

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2018

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

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Ray Willard, Chair	Washington Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
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
Linda Kunze	Washington State Parks Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Blain Reeves	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Members Excused:

Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mary Braswell	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Steven Burke	King County
Adam Sepulveda	U.S. Department of the Interior
Vacant	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board

Guests and Presenters:

Bryan Horsburgh	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Allen Pleus	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Richard Visser	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bill Reynolds	Washington Nursery and Landscape Association
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
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Wyatt Lundquist

Board Liaison

Brianna Widner

Education Specialist

Opening and Welcome

Chair Ray Willard opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, and introductions. Chair Willard then had Brianna Widner call the roll. Chair Willard then announced one minor change to the agenda regarding, the order of Item 11 and the agenda was approved via consensus. Item 11 will now be presented before Item 8.

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. Mr. Bush discussed Teagan Ward's recent confirmed finding of a New Zealand mud snail in Lake Padden, Bellingham, WA. Mr. Bush then went over a list of meetings he participated in over the last quarter. Mr. Bush then discussed several outreach events he was able to participate in since the last meeting such as the Western Governors' Association Biosecurity and Invasive Species Workshop and Montana Invasive Species Summit. Mr. Bush then provided a social media update, discussing the differences in reach on Facebook between "paid" and "organic" reach. Mr. Bush said Paid reach was more successful and we should continue to utilize it for specific targeted times of needed outreach. Mr. Bush then went through our different successes of social media we have had including a continuous increase on Instagram (26% last quarter!). Mr. Bush then gave a quick briefing on "Don't Let It Loose" and a prime example of the importance of this program. Tilapia had recently been released in Lake Sammamish in King County (https://rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/press/2018/188.shtml) and perished. Not only is this a learning experience for the sake of the fish being released but also what the consequences could have been had they survived and preyed on native species. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement issued a warning.

Item 2: 2018 Agricultural Pest Trapping Results / Jim Marra

Jim Marra provided an update on the Apple Maggot and Gypsy Moth Programs. Mr. Marra showed several close-up maps of recent gypsy moth detection locations. He also discussed how much acreage was treated in 2018 (1,300 acres) and how it was treated. Mr. Marra then zoomed out to a full view of Washington State, showing the locations of deployed detection traps and which areas have had active collections. Jim Marra explained that the results of these data have led them to plan for treating 1700 acres in 2019. Two treatment sites are in Kitsap County, one in King County, one in Snohomish County. Mr. Marra then described the historic success of the detection and eradication program, including multiple sites that were treated to eradicate Asian and European gypsy moth in 2016 have now had clear traps for 3 years and been declared "eradicated".

Mr. Marra then moved the conversation to discuss apple maggot management strategies. It is now realized that apple maggot cannot be eradicated in our state and now needs to be managed accordingly. One of the reasons it is so difficult to control is because live pupae can

persist in the soil for up to 4 years. Mr. Marra then described certain control efforts, the biggest being the setting of quarantine areas by county. The biggest objective is to protect the commercial apple industry from being severely impacted by the apple maggot. These efforts are guided by the apple maggot working group and ultimately approved by the Department of Agriculture Director. Over 10,000 traps have been placed and 158 maggot flies have been detected. Almost all have been caught in the quarantine area. The county pest boards are the boots on the ground for conducting control measures and WSU Extension offices help provide outreach. Jim Marra concluded by stating that apple maggot has not been detected in any exported commercial Washington fruit to date. Joe Maroney mentioned that some of the signs have been posted for a while now and are not as noticed as they used to be. Jim Marra and Chair Willard made note that a broad public outreach event around apple maggot would be helpful and the council should coordinate to make an effort to do this (perhaps social media or working with google maps to show quarantine areas on maps).

Item 3: Modeling the Spread of Invasive Crayfish and Informing Management / Julian Olden

Julian Olden briefed the board on invasive crayfish and how his organization conducts outreach around these species. Mr. Olden showed an integrative map on the amount of species globally and where they can be found. Two thirds of the world's species are native to the southeastern United States. Mr. Olden then discussed the three main invasive species of concern in Washington- Red Swamp Crayfish, Northern Crayfish and Rusty Crayfish. Mr. Olden then focused on the Rusty Crayfish, which is not currently in Washington but can be found in Oregon in the John Day River Basin. It is believed the Rusty Crayfish was released by educational programs at schools that were not aware of its impacts. The Rusty Crayfish has diverse ecological impacts such as a polytrophic diet and ability to live in extremely high densities. They have been recorded to move up to 10-20 kilometers per year and surveys reveal as many as 50 crayfish per square meter. Mr. Olden then discussed his approach towards the management modeling process and the data that were included in building it, such as movement temperatures, downstream flow and reproduction rates. Mr. Olden's model predicted the Rusty Crayfish would reach the main-stem Columbia River by 2025. Crayfish do have impacts on salmon through salmon egg and carcass consumption. There may also be indirect impacts through providing food to other invasive species such as bass and boosting their populations. Mr. Olden expressed the importance of acting earlier rather than later and showed his predictions on populations and what we could do by acting now. Mr. Olden requested that we add Rusty Crayfish to the Washington Invasives app. Mr. Olden closed with current efforts to collect data from social media and website platforms about invasive species.

