

# WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2018

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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 of Indians
Adam Sepulveda	U.S. Geological Survey
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Bill Tweit	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Denise Hawkins	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
John Gamon	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Luke Woods	U.S. Coast Guard
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Steven Burke	King County
Tim Harrington	U.S. Forest Service
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Todd Murray	Washington State University

## Guests and Presenters:

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Chris Eardley	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Diane Cooper	Taylor Shellfish
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jim Marra	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Linda Kunze	Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
Allen Pleus	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Alexis Haifley	Administrative Assistant
Justin Sharp	Administrative Assistant
Kenzi Smith	Administrative Intern II
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison

### 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. Introduced new board liaison Wyatt Lundquist and described his role with WISC and RCO.

### Hot Topic Reports

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

Mr. Bush updated the council on his work since December's WISC meeting, including a list of meetings, workshops, and seminars attended. Mr. Bush noted the winter and spring months are particularly productive for scheduling meetings and trainings, as it is the slow season for field workers. One meeting in particular that was of interest to the council was Mr. Bush and Mr. Maroney's attendance to the March Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting, where they provided information to the board about invasive Northern Pike and the damage it could have on salmon recovery efforts. Council discussed some of the benefits and challenges that come with attending these meetings and how vital it is to share information with our partners, using the SRFB as one example. Mr. Bush also outlined a presentation to the British Columbia Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group and his excitement in developing a new working relationship with the provincial invasive species managers.

Council discussed more about cross-border invasive species issues and the need to keep discussing shared issues. Mr. Bush indicated a desire to invite the Inter-Ministry Working Group Chair and Coordinator to present at a WISC meeting. The council discussed and asked staff to make the request.

Education and Outreach Report: Mr. Bush reviewed the social media statistics, which are up over last quarter for all accounts. Of note, a large part of growth took place during Invasive Species Awareness Week. Mr. Bush noted his observation that the vast majority of views and outreach takes place on the Facebook social media platform, with Twitter as a close second and Instagram third. Lastly, Mr. Bush closed the educational and outreach summary with a request that the council think of alternative ways to keep in touch during the off months, as the newsletter is only being viewed by 40% of the council. The council discussed sending the newsletter to the council's email stakeholder list, agreeing that Mr. Bush and the Recreation and Conservation Office should work toward this in the long-term.

Sighting Reports: Mr. Bush noted one report was for White-Nose Syndrome found on bats hibernating in Mount Rainier National Park. Council discussed whether or not it would be appropriate for them to get involved. Additionally, there was a report of New Zealand Mud Snail in a water body within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Lastly, Mr. Bush closed with a success story where a report of goldfish being released into a lake in Snohomish County resulted in further education and outreach to prevent this behavior in the future. By partnering with WDFW Enforcement and WISC over 1,000 people were reached, with the 'Don't let it Loose' message, including the people that released the goldfish.

Council discussed more outreach about invasive frogs, specifically, in addition to sharing other outreach materials.

Justin closed with describing how the council uses the sighting report, and that it is a way of tracking invasive species throughout the state as well as ensuring land owners and managers have the correct classification and best management information.

### **Item 2: Mediterranean Snail Eradication / Jim Marra**

Mr. Marra briefed the council on some of the current eradication status of the Mediterranean snail in the Port of Tacoma. The WSDA is fairly certain that the snails are contained to the Port of Tacoma, as the 2018 eradication program is still being done, and they have not found them to have spread. Mr. Marra briefed the council on the history of the program from 2005 up till now. Noting until 2005 (when the snails were first discovered) there hadn't been a snail eradication program in Washington State.

Mr. Marra highlighted several of the challenges in eradicating the snails, due to the biology and life cycle of the snail, as well as the difficulty in working with landowners in and around the Port of Tacoma. Furthermore, the program was set back in 2007 due to the light brown apple moth eradication that was taking place in California which diverted much of the funding the snail program used.

