

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2017

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

### Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe
Bill Tweit	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rob Fimbel	Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
John Gamon	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Steven Burke	King County
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Vic Reeve	Benton County
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Eric Anderson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement

### Guests and Presenters:

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Stephen Phillips	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Bryan Horsburgh	US Bureau of Reclamation

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council
Alexis Haifley	Administrative Assistant, Recreation and Conservation Office
Kenzi Smith	Administrative Intern II, Washington Invasive Species Council
Justine Strange	Administrative Assistant, 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.

Chair Willard opened the meeting with a statement about the farmed Atlantic salmon net pen failure near Cypress Island. Council discussed ramifications of this failure and asked for more follow up information and data at the December council meeting.

## **Hot Topic Reports**

### **Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush briefed the council, on the various projects he has been working on since the last meeting. He then reviewed the statistics of the Washington Invasive Species Council social media sites, including Facebook and a newly created Instagram account. Council discussed the effectiveness of the outreach and education campaign, and hypothesized that the visual impact of invasive species could be a great way to continue to capture the attention of the public and highlight issues throughout our state.

Mr. Bush continued his presentation by sharing the release of the pilot newsletter for council members. He asked for feedback on how effective the newsletter has been as a communication tool for the council, and suggested it would be a great way to share data and update the various agencies and stakeholders on work being done around the state and the region. Mr. Bush reviewed other communications that had been released on behalf of the council since the last quarterly meeting, including several press releases from local newspapers and television stations. In addition to the news releases, Mr. Bush quickly highlighted the several dozen invasive species reports that he has received.

### **Item 2: Columbia River Basin Invasive Mussel Prevention and Funding/ Stephen Phillips**

Mr. Phillips, on behalf of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, presented to the council the history and importance of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in regards to controlling, preventing and monitoring invasive mussel species throughout the region. He then reviewed specific changes to the US Army Corps of Engineers authorizations and spending authorities and explained how the funding came to be, and where it is going for the next fiscal year. He noted that at the end of the year there will be more accurate metrics as far as number of hours invested and geographic scope of the program, as it covers several Pacific Northwest states, including Washington. Council discussed, and asked clarifying questions about the data and how it is collected and analyzed.

Mr. Phillips continued his presentation with a short explanation of how the new federal administration, specifically the US Department of the Interior, is focused on invasive mussel prevention and control. He then explained how the initiative developed through collaboration with western governors, federal, state, and tribal agencies.

Mr. Phillips and Brian Horsburgh, US Bureau of Reclamation, discussed next steps and informed the council that this fall will be spent both planning for increased DOI funding through US Bureau of Reclamation.

### **Item 3: Washington State Watercraft Inspection Updates/ Eric Anderson**

Chair Willard welcomed Captain Eric Anderson as a newly appointed alternate council member representing the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Mr. Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Enforcement, reviewed the history of the AIS program housed in the Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife. Mr. Anderson reviewed the successes and failures of the program over the last 11 years and the lessons learned that will now shape the future of the program.

Mr. Anderson briefed the council on a few of the goals the AIS program would like to accomplish within the next year, including strategically planning two permanent inspection/decontamination stations in Washington state. He then walked the council through new design plans for what could be the permanent station located just inside the Washington state border from Idaho, and that starting the construction and permitting process this winter would mean, ideally, an open and operating station for the busy summer season.

Mr. Anderson closed by showing that the metrics for the program in 2017 have more than doubled from 2016 and that at the programs current trajectory the number of boats inspected and decontaminated should only continue to rise.

Council discussed options and next steps in order to move this project through and get the proposed station opened as soon as possible. Members asked clarifying questions about the presentation.

**Break 10:47a.m. – 11:00a.m.**

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

##### **Item 4: Western Governors' Association Invasive Species Data Management Initiative / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush briefed the council on the Western Governors Association (WGA) policy resolution #2016-05, which will help with data sharing of invasive species locations between western states and islands. He reviewed the history of the policy adopted by all western states that compromises of data sharing for invasive species management and prevention throughout the west. Mr. Bush called for volunteers from the council to assist in compiling a priority species list for both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Several council members volunteered their time and the council discussed the policy and asked clarifying questions on Mr. Bush.

##### **Item 5: FY 18 Farm Bill Section 10007 Planning Meeting and Results / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush updated the council on efforts of the Farm Bill Section 10007 planning work group, and the several priorities identified by the group in the short month that they had together for collaborative project suggestions. All who were a part of the group agree that for next year more time would be needed in order to be most effective. Mr. Bush called for interested volunteers to assist with the project, several council members responded, he then went on to express that projects, like the Farm Bill Section 10007 projects, and the collaboration that is involved, is how the council is able to get a lot of its work done.

##### **Item 6: Washington Invasive Mussel Rapid Response Exercise Overview / Bill Tweit**

Mr. Tweit let the agency lead Allen Pleus present to the council in his place. Mr. Pleus informed the council of the planning that has been involved for the invasive mussel rapid response exercise to be held in the Columbia River Basin. He explained how this particular scenario is a hypothetical detection of a zebra/quagga mussel larva just above Rocky Reach Dam at Lincoln State Park near Wenatchee. Mr. Pleus explained that there are several local, state, and federal groups involved in the drill and that the purpose is to make it as realistic as possible, using an incident command structure, in order to move through this scenario and find out how prepared the region is to respond. The council asked several questions and Mr. Pleus clarified that this would not be a full scale drill, and that he will be prepared to give a briefing of the exercise at the next council meeting in December.