Break 10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 4: Invasive Species Permit for Crayfish Lessons Learned & Changes / Allen Pleus

Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), briefed the council on the permitting process to allow schools to use crayfish for educational purposes. Mr. Pleus talked about efforts to supply signal crayfish (native species) to these schools but they had struggles around this. Mr. Pleus has worked with the superintendent of public instruction to try to build a permitting process but to no avail. Mr. Pleus then introduced a letter that was sent by Ron

Warren, Deputy Director of the Fish Program at WDFW to Superintendent Reykdal of Public instruction and briefed the council on its content and the intent to phase out the permit.

Item 5: Recreation & Conservation Office Invasive Species Emergency Fund / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush briefed the board on the Invasive Species Emergency Fund and announced that he does not have a definitive answer on whether or not it will be included in the governor's budget. Chair Willard announced that if it were not included we would be going forward again to try to get it included in the governor's budget again in future biennia.

Item 6: Northern Pike Update / Joe Maroney & Kendall Farley

Councilmember Joe Maroney and Councilmember Kendall Farley briefed the council on current Northern Pike updates. They expressed they feel these concern is gaining momentum and traction but we are definitely not where we need to be yet. Mr. Bush noted that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has decided to write a second letter to the Governor relaying the importance of immediate action to be taken against the spread of Northern Pike in the Columbia River Basin.

Item 7: Washington State Department of Transportation Asset Management Plan for Roadsides / Chair Ray Willard

Chair Willard briefed the board on an asset management plan for roadsides throughout Washington State. He first addressed the plan for operational right of way zone (first 20 ft. of roadside) and showed what this is, what it means and how to navigate the system. He then moved to discuss the Vegetative Buffer Zone, how important it is to have preventative maintenance rather than reactive maintenance, and how much more cost effective it would be. The plan is not to do more maintenance regularly but rather update the roadsides with a natural buffer zone that essentially helps maintain itself. Chair Willard then shared how much money it would take to get there and that it would essentially mean a doubling of their current budget, however, it would be cheaper and benefit the state long-term.

Item 8: Salish Sea Transboundary Action Plan for Invasive European Green Crab and Vessel Incident Discharge Act Updates / Allen Pleus

Mr. Pleus briefed the board on the European green crab response. Mr. Pleus started with a quick overview of a five page factsheet he is calling a "white paper" and how much more effective it will be in lieu of a 30 page information packet. He then reminded the board of some of the effects of green crab such as bank erosion, loss of eelgrass habitat and competition with native species. Mr. Pleus went over a map of north Puget Sound that displayed the amount of traps that have been deployed and the numbers of crabs found in those traps. Mr. Pleus mentioned the importance of working with partners, such as Jamestown Skalla'am Tribe, when implementing the management plan. He expressed that we are still ahead of the curve and that we can continue to have success, which can ultimately eradicate European green crab in Washington.

Mr. Pleus briefed the council on Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) by providing updates for the council on where we are at currently. Mr. Pleus discussed a handout he gave out which outlined the history of VIDA and entity participation. This led him to show the provisions with the current leads on certain focuses of VIDA, such as EPA becoming the lead for setting

discharge standards. Mr. Pleus closed by mentioning a new five million dollar grant for coastal mitigation that can potentially be leveraged for use on things such as European green crab.

Item 11: 2018 Watercraft Inspection Accomplishments / Eric Anderson

Mr. Anderson provided an update on the WDFW watercraft Inspection Program, highlighting their accomplishments for 2018. They had an overall increase of 172% on inspections from 2017. They also enforced "blow-bys" or people that drove past the inspection station. There were no citations written as the program is new and the signage was not as functional as they had hoped. They have now installed new signs, which will provide better notification that boats coming across state lines must stop. Mr. Anderson also informed the council that they detected invasive mussels on the vessel/trailer of four of the watercrafts they screened, which shows program success and necessity. Mr. Anderson closed by discussing plans for the program such as a decontamination station coming on board and a mussel dog, which would be used as a secondary inspection tool.

LUNCH: 12:05 p.m.

Item 9: Watercraft Inspection Station Data-sharing Improvements / Richard Visser

Richard Visser briefed the board on Watercraft Inspection Station Data-sharing improvements. They have a new program they are using as a tool called iForms that helps streamline data collection and reporting to headquarters and partners. However, there were some issues with this system and ultimately led to a department decision to use the Colorado Database instead. The Colorado Database can be helpful when tracking information from previous entries related to the vessel/trailer registration. The Colorado Database is free because the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) already funds it.