Mr. Marra closed with lessons learned, noting that perhaps the biggest mistake was not quarantining the Port of Tacoma as soon as the snails were found. The outcome, and timeline, of the treatment and program could have been much different had they taken this first step.

Council discussed the overall cost due to the length of the project, and discussed protocols and policies which could be put in place so as to avoid a future situation. Emphasized early detection, rapid response.

### **Item 3: OsHV-1 Ostereid Herpesvirus / Chris Eardley Puget Sound shellfish coordinator**

Mr. Eardley briefed the council on Ostereid Herpesvirus (OsHV-1). Mr. Eardley started the conversation by stating the importance of shellfish and the role they play on Washington's economy. Almost 100 million in annual revenue, over 2,700 jobs and approximately 199,000 recreational licenses. Then he briefed the council on the history of shellfish viruses and the current impact they are having on the shellfish industry, saying we are fortunate we have yet to have a severe outbreak. He then moved on to specifically speak to OsHV-1. He noted, while not much research has been done on transmission methods, they do know it can occur horizontally through the water from other infected organisms which serve as hosts, thus giving the disease the potential to move around. Mr. Eardley then summarized the history, and movement, of the virus in other places all over the world. Notably, iterations of the same disease can be found on both coasts of North America in isolated spots, and have severe loss and in some cases even colony collapse.

Mr. Eardley highlighted and reviewed management responses, while noting complete eradication is impossible and most efforts are focused on prevention, quarantine, water treatment, and selective breeding, in addition to immunizations and altered production. This disease is a real risk for Washington due to the existing shellfish industry, as it can contaminate, and spread, through seed, brood stock, and gear.

Council discussed risk of other ways for the disease to spread including through shell debris. More importantly, educating the public is a balance between information and alarmism.

Mr. Tweit highlighted several tools that WDFW has put in place for shellfish disease and control. One of the main ways to control the spread of the disease is through geographical restriction. By utilizing a permitting process for commercial growing, it helps guide where shellfish can be grown.

Mr. Eardley closed his presentation by looking toward the future and summarizing where to go next. Ideally, would be able to gather a baseline of existing shellfish health by studying wild populations, create a monitoring program, in addition to a strong educational campaign, as the public could, unknowingly, be the main facilitator of the spread of the disease.

Council discussed and asked clarifying questions mainly about the science and etymology or malacology behind some of the finer details of the presentation. Discussed the struggle of people not thinking of pathogens and viruses as an invasive species that need to be prevented, monitored, and eradicated.

**Public Comment:** Dianne Cooper, Taylor Shellfish and Invasive Species Council Industry Advisory Panel Member – provided comment on the importance of this discussion, and how this virus is often overlooked when ranking priority species due to the fact that it is a disease.

**Motion:** Move to add the OsHV-1 pathogen and all of its variants, to the invasive species priority species list as one of the several pathogens of infectious *fin-fish and shellfish diseases*.  
**Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit  
**Seconded by:** Member Mark Taylor  
**Decision:** Approved

**Break 11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

**Item 4: Open Public Meetings Act – RCW 42.30/ [Video](#)**

The council elected to watch the video on their own time, rather than watching it during the meeting. An email will be sent out by Justin Bush, including the link and the Council’s instructions.

**Discussions, Decisions, and Updates**

**Item 5: Farm Bill Section 10007 Fiscal Year 2019 Planning / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush reviewed the timeline for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 planning meeting and summarized the December 2017 meeting. For FY 2018 the spending plan was just released, with an allocated amount of \$70 million dollars nation-wide, the funding is laid out state-by-state. Washington State is one of the 11 top-funded states, receiving \$3.39 million. The project suggestions funded by FY 18 spending plan will not only continue the Washington Pest Watch first detector network, but the additional funding will help it grow by the creation of a readiness plan for new urban forests pests, and fund various regional workshops.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

**Item 6: Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Updates / Eric Anderson**

Mr. Anderson updated the council on what has been happening in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) watercraft inspection program. The program has secured additional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, (\$450,000) which is match for the already pledged funds. The WDFW watercraft inspection program has received accolades from the Western Governors Association and Pacific Northwest Economic Region in regard to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) they have with the National Park Service (NPS) Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

Additionally, the WDFW AIS program has submitted a funding request to Bureau of Reclamation for a mussel dog, and other projects, and are currently working on a financial agreement. Mr. Anderson and Mr.

