

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2018

Northern Quest Casino, Kalispel Room, 100 N. Hayford Rd. Airway Heights, WA 99001

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Bill Tweit	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Adam Sepulveda	U.S. Geologic Survey
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
John Gamon	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
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
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Todd Haas	Puget Sound Partnership
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County

Guests and Presenters:

Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bryan Horsburgh	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Holly McLellan	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Larry Skillestaad	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Stephen Phillips	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Jon Jennings	Washington State Department of Ecology
Jenifer Parsons	Washington State Department of Ecology
Vic Reeve	Benton County
Richard Visser III	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
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, roll call, and a review and approval of the agenda.

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report / Justin Bush

Justin Bush briefed the council on current happenings. Mr. Bush spoke regarding the TVW interview he had had the opportunity to participate in and suggested the board check it out if they get a chance. Mr. Bush then talked about outreach events. WISC is planning to host 12 events for the year and we are currently ahead of schedule as June 22nd will be our 8th event. Mr. Bush provided more detail about the events since the last meeting including a staff meeting with Governor Jay Inslee. Mr. Bush also plans to speak to the regional forum on July 24th where WISC was able to work with the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER). Mr. Bush spoke on Sudden Oak death and commended Oregon on their work.

Mr. Bush then spoke to our social media outreach which has been gaining popularity. One success story was shared regarding a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug post which reached over 5K viewers! Mr. Bush then spoke to our current Instagram stories which last up to 24hrs and are a fun and interactive way to reach out to the public and test their skills. He then spoke to invasive species reports, and showed climbs and falls in certain topic areas. Amphibians have shown an expected uptick due to the time of year. Bullfrogs are in peak season for croaking and therefore create more public attention and more reports. Mr. Bush finally touched on the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) State of the Salmon report. Previously GSRO had not included invasives in their report but they are now working with Justin to include more information.

Item 2: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Biological Control of Noxious Weeds in Washington / Larry Skillestad

Larry Skillestad briefed the council on noxious weed management. Mr. Skillestad started the briefing with a fun inclusion of "Oct. 4th 1957, Russians put the first object into outer space and started the space race". Mr. Skillestad used this as a metaphor to introduce the challenges the U.S. had then and the struggle we have now on the ground. Mr. Skillestad provided some common characteristics of invasive species. Some examples include: fast growth, rapid reproduction, long flowing seasons, high seed production, dispersal mechanisms, adaptability, palatability, and tolerance. Mr. Skillestad then listed three weed control methods: mechanical, chemical, and biological. Mr. Skillestad went through each of the control methods and spoke more in depth on those. He went over some particular biological species used to help naturally control noxious weeds. One being *Cyphocleonus achates* which eat the roots of the targeted plant (Knapweed) open it up for vulnerabilities and substantially reduces its viability. When used in combination with other biological control agents, it can be extremely effective on knapweed. Mr. Skillestad went on to talk about many other bio control agents.

The council asked how many species have been introduced to try and control noxious weeds. Skillestad answered, that over 70 species just in WA have been released over the years. Final question came from Vice Chair Stevenson who asked for status update on bio control for knotweed. Mr. Skillestad did not know this answer off the top of his head.

Item 3: Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression / Holly McLellan

Holly McClellan briefed the board on Lake Roosevelt and current suppression of Northern Pike (Pike). Holly first introduced and gave credit to her counterparts for helping to make her presentation (the

additional Co-Managers of Lake Roosevelt; the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife). Ms. McLellan then spoke to the distribution of Pike and how they ended up in the Columbia River and Pend Oreille River in 2009. Anglers first captured Pike in Lake Roosevelt in 2011 and they have now been caught as far south as Hawk Creek. Studies show 2,500 pike consumed 112 tons in one year. Ms. McLellan showed a photo of a 16 inch pike with a 11 inch rainbow trout in its stomach (Pike can eat anything up to 75% of its size). Ms. McLellan listed some species of interest they are trying to protect: Redband Trout, Kokanee species only genetically native to Lake Roosevelt, Burbot and White Sturgeon. Ms. McLellan then gave an update on suppression techniques and tactics including seining, fyke netting, gill netting, reward programs and electro fishing. The reward program pays \$10 each for heads of Pike caught in Lake Roosevelt. Ms. McLellan spoke to future consequences regarding Pike if they are not handled correctly. If Pike move into the San Poil River they will greatly affect salmon resources. If they move below the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams they will impact salmon populations downstream on the Columbia. Ms. McLellan described analysis of fish otoliths to help determine which water bodies Pike are coming from. There was also brief discussion of potential expansion of eDNA utilization and collaboration to improve monitoring. Ms. McLellan also mentioned some outreach including a sign similar to the "Clean, Drain and Dry" sign. These signs relay that if Pike are caught they should be killed and that there is no minimum size or possession limit.

