

# WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2018

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Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

## Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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Ray Willard, Chair	Washington Department of Transportation
Bill Tweit	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Luke Woods	U.S. Coast Guard
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Todd Haas	Puget Sound Partnership
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Linda Kunze	Washington State Parks Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Todd Palzer	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture

## Members Excused:

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Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steven Burke	King County
Adam Sepulveda	U.S. Department of the Interior
Vacant	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board

## Guests and Presenters:

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Bryan Horsburgh	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cindy Cooper	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Telissa Wilson	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Rian Wojahn	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Wendy Brown	Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Chris Looney	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Teagan Ward	City of Bellingham

## Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison
Brianna Widner	Washington Invasive Species Council

## Opening and Welcome

Chair Ray Willard opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, introductions, roll call, and a review and approval of the agenda.

## Hot Topic Reports

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

Justin Bush updated the council on current and past happenings since the previous council meeting. Justin introduced Brianna Widner, the new council Environmental Education and Community Outreach Specialist II hire and briefly summarized the projects she will be leading on behalf of the council.

The council paused to entertain some additional brief introductions, welcoming Kendall Farley (on the phone) and Sven-Erik Spichiger, a new hire with the Washington Department of Agriculture filling the role of managing entomologist.

Mr. Bush then resumed and outlined his recent involvement with the joint Salmon Funding Recovery Board/Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting (OWEB) meeting. Mr. Bush had presented on northern pike and the importance of rapid response planning. Noting that OWEB seemed very concerned. Mr. Bush then reviewed recent and upcoming outreach events. Webinars played a new role in some public workshops as far as reaching out to a larger crowd. Mr. Bush also noted that the North American Association for Environmental Education will be holding a conference in Spokane. Chair Willard added that the Council was on Facebook Live this morning promoting the meeting and asking viewers to tune in via TVW. Mr. Bush then highlighted a recent [TVW@Large feature on Northern Pike](#) and he encouraged members and the public to watch the video. He also mentioned a recent grand opening of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's new watercraft inspection station just outside of Spokane before mentioning a few additional outreach opportunities. Mr. Bush then gave a social media update, noted that Facebook has declined in views this quarter but still brought up some very inspiring events including a public report to the department of fish and wildlife regarding freshwater jellyfish that were found in Battle Ground Lake. Contracting with the decline in Facebook views, the council Instagram and

twitter, however, have increased again in viewers. Finally, Mr. Bush concluded with Invasive Species Sighting Reports. He noted there has not been any substantial change in reporting numbers between this quarter and the previous quarter, but that our method of reporting has been improved to be more user friendly.

### **Item 2: Plant Disease Risk to Washington's Environment and Economy / Cindy Cooper & Telissa Wilson**

Cindy Cooper briefed the Council on plant disease risk to Washington's environment and economy. Ms. Cooper mentioned quarantine is the most common way the industry protects and stops plant diseases from spreading. She explained seven different crops that are protected by quarantines for viruses or fungal pathogens. Ms. Cooper then moved to talk about the numbers, saying it is estimated that 20-40% of all global crop yields are reduced due to plant diseases on an annual basis. And 80% of all global trade is food. Ms. Cooper mentioned that Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) enforces 12 state and federal plant disease quarantines across the state, while noting that Washington State has already been deregulated federally regarding Sudden Oak Death (SOD). All plant nurseries and natural lands are apparently free from SOD in Washington State. WSDA performs inspections annually, especially during the growing season to ensure we aren't moving any affected plants for trade. Ms. Cooper then mentioned several other viruses and the plant hosts before closing with a handful of programs growers can use to ensure their plants remain disease free. These programs ranged from potatoes to grapes and ensure there are healthy planting stocks in the state.

