, such as types of vehicles or family configurations. Onion weed (*asphodelus*) is, by volume, one of the three main federal noxious weeds routinely found during these inspections; often these species are introduced in seed form, surprisingly through the international spice trade where seeds are mixed in with commonly used spices from other countries. Mr. Cunningham mentioned several [federally-listed invasives](#) also commonly introduced, including insects, plants, and other animal species.

The agricultural specialists also provide education and outreach to a variety of port facilities and entry points, using brochures, handouts, and informational sessions to inform local staff of species identification, proper cleaning procedures, monitoring, and management. Mr. Cunningham shared

examples of how training material can support early detection and eradication of invasive species prior to their arrival at U.S. ports. These efforts have significantly reduced introductions and supported international suppliers and shippers in improving their processes for clean delivery to the U.S. Additionally, the education and collaboration has encouraged organizations and businesses within the country to work with Customs and Border Protection to fix problems and known introductions of invasives.

### **Item 3: Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Program and Rapid Response Planning / Linden Lampman**

Ms. Lampman provided information about DNR's [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#). She shared that one of her goals for attending is to collaborate with council members in building partnerships focused on invasives identification and eradication to maintain healthy trees in public spaces. She summarized the program mission, goals, guiding statutes<sup>1</sup> (specifically the Evergreen Communities Act and the Forest Action Plan), and project-level data. The project analysis provided an inventory of urban forests within select cities of the state, quantifying the trees to provide a compensatory value in each community and a summary of ecosystem savings across regions in the state.

The program also supports a variety of tree species by identifying vulnerabilities such as insects and diseases, in order to manage and maintain compensatory value in local communities. Urban invasive species commonly include emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and sudden oak death (caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*).

Ms. Lampman demonstrated a quantification tool that helps communities quantify the value of urban trees. She described preparation efforts currently underway to protect trees from potential invasive species' introduction, including partnership building, education and outreach, pro-active data collection, and the aggregation tool shared with the council.

**Break 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

### **Discussions, Decisions, and Updates**

#### **Item 4: Readiness Planning Discussion / Ray Willard**

Chair Willard discussed options for updating rapid response plans for invasive species, e.g., dreissenid mussel, feral swine, etc. and how to collaborate agency contacts, staffing, and resources to ensure readiness.

Dr. Jim Marra suggested that the council plan and facilitate an interagency meeting to discuss resource-sharing and collaboration for the Farm Bill. Chair Willard suggested convening a work group to identify priority projects and improve coordination; volunteers included Todd Murray, Rachel Bomberger, Linden Lampman, Dr. Campbell, and Dr. Marra.

Mr. Bush is collaborating with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff to conduct a rapid response practice exercise, set to occur in Chelan County in early October. Final details are being determined; Mr. Bush and Jesse Schultz, WDFW, will report back to the council after the event.

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<sup>1</sup> Revised Code of Washington [RCW] Title 76.15

#### **Item 5: European Green Crab Detection and Rapid Response / Jesse Schultz**

Mr. Schultz summarized information about the Aquatic Invasive Species Program's mission, goals, and management practices. He discussed the detection and response plans for European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) within Clallam County. Detection staff includes Sea Grant Green Crab Team volunteers who administer early detection monitoring in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Mr. Schultz detailed the response process which resulted in the capture of 69 specimens of varying size.

Mr. Schultz summarized the challenges encountered during the recent response efforts, including the lack of sufficient funding, limited education and outreach capacity, and the need to develop a co-management plan with British Columbia (which may be the source of the population finding its way into Clallam County).

#### **Item 6: Aquatic Invasive Species Legislation Update / Jesse Schultz**

Mr. Schultz presented information on the AIS Funding Advisory Committee, tasked in 2015 to develop a report and recommendations for funding invasive species needs. Mr. Schultz reviewed the committee's timeline and agency budget data from WDFW for their recommendations. The proposed legislation, which recommends additional funding sources, passed in the state Senate, however the Legislature is still in session and a final budget, if any, is still unknown.

#### **Item 7: Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit / Joe Maroney**

Mr. Maroney, along with work group members Justin Bush, Kendall Farley, Ray Willard, Bill Tweit, will present at the PNWER Annual Summit, scheduled for July 23-27, 2017, on topics such as invasive fish, horticulture issues, forestry, and coastal issues to do with ballast water. Mr. Maroney shared that the estimated economic impact of invasives, specifically the invasive fish species Northern Pike, is about \$4.5 billion annually; a study may be conducted that details these impacts, as well as what could be lost or is detrimental to the region. He asked about council interest in supporting such a study; after the summit the council will discuss outcomes and determine recommendations for moving forward.