Member Seebacher asked that the council discuss how we can get the anglers on our side. Joe Maroney, Kalispel tribe, spoke to some things the Kalispel Tribe has done including, removing Pike as a game fish and putting up a sport reward program. Justin Bush also mentioned there is an opportunity to create a new message the council could use on outreach similar to that of "Squeal on Pigs". Member Tweit mentioned less than 20% of their budget goes towards monitoring and asked if Ms. McLellan felt that she has enough information from that current monitoring or if there needs to be more funding for that as well. Ms. McLellan said she thinks current monitoring information will suffice for successful suppression. Mr. Tweit asked if eradication is still an option. Ms. McLellan said that if we keep hitting them hard we can severely cripple them but will likely never be able to rid our waters of them. Shaun Seaman asked if the eDNA testing could be expanded to include testing for invasive mussels since additional test could be performed at minimal cost. Ms. McLellan indicated she would investigate this possibility.

Break 10:33 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 4: African Clawed Frog Eradication / Allen Pleus

Allen Pleus updated the board on African Clawed Frog (ACF). Mr. Pleus said that ACF are very hard to eradicate due to their adaptability and resiliency. Mr. Pleus said ACF are carriers of a Ranavirus which can be devastating to native frog species. There are two locations in Washington that we know of that have ACF (one in 2 acres of water retention ponds in Lacey and one at a wetland associated with North Creek in Bothell). Currently in Lacey WDFW has put forth great effort to reduce the populations such as by raising the salinity of the water to kill the frogs, trapping & seining. Currently WDFW has removed over 6,200 clawed frogs from all three ponds and invested over \$50,000 in resources. WDFW is looking towards other methods of eradication such as carbon dioxide, rotenone, bubble curtains, or improved traps. Currently WDFW does not have management in place for the ACF in North Creek due to challenges of the larger site that's a complex riparian area with natural flow outlets.

Member Maroney, brought up detonation cord to be used in the ponds and said it can be affective. Allen Pleus said he would consider the use but there are much more things at play such as permitting that will need to be considered. Member Seebacher offered assistance in the North Creek ponds should Mr. Pleus need help rallying the local governments and interest groups for additional resources. Member Ripley asked what WDFW is doing around the "Don't Let it Loose" Program and whether UW Bothell could be

enlisted to assist at North Creek. Mr. Pleus mentioned that they have posted "Don't let it Loose" signs at both sites.

Item 5: Watercraft Inspection Station and Memorandum of Understanding Updates / Eric Anderson

Eric Anderson briefed the board on WDFW's watercraft inspection stations. Mr. Anderson relayed that the program has moved their previous inspection stations to two large "anchor" stations. One is along I-90 near Spokane and the other is in the Tri-Cities area. These will remain possible through grant funding. A WRRDA grant has been secured for 450K as long as WDFW matches the grant funding (which it has). Both check stations have opened this year on April 2nd and the check stations are now open 7 days a week for the majority of the season. They have also extended their hours as well as increased employees. As of June 16th, 2018 there had been almost 1500 inspections in Tri-Cities and 2828 in Spokane. Mr. Anderson was also pleased to announce they have stopped two boats with zebra/quagga mussels trying to cross the border. Mr. Anderson also provided an update on the large check station that went in just outside of Spokane and shared some difficulties around it. It has an open house on June 22nd, 2018.