Allen Pleus will keep the council updated as to the status moving forward. Mr. Anderson highlighted some of the challenges and opportunities for the 2018 year, noting that they have been working with Washington State Parks to streamline their safe boating process to make sure all agencies are sending the same message. Additionally, all WDFW officers have received training on enforcement due to the new warning notification/ticket method.

Mr. Anderson closed by updating the council on the goal to increase check station days by 100% this year, and in order to do this they have hired quite a few more people over last year, including a supervisory position. Mr. Anderson let the council know they are still waiting to hear the closing date of the old Washington Department of Transportation Welcome to Washington Facility that will become the WDFW AIS flagship inspection and decontamination site, as soon as it's official they will be able to hit the ground running due to all the preemptive bidding that has been done.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

**Item 7: ~~Gypsy Moth Lessons: Moving to Washington Information / Brad White~~**

~~Mr. White briefed the council on the current lessons learned thus far regarding Gypsy Moths...~~

**ITEM POSTPONED**

**Item 8: Invasive Species Awareness Week Debriefing / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush briefed the council on Washington State's Invasive Species Awareness Week. This year Mr. Bush has worked with numerous state and local agencies to publish multi-agency press releases for invasive species week. The focus was to highlight several of the main messages (ex. Clean, Drain, Dry and Don't Let it Loose) with artwork to accompany the messages designed by WISC's own Kenzi Smith. The known reach, excluding those reached by external news articles is over 46,000 individuals. Mr. Bush closed by asking the council members about the value of the awareness week and if they would like to continue in 2019.

Council discussed and directed staff to create a summary report for the Governor's Office. The report will be used to illustrate the value and facilitate the 2019 request.

**Item 9: Invasive Fish Work Group Update and Discussion / Pat Stevenson**

Mr. Stevenson briefed the council on Invasive Fish Work Group and its purpose for being assembled. It was requested by staff at the December 2017 meeting to rapidly analyze and develop a council opinion on invasive fish related bills in the 2018 Legislative Session. The Work Group met via webinar and conference call on multiple occasions. The Work Group developed a council process to discuss legislative issues, and reached consensus on draft council opinions related to the various bills. The Work Group planned to request council approval at this meeting and then contact legislative sponsors and Legislative Committees with letters from the council. However, the session ended prior to the March meeting. The council originally intended this work group to sunset with the end of the legislative session. Mr. Stevenson would like to know if this workgroup should be extended in order to be proactive, rather than reactive, and the scope expanded to include a work group analysis of Department of Fish and Wildlife fish classifications, which was an issue when analyzing Atlantic salmon bills.

**Motion:** Extend the timeline for the work group in order to keep it moving forward.

**Moved by:** Member Lizbeth Seebacher

**Seconded by:** Member Mark Taylor

**Discussion:** The council discussed a need to be nimble in rapidly responding to issues and a need to be proactive.

**Decision:** Member Mark Taylor withdrew his movement to second the motion, no decision. Motion failed.

The council discussed this topic at length, including the prerogative of the Chair to convene ad hoc work groups as needed. The majority of the council agreed that the current work group should sunset as defined at creation and that Chair Willard will consider forming a new work group to respond to the request.

**Lunch 12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**Item 10: U.S. Department of the Interior Request / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush briefed the council on the communication which has been taking place with the Department of the Interior (DOI) since the last meeting. On December 28, 2017, Chair Willard sent a letter of request to DOI and let them know the council wanted more involvement and representation from the department. DOI was receptive and now the council has a new member and several alternates. Mr. Bush noted, in just a quarter they were able to make this happen due to all the hard work and communication done between, and with, several agencies.

The council discussed and applauded the new DOI membership and plan for sharing information between DOI Bureaus.