Wilson also briefed the Council on plant disease risk to Washington's environment and economy. Ms. Wilson focused mostly on the plant pathology lab she works in and what they do. The lab has 6 full time employees and 5 seasonal field crew. They perform molecular and morphological testing including diseases which target hosts such as stonefruit, hardwood, and softwood. They also perform statewide surveys and public outreach, although funding for outreach is limited. Ms. Wilson then briefed the council on several species and Bacteria which affect plants in detail, such as: Pierce's Disease, Phytoplasma's and Phytophthora's.

### **Item 3: Japanese Beetle / Rian Wojahn**

Rian Wojahn briefed the Council on Japanese Beetle (JB) and its distribution in the western portion of the United States. The insect was discovered in New Jersey, and is believed to have come over on Iris bulbs. Mr. Wojahn went over survey and trapping protocols for the JB. This is done nationally through the use of pheromone traps, exclusion nets (loading airplanes), and pesticides. Homeowners can handpick JB off their plants at night. Currently in Washington JB isn't a large problem and is not considered to be established. There have been detections at some airports and there is potential for establishment and spread. Currently Colorado is considered an infested state with both internal and external quarantines. Both Denver and Pueblo are considered "highly" infestation areas. Mr. Wojahn then went over several other western states with JB issues including Utah, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and California. Even Vancouver, British Columbia is starting to see JB showing up, and has begun managing a JB population in a local park. Mr. Wojahn then wrapped up his presentation by showing maps in Washington with areas that traps have caught JB. There are only two areas, one is Boeing field and the other is SeaTac. Mr. Wojahn also made a quick note on a few other species such as the European Chafer and the Oriental Beetle (in Portland) which are starting to show up as well.

**Break 10:46 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.**

## Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

### **Item 4: Recreation & Conservation Office Invasive Species Emergency Fund / Wendy Brown**

Wendy Brown updated the Council on a Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) request for an invasive species emergency fund. Ms. Brown explained that the trigger to use the funding would be for the governor to declare an emergency. RCO has received a lot of support for this proposal in the form of letters of support. Ms. Brown explained that the council will need to develop criteria to evaluate different invasive species detections in order to define what an emergency is and what is a problem, but will not trigger the fund.

Member Tweit mentioned that the governor may request some information from the council on how funding will be used, how they will execute rapid decisions, etc. Member Tweit wants the council to be prepared to answer those. Chair Willard agreed and called for the creation of a work group to develop guidance and procedures. The work group will look to other states, such as Oregon, for guidelines on how to develop a decision matrix or policy manual to direct usage of the emergency fund. Councilmembers volunteering for the work group are Councilmember Tweit, Acting member Marra on behalf of Councilmember White, Councilmember Farley, Councilmember Maroney, and Councilmember Seaman on behalf of the Industry Advisory Panel.

### **Item 5: Spotted Lanternfly Request Updates / Chris Looney**

Chris Looney briefed the Council on the Spotted Lantern Fly and its proposed inclusion on the priority invasive list. Mr. Looney proposed that the council integrate the Sirex wood wasp with invasive longhorned beetles and rename the category "wood boring insects", and add the new pest Spotted Lantern Fly to the list. Mr. Looney mentioned citizen involvement plays a large role in detecting new species and is key to quick response and potential eradication, which is one reason the priority species list is so crucial. He also outlined that it is important to place species on the list that are identifiable by the public quickly and accurately. Public reports of suspected invasive species are helpful when they can be readily identified by an expert, but cannot be meaningfully acted upon when the reports are ambiguous. Spotted Lantern Fly is an emerging national priority, would be damaging to Washington State and is clearly identifiable by non-experts. Mr. Looney further explained that in all life cycles, the Spotted Lantern Fly is clearly identifiable and would not be confused with native species.

The Council entered discussion around the top 50 list, use, benefits, and council expectations. Acting member Marra stated that he is hesitant to remove any species from the list which would be damaging to Washington for the single purpose of difficulty of identification. The council mentioned possibly grouping some of the insects within the list to create room for new additions.

Sven-Erik Spichiger, who has direct experience with Spotted Lantern Fly was invited to provide comment. Spichiger provided information to answer some of the councils questions which had arose during discussion.