- Motion:** Direct Council staff to write a thank you letter from WISC to WDFW thanking them for their work on the check station
- Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member Karen Ripley
- Decision:** *Approved*

Item 6: Cost-Share Funding for the Control of Flowering Rush / Jenifer Parsons

Jenifer Parsons briefed the board on cost-share funding around flowering rush. Ms. Parsons mentioned that the monies can only be used for control and it's to be used in addition to current funding. Another requirement is to receive federal permits for federal funding. Ms. Parsons mentioned that they are currently applying for a 50% match for work in Yakima and they have also submitted a proposal for a \$75,000 request in the Pend Oreille river area. There are three smaller funding areas such as Kalispel Tribal lands and Silver Stream. Spokane area did not qualify for the match.

Stephen Phillips made a comment on the work in Washington and commended Ms. Parsons on her work. Member Maroney also thanked Ms. Parsons for her work. Member Ripley asked how we get rid of flowering rush? Ms. Parsons said that spraying it and pulling the weeds shows the best results. Bill Tweit asked when would be a good time to receive another follow-up. Ms. Parsons mentioned that we should know about funding by late fall or December and she would be more than happy to re-brief the board then. Staff will add this to the December agenda.

Item 7: Water Resources Development Act Update / Stephen Phillips

Mr. Phillips provided the board with an update on water development. This involved check station funding, monitoring funding and budget funding. Mr. Phillips also provided some updates around federal funding and congressional provisos.

FOLLOW UP: Member Seaman asked if Mr. Phillips if he would send out the budget updates over an email for the councilmembers to see. Mr. Seaman also asked if there was any funding areas the state was failing to tap. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Seaman will discuss later on.

LUNCH: 12:08 p.m.

Item 8: European Green Crab Detection and Suppression Update / Allen Pleus

Allen Pleus provided an update to the board on European Green Crab (EGC). Mr. Pleus first provided an overview of green crab and identification. Currently Dungeness Spit is the most populated site, but green crab have been found other areas throughout North Puget Sound. Mr. Pleus explained some of the impacts they have on habitat such as estuary degradation, eel grass decimation, and shellfish devastation. Mr. Pleus updated the council on population growth and location. WDFW did a study to see if the genetics of the crab matched other areas of infestation. It was found that just across the bay (Sooke) were genetically different from the crabs from Dungeness Spit. It was found that Dungeness Spit crabs came from the outer West Coast areas. Mr. Pleus then spoke to outflow and inflow of water and explained how the green crab larvae would have reached Dungeness Spit. Mr. Pleus then gave a high level overview of the cooperative management currently going on around the issue and who are involved such as WA Sea Grant, WDFW, and Tribal Entities. With some funding from the Puget Sound Partnership, several regional partners (including Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) have helped advance an initial transboundary Strategic European Green Crab Management Plan over the past few months. Mr. Pleus closed with some takeaway points: early detection and rapid response is working, WA State is at key EGC management threshold, and stakeholder support is encouraged for 2018 legislation.

Item 9: Don't Pack A Pest – Washington / Justin Bush

Justin Bush updated the board briefly around "Don't Pack a Pest" Program. Mr. Bush mentioned that the program would like to expand into Washington and they will be placing a sign up at the SeaTac airport. Mr. Bush said that WISC has a choice to become a participant in this outreach or not. Mr. Bush recommends the board approval for staff to move forward.

Bill Tweit moved a motion to permit the councils collaboration with the Don't Pack a Pest. Joe Maroney seconded the motion.

Motion: Permit the councils collaboration with Don't Pack a Pest.

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Joe Maroney

Discussion: Member Tweit expressed some concerns what this means for staff workload. Member Maroney expressed the same concerns and also mentioned that he would like to know more information around the amount of funding WISC has and its expenditures. Member Lyons also expressed similar concerns. Mr. Bush reiterated the importance of this. Mr. Anderson expressed some concerns over the multi-message approach and if it's diluting one another. Example: don't pack a pest, brush your boots, etc. Member Lyons countered Mr. Anderson's concerns stating she believes the messages work with one another. Member Tweit finally spoke in support and retained his motion.