#### **Item 8: Scotch Broom Ecology and Management Symposium / Alison Halpern**

Ms. Halpern reported on the recent Scotch Broom Ecology and Management Symposium, held May 23 at the Snoqualmie Casino. A diverse steering committee and fourteen sponsors contributed to the event, attended by over 200 participants, which focused on regulation, research, management, and outreach regarding scotch broom. The event's success led the steering committee to consider future annual events, potentially focused on other species; a survey will be circulated to assess interest. Suggestions included zebra/quagga mussels, invasive fish, invasive knotweed, and flowering rush.

**Lunch Break 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

#### **Item 9: AgForestry Leadership Class #39 Policy Group Project / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush shared that students from the Washington AgForestry Leadership Program collaborated with state agencies via the council to facilitate their education and investigation into feral swine policies. The class identified a process for moving forward, including the development of a contact list of stakeholders and state agency contacts, research on current laws and potential improvements, and drafting legislation or policies that could address regulatory gaps. The class will then share the draft information with the interagency policy team (comprised of various state agency staff) for review and feedback.

#### **Item 10: Economic Impacts of Invasive Species Invasive Knotweed County-Level Addendum / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush provided a follow-up on activities since the economic report was published, including an addendum that assesses the county-level impact of knotweed species in Washington State. This effort will

be carried out by a contractor, Community Attributes Inc., to help county-level stakeholders and policy makers understand the potential costs of invasive knotweeds and inform future county level planning. The report deliverables include an executive briefing on impacts and a table reporting associated economic impacts by county, including reported lost jobs, wages, and business sales. The council discussed other large-impact invasives for which further studies could be conducted, using the current study as a model.

#### **Item 11: Stillaguamish Tribe Restoration Site Tour / Pat Stevenson**

Vice Chair Stevenson provided an overview of the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Tribe's Department of Natural Resources, and their work related to restoration and invasives species management, and land protection and acquisition. The majority of the 1500-2000 acres owned by the tribe are located along the Stillaguamish River, upon which the tribe has placed log jams and other treatments beneficial for salmon. The tribe collaborates with partners and volunteers from the Washington State Conservation Commission, correction centers, and others to complete their restoration efforts.

**Break 1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Item 12: Montana Mussel Update / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush announced that Montana hired a new bureau chief of aquatic invasive species; they have already seen success in their detection efforts in fresh-water vessels. Mr. Schultz and Lt. Anderson reported that collaboration continues with Montana; no adult specimens have been detected, although both states continue to monitor for veligers (mussel larvae).

#### **Item 13: Council Business / Ray Willard**

**Welcome to New Council Staff:** Chair Willard welcomed Kenzi Smith, the new intern supporting Mr. Bush with council business at the Recreation and Conservation Office.

**Welcome to New Alternate Council Members:** Chair Willard welcomed Ian Sinks, Columbia Land Trust, Victor Reeve, Benton County, and Tim Harrington, U.S. Forest Service, to the council.

**Scotch Broom Ecology and Management Symposium Certificates of Appreciation:** Chair Willard acknowledged the efforts of those that contributed to the symposium. He will present certificates of appreciation to the Snoqualmie Tribe and the Scotch Broom Working Group.

**Discussion and decision on extension of current Council work plan:** The first strategic plan published in 2008 guided council activities until 2015. According to the RCW guiding the council, the strategic plan should be updated every three years; part of this update includes a biennial report. Mr. Bush summarized progress according to the current work plan (#1), which is due to wrap up at the end of 2017, with a second phase from 2018-2019. Under the timeline proposed by the executive staff, the work plan would be extended to 2018 and a second work plan for 2019-2020.

Anna Lyon moved to adopt the proposed timeline. Pat Stevenson seconded. The council unanimously approved to adopt the proposed timeline.

**Meeting Minute Approval:** No additions or corrections were requested for the previous meetings minutes from March 23, 2017. Vicki Yund moved to approve the March 2017 minutes. Pat Stevenson seconded. The Council unanimously approved the March 2017 minutes.

**Next Steps**

The next meeting will be held September 21 in Olympia, WA. Current information may be found at: <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/meetings.shtml>.

**Item 12: Public Comment**

There were no public comments at the meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



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Ray Willard, Chair

September 21, 2017

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Date