- Motion:** Integrate *Sirex noctilio* into a wood boring beetle category (Invasive Longhorned Beetles) and add *Lycorma delicatula* (Spotted Lantern Fly) to the Priority Species list (direct staff to work with experts and finding a better name for the "Invasive Longhorned Beetles" category.).
- Moved by:** Member Tweit
- Seconded by:** Acting member Yund
- Discussion:** Clarity requested on the motion. Clarity was provided by Member Tweit and Mr. Bush.
- Decision:** **Approved**

#### **Item 6: City of Bellingham Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update / Teagan Ward**

Teagan Ward briefed the Council on the City of Bellingham/Whatcom County Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Ms. Ward mainly focuses on Samish Lake and Lake Whatcom. Ms. Ward explained that Lake Whatcom has four invasive species all not present in Lake Samish and that Lake Samish only has one type of invasive species. The City of Bellingham program currently has four watercraft inspection stations within their jurisdiction and they have a \$50 annual permit program in place to partially fund operations. They have 16 inspectors that not only perform watercraft inspections but also go door-to-door locally to offer inspections and permits to local boat owners. Ms. Ward then outlined some of the compliance information collected by the program, along with self-reporting, scheduling of inspections and success stories. Ms. Ward closed by briefing the council on their outreach, monitoring and collaboration which includes involvement from local clubs, organizations and other regional entities of the state.

The board then discussed the program and asked several questions.

#### **FOLLOW UP:**

**LUNCH: 12:08 p.m.**

#### **Item 7: Don't Let It Loose Update / Justin Bush**

Justin Bush provided the Council with an update on the "Don't Let It Loose" initiative. Mr. Bush first provided background on accepting the branding of the program and mentioned that it is currently being used by many other states and territories. He spoke to outreach by the program and showed several examples from outreach tables at pet expos and conventions. Mr. Bush also briefed the council on a direct outreach project to pet stores, veterinary clinics, and animal rescue centers. Staff had acquired information from the Department of Licensing to create mailing to send to pet oriented businesses. This influenced several stores/businesses statewide to contact the council and agree to participate in the statewide awareness and prevention campaign.

The board entered discussion regarding "Don't Let It Loose". Chair Willard mentioned possibly having an incentive for participation, such as a banner or a sticker for the businesses to place on their window. The sticker would be an opportunity for businesses to call out their participation publically. Member Seaman asked staff to provide more targeted business outreach in eastern Washington, including some of the urban areas which don't have facilities participating in the outreach program such as Moses Lake and Wenatchee.

#### **Item 8: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Invasive Mussel Funding to Washington State Update / Justin Bush and Brian Horsburgh**

Justin Bush provided the Council with an update on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation invasive mussel funding to the council and Bryan Horsburgh provided an update on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Bush mentioned there has been several short duration tabletop exercises in which an interagency emergency response to invasive mussels. However, these exercises have not afforded responders enough time to deploy containment system, request emergency permitting for treatment activities, or rapidly deploy watercraft inspection and decontamination stations. Mr. Bush mentioned that because of this they are planning a 5 day response training which will give more of an opportunity to focus on field aspects of a mussel response. This level of preparedness provided by this project is leading efforts in the west—this type of rapid response exercise has not been implemented before.

Brian Horsburgh then briefed the council on funding being provided to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for supplies and equipment related to prevention, monitoring, and response. Eric Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement also spoke regarding the funding

and mentioned it will be used to purchase a "mussel detection dog". Mr. Anderson said that not only will the dog be effective regarding detection but also a great outreach tool.

Mr. Horsburgh then concluded by speaking to current potential future funding and possible criteria for such funding. The council then entered into discussion and asked Brian several questions regarding current and future funding.