Decision: **Approved**

Item 10: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Invasive Mussel Funding to Washington State Overview and Project Summaries / Bryan Horsburgh, Allen Pleus & Justin Bush

Bryan Horsburgh provided the board with an update on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Invasive Mussel Funding to Washington State Overview and Project Summaries. Mr. Horsburgh spoke to funding and current commitments before turned it over to Justin Bush and Allen Pleus to talk about projects. Project one is a request for 150K for rapid response in Lake Roosevelt. Project two is for the mussel detection dog. The dog will not only be used for boat detection, but also beach and water detection as well. The third project is for equipment to support early monitoring and detection. These supplies would then be distributed out to partners. No state match is required for these grants.

Mr. Anderson asked if we could apply for this funding in the future to use for WRRDA match as we did this year for the check stations. Mr. Horsburgh's answer was that we could use that for match funding.

The council discussed and applauded the new Department of Interior (DOI) membership and plan for sharing information between DOI Bureaus.

Item 11: ~~Washington Pest Watch: First Detector Network Update / Todd Murray~~

REMOVED

Item 12: Graduate Thesis Conclusion and Internship Wrap-Up / Kenzi Smith

In an interest of time Kenzi Smith did not provide a final update but thanked the board and announced she had graduated. The council then presented Ms. Smith with a parting gift and thanked her for her work.

Item 13: Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Northern Pike Briefing, Letters, and Joint SRFB and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting Updates / Joe Maroney & Justin Bush

Joe Maroney briefed the council on his presentation to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Member Maroney mentioned that as a result of this meeting the board moved and approved a motion to write 6 letters on behalf of support for suppression for Northern Pike. A question came up around follow up for the letters. Wyatt Lundquist, RCO Board Liaison, shared that he had all the letters that went out and 1 response letter from WDFW. Mr. Lundquist also mentioned that he would expect there to be more discussion from the SRFB around the letters and what has happened.

Item 14: Council Biennial Report and 2-Year Work Plan Update Timeline / Justin Bush

Justin Bush will schedule individual meetings with each Council member and or organization to review the 2015-2018 Work Plan and discuss each Strategic Objective in depth centering on adaption, removal, or gaps not addressed. Following individual meetings in July and August, Justin will synthesize comments and feedback into an 80% draft for council review at the September meeting. At this time, the Council will participate in a priority ranking exercise of proposed items. Following the meeting, the 95% draft will be made available for public comment. Following public comment, the Council will perform a final review of the draft document prior to the December Council meeting. The 2-Year Work Plan will be adopted as a consent item at the December Council Meeting.

Council Action on non-agenda Item:

Motion: Move to approve a motion for Washington Invasive Species Council to write a letter of support to PNWER
Moved by: Member Bill Tweit
Seconded by: Member Kendall Farley
Decision: **Approved**

Item 15: Council Business/ Vice Chair Pat Stevenson

A.) Council Briefing Memos

Staff quickly briefed the council on the use of Board Memos. The Council discussed and direction received to create memos only for decision items as a trial.

B.) Executive Committee Membership

Motion: Move to approve Department of Ecology’s council seat to be on the executive committee

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Karen Ripley

Discussion: Brief discussion around other interested parties

Decision: **Approved**

C.) Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association Request

Motion: Move to approve William Reynolds representing the Washington State Landscape and Nursery Association to the Industry Panel

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Brad White

Decision: **Approved**

D.) Approval of March 2018 Minutes

Motion: Approval of March 2018 Minutes as Amended.

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Karen Ripley

Decision: **Approved**

E.) September 2018 Roundtable Meeting Topic Requests

Member White asked to have the hot topic around invasive pests on the next agenda, Member Seaman asked if we could bring one of the “asks” from March (March: Mr. Seaman would like to discuss, at the next WISC meeting, the challenges and opportunities in managing invasive species in wetlands and manmade holding ponds and how the WISC can do to help streamline work in these environments.) back to the agenda and it was decided Ms. Parsons would provide an update. Member Tweit asked to have best management practices for aquatic and soil borne pathogens to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Member Ripley said she may be able help provide some information around soil born topics

F.) Next meeting information

Next WISC meeting will be September 6, 2018 at Natural Resource Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

September 6, 2018

Date