**Item 7: Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit / Joe Maroney**

Mr. Maroney briefed the council on the PNWER annual summit. He noted that one of the tasks assigned to the work group he was a part of was to create a list of action items that can be focused on and accomplished during the next year. Mr. Maroney went on to summarize the presentation he delivered at the summit in regards to invasive Northern Pike, among other non-native fish species, and what an infestation of the species could mean for the economy. Council discussed the tremendous importance and value of education and regional coordination.

**Item 8: Flowering Rush Cooperative Weed Management Area Update / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush briefed the council on the progress made by the regional steering committee in planning a 2018 Flowering Rush Summit. He noted that the goal is to pull together different agencies, teams, and stakeholders interested in flowering rush to prioritize research, management tactics, and regional needs. Council discussed the February 27-28<sup>th</sup> dates, Northern Quest Resort and Casino location, registration and who may else be interested in attending.

**Item 9: Don't Let It Loose Initiative Update / Kenzi Smith**

Ms. Smith briefed the board on her progress with the Don't Let It Loose campaign. She has developed a list of over 1,500 pet stores, pet rescue centers, and veterinary clinics and will be mailing an invitation to participate in the program to each facility. The final product will be an interactive map in which a pet owner would be able to find a place to take their unwanted exotic pet for a variety of solutions, including rehoming. Ms. Smith also showed the council many of the educational materials and posters she has created that will be sent to participating pet stores and other events that staff attend. Council members had questions about what other states are doing, how to create a consistent message throughout the region, and how to track the effectiveness of this map and message.

**Lunch 12:00 p.m.**

**Item 10: Establishing a First Detector Network in Washington Project / Kenzi Smith & Todd Murray**

Mr. Murray (on the phone) briefed the board on the history and importance of establishing an early detection network for pests and invasive species. He is hoping that this partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other state agencies will assist in developing a statewide network of trained citizen scientist first detectors. Mr. Murray informed the council on the several educational tools that have been created to spread awareness and make the project more effective, including pilot workshops and seminars.

**Item 11: 2017 Accomplishment Update and 2018 WISC Outreach Planning / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush updated the board on the outreach accomplishments over the last year, and reviewed some of the projects in the works for 2018. He noted that the council has never had an outreach plan before 2017 but he would like to change that by creating a data driven review process each year to guide outreach. Council discussed that they want to use data as much as possible to make decisions and allocate resources efficiently and effectively. Lastly, Mr. Bush went into detail on the collected statistics for the various social media pages for the council and summarized that there are upward trends for both pages suggesting a continued interest in invasive species. Mr. Bush closed by asking members of the council to send him suggested outreach events they would like to see staffed in 2018; he will continue the conversation and provide an update during the December council meeting.

**Item 12: Council Key Messages/ Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush updated the council on the document that the Recreation and Conservation Office has created with a list of key messages for the WISC. This draft is the result of an agency wide effort, and will be

published pending council approval. Council discussed a few changes to be made to the document before publishing.

**Motion:** Approve this document as the council's key messages knowing that it will be edited and formatted correctly.  
**Moved by:** Member Vicki Yund  
**Seconded by:** Member Mark Taylor  
**Decision:** Approved

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

#### **A.) Approval of June Minutes**

**Motion:** Approve June minutes  
**Moved by:** Member Mark Taylor  
**Seconded by:** Member Vicki Yund  
**Decision:** Approved

#### **B.) Approval of 2018 Meeting Calendar**

- a. Mr. Bush reviewed and explained the proposed 2018 meeting calendar and pointed out the few challenges he saw with adopting the calendar as is. Council discussed possible location and venues for the travel meeting in June. Calendar dates adopted, but no formal motion put forth.

#### **C.) Approval of Dreissenid Mussel Rapid Response Plan (2017 Amendment)**

- a. Allen Pleus suggested waiting to approve the plan as he foresees several changes coming after the dreissenid mussel rapid response exercise in October. Council agreed to wait until the December meeting to approve the updated plan.

#### **D.) Acknowledgement of RCO Strategic Plan Invasive Species Objectives and Outcomes**

- a. Mr. Bush explained the benefits of integrating RCO's mission and work with the strategic plan with the council's methods and vision. Mr. Bush presented strictly for the councils edification, no approval or motion needed. Council made comments showing appreciation of the agency for including the work of the council in the agency plan.

#### **E.) Acknowledgement of RCO Policy June 2017 – June 2019 Work Plan Assignments**

- a. Mr. Bush summarized RCO's strategic plan. He proposed three items to the agencies policy team to incorporate into the strategic plan. Council discussed the work plan items and showed appreciation to the agency policy team for including the work of the council in the section work plan.

#### **F.) Council Member Roundtable Updates**

- a. All council members shared updates on behalf of their various agencies and stakeholders, as well as requested topics they would like to discuss further at the December council meeting. Multiple council members agreed they would like to learn more about the Unified Incident Command response to the Atlantic salmon net pen incident at Cypress Island by inviting a member of the command to the December council meeting.
- b. Council members also highlights several specific invasive species that they would like to discuss at the next meeting, including, but not limited to, African Clawed Frogs and European Green Crab.

**G.) Next Meeting Information**

- a. Reviewed next meeting schedule. Next meeting to be held in Olympia on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment:** No public comment at this time.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Minutes approved by:

Pat Stevenson  
Ray Willard, Chair

12-14-17  
Date