#### **Item 9: Pacific Northwest Northern Pike Forum & Coordination Meeting / Justin Bush**

Justin Bush updated the Council on the July 24<sup>th</sup> Pacific Northwest Northern Pike Forum & Coordination Meeting held as a special session at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit. Mr. Bush summarized the meeting, outcomes and highlighted the importance of this being an opportunity to discuss shared issues with a cross-border audience. This was a great opportunity for regional entities to share their concerns and discuss a potential action plan. There were over 10 forum speakers from around the region (more than anticipated). Chair Willard stated that the presentations were great all around. A tag study conducted by Canada was mentioned and iterated how mobile Northern Pike can be. Mr. Bush closed by outlining potential options for this cross-border group moving forward.

The board then briefly discussed before transitioning into the next item (PNWER Summit).

#### **Item 10: Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit / Chair Ray Willard**

Chair Ray Willard provided the Council with an update on the PNWER Summit. Chair Willard then shared the involvement from Senator Dean Takko and others and their interest in invasive species issues on a regional legislative panel. He mentioned the importance of these discussions and how they can be helpful in guiding future directions and in developing PNWER action items. Mr. Bush briefed the council on potential 2018-2019 PNWER action item process and shared the list of the four items with the council. Two items specifically were related to Northern Pike. Chair Willard concluded by mentioning that the next meeting will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

#### **Item 11: 2019-2020 Council Work Plan Development Briefing / Justin Bush**

Justin Bush updated the Council on 2019-2020 Council work plan development. Mr. Bush briefly summarized the work plan development process, as most members are already aware. Mr. Bush provided a summary of work plan development council-staff meetings by stating whom he had met with and a summary of notable contributions by councilmembers.

*Note: Vicki Yund, long time alternate designee representing U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), announced that she would be retiring in the near future. Ms. Yund has been involved with the council since 2009. Chair Willard thanked Ms. Yund for her many years of service to the council and conveyed that she would be missed. Chair Willard indicated that council staff will be shipping Ms. Yund a small token of thanks on behalf of the council in the near future.*

*Note: Acting member Yund (USCBP) was excused and Member Tweit (WDFW) was excused and replaced by Eric Anderson (WDFW).*

**Break 1:43 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.**

#### **Item 12: 2019-2020 Draft Work Plan Strategic Objective Prioritization Exercise / Justin Bush**

Justin Bush performed, with the Council, the 2019-2020 draft work plan strategic objective prioritization Exercise. This draft exercise showing the average score for each strategic objective is included at the end

of the meeting minutes.

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

**A.) 2019 Meeting Schedule**

Staff quickly briefed the council on the 2019 meeting schedule. The council agreed on the meeting dates and instructed staff to submit them to the Code Reviser.

**B.) 2019 Travel Meeting(s)**

Staff quickly briefed the council on the 2019 travel meeting(s). The council decided they would host two travel meetings this year in an effort to be more diverse and reach areas. Further discussion around what will be done at the two locations. Spokane and Bellingham were decided on travel locations, however, dates may need to be adjusted at a later date.

**C.) Approval of June 2018 Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the June 2018 meeting minutes

**Moved by:** **Acting** Member Eric Anderson

**Seconded by:** **Acting** Member Todd Palzer

**Decision:** **Approved**

**D.) December 2018 Roundtable Meeting Topic Requests**

Chair Willard opened it up for topics:

- Justin Bush suggested that Telissa Wilson or another plant disease expert be invited to speak at the next meeting to help inform a future discussion on plant disease prioritization.
- Chair Willard reminded the council that they had asked Jenifer Parsons with Washington Department of Ecology to give an update on flowering rush funding in December.
- Jim Marra suggested that Sven-Erik Spichiger brief the council on his experience with spotted lanternfly.

**E.) Next meeting information**

Next council meeting will be December 13, 2018 at Natural Resource Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

**Public Comment:**

Wyatt Lundquist, Recreation and Conservation read an emailed public comment from Mr. Paul Rudnick, President of Growafrog.com. The council discussed and then instructed staff to respond to Mr. Rudnick summarizing that the prohibition of the species in question is not under the purview of the council and that he should contact the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

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Ray Willard, Chair

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Date