Item 10: FY 19 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Invasive Mussel Funding / Bryan Horsburgh

Bryan Horsburgh briefed the board on Bureau of Reclamation invasive mussel funding. Seventy requests for funding were submitted, totaling 10 million dollars, but the bureau only has about 4 million dollars available. Brian said they had received three submissions from Washington. All the submissions are currently with a panel for decision and they are hopeful proposals will be selected by mid-January 2019. Washington requests are for funding two watercraft inspection stations and looking for a pilot for the Clean, Drain and Dry program. The final request from Washington has to do with funding for zebra/quagga mussel monitoring and eDNA analyses.

Item 12: Urban Forest Readiness Plan / Brianna Widner

Brianna Widner briefed the council on the urban and forest readiness project that is funded by US Department of Agriculture. The council is working in conjunction with Washington Department of Natural Resources, US Department of Agriculture, Washington Department of Agriculture, and other interested parties to develop an Urban Forest Readiness Plan. This readiness plan will outline a response chain for urban foresters when invasive species are detected so that agencies can respond rapidly and stop new forest pests before they have the chance to establish and spread.

Once developed, we will test the plan with the help of a volunteer first detector. They will make a report to a municipal urban forest program staff and set the plan in motion. Post-pilot, the

consultant will assist in writing up a summary of the exercise, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and areas that may inform plan and response improvements.

Item 13: Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week / Justin Bush

Justin Bush shared that National Invasive Species Awareness Week was scheduled to be held February 24 to March 2, 2019. Mr. Bush will work with Governor Inslee’s office to proclaim the week in Washington State.

Item 14: Washington Pest Watch Phase II Overview / Todd Murray & Brianna Widner

Mr. Murray and Mrs. Widner briefed the board on the Washington Pest Watch - Phase II. Mrs. Widner explained that the program is expanding upon successful work in 2017-2018 by broadening our workshop reach and introducing lesson plans for the next generation of first detectors. She explained that the team is developing and pilot testing "First Detector" lesson plans for middle school students. Currently the lesson plans introduce students to invasive species, teach them how to make invasive species reports, and then walk them through various applications for their data- including making maps and presentations in ArcGIS online and conducting stewardship projects. Member Bill Reynolds asked how they were getting the message out to green industry professionals. Brianna responded that they have their own list serves but welcomed new avenues and Mr. Reynolds said he did and would share them.

Item 15: 2018 Outreach Accomplishments and 2019 Outreach Plan / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush briefed the board on the 2018 outreach accomplishments and plan for 2019. Mr. Bush mentioned the reach numbers for the year on social media including over 100,000 reached for Twitter and over 150,000 reached for Facebook. Mr. Bush said we had set a goal to issue five press releases although so far only four releases have been done. Mr. Bush then turned to the events and outreach accomplishments. The largest outreach event was the Seattle Boat Show and the largest reach was around aquatic invasive species. Mr. Bush asked if there was any direction from the board around what they would like to see in the future, is there an adjusted focus needed? Mr. Bush also went over a list of 2019 outreach events and asked the council direction on which ones were more important than others. The board discussed and shared their thoughts, while ultimately putting trust in Mr. Bush’s decisions.

Break 1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Item 16: 2019-2020 Work Plan Process and Approval / Justin Bush

Mr. Bush provided an overview to the council on the 2019-2020 Work Plan Process. Mr. Bush started by reviewing the timeline starting a pilot with the Executive Committee in June, moving towards an 80% completion by the end of August, 90% draft by October and ultimately the final draft which was before the board today. The board then entered into a brief discussion before making a decision.

Moved: Joe Maroney moved to approve the strategic plan (including the edits)

Seconded: Anna Lyon

Decision: Approved

Item 17: Council Business/ Chair Willard

A.) Approval of 2019 Outreach Plan

No motion was made but direction was given to staff going forward

B.) Approval of September 2018 Minutes

Moved: Vice Chair Pat Stevenson to approve the meeting minutes

Seconded: Member Kendall Farley

Decision: Approved

C.) March 2019 Bellingham Travel Meeting

Staff quickly briefed the council on the 2019 Bellingham travel meeting, announcing that it would be hosted at Squalicum Harbor, Bellingham WA 98225 and be officially held on March 28, 2019.

Note: The board also approved an additional tentative Travel meeting to Okanogan on September 26, 2019.

D.) March 2019 Roundtable Meeting Topic Requests

Chair Willard opened it up for topics:

- Green Crab Action Plan (Allen Pleus)
- PNWER Northern Pike Update (Kendall Farley)
- Add Facebook live "1-minute of fame" at the beginning of the meeting to all future meetings.

Public Comment:

Mary Fee gave a quick introduction of the State Noxious Weed Board and their role as well as a letter they had received from a constituent regarding the Columbia River and noxious weeds. She proposed working together with the WISC to host a round table discussion and asked the boards interest in this. The council advised Ms. Fee to send a formal email to the board and they will further discuss.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

March 28, 2019

Date