**Item 11: Welcome and introduction of Adam Sepulveda, Council Member Representing U.S. Department of the Interior / Ray Willard & Adam Sepulveda**

Mr. Willard introduced Mr. Sepulveda (who called in over the phone) and read Mr. Sepulveda's biography. Mr. Sepulveda spoke about the several different invasive species (including northern pike and invasive mussels) which are a main focus of his research as well as a priority for DOI and its Bureaus.

**Item 12: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Invasive Species Management Protocols / Ray Willard & Bill Tweit**

Mr. Willard and Mr. Tweit updated the council on the complicated issue of the invasive species management protocol document in regard to heavy machinery, in water restoration projects, and SCUBA equipment. Mr. Willard reviewed the new Washington State Department of Transportation protocols for the council, and noted they will apply to contractors and their heavy machinery statewide. The main issue is that the Department of Fish and Wildlife's policy is referenced in numerous environmental policies and the information about washing heavy machinery was never finished. Chair Willard would like the council to form a working group which would have the purpose of reviewing how to clean equipment in construction projects, to work in tandem with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete the incomplete management protocol document. Mr. Tweit believes the work group could help create standard ways to clean and decontaminate equipment which could be utilized not only by DOT but across all agencies.

The Council discussed challenges, as similar initiatives to this have failed in that past. The Council discussed the best ways to move forward. Mr. Pleus was invited to the table to speak during this discussion.

**Motion:** Move to approve Washington Invasive Species Council to facilitate development of decontamination protocols for large equipment for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, and request the Council Chair to form an interagency work group to address this.

**Moved by:** Bill Tweit

**Seconded by:** Pat Stevenson

**Decision:** Approved

**Item 13: Interagency Feral Swine Rapid Response Plan Updates and Feral Swine Updates / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush updated the council on the Interagency Feral Swine Rapid Response Plan and provided feral swine detection and response updates. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services regrets they can't be here in regard to Laurence Schaffer's new position. Mr. Bush noted the changes to the Feral Swine Response plan are not substantial, and the changes focus on the coordinating authorities. Mr. Bush then gave a brief summary of the Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan and reminded the council that, ideally, the council revisit it every year to review changes based upon the experience in the previous year. He noted, there's been a lot of great progress with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Animal Services Division, which was once challenging due to the high turnover in staff. Mr. Bush also suggested that the new partnership with DOI has provided a new contact in the National Park Service (NPS) which may provide additional readiness. Mr. Bush noted that feral swine reports are up in 2018, either because there is an emerging issue, or due to the public becoming more aware of the issue and thus reporting feral swine when they are seen. Mr. Bush is currently working with USDA Wildlife Services and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Gifford Pinchot National Forest staff to develop long-term monitoring and potentially having it worked into the forest's operating budget.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

**Item 14: WA Pest Watch: First Detector Network Update / Todd Murray**

Mr. Murray and Kenzi Smith updated the council on the Washington Pest Watch program. Mr. Murray noted, there have been a lot of outreach materials distributed including all of the swag Kenzi has created. They have also purchased several dozen clip-on lenses for mobile phones that they are hoping to hand out to participants once Washington Pest Watch is formally launched. Ms. Smith reviewed several of the materials she's been working on, like the first detector handbook, and handed out to the council members a draft of a pamphlet she's been working on that's ready for review. She noted, she is currently working on a standardized curriculum and training PowerPoints to help people giving presentations. The main focus in the near future is to create one harmonized message that is available to all council member organizations, which is something we haven't had before. There have been numerous talks of specifically targeting landscapers and other outdoor professionals so they will know how to identify and report a new pest.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

**Item 15: Graduate Thesis and Sighting Reporter Survey/ Kenzi Smith**

Ms. Smith updated the council on her graduate thesis by sharing the results of the survey she sent out to people who have turned in an invasive species sighting report from 2009-2013 and 2016-2017. She mention many of the insect reports were either mistaken native species or inquiries wanting to know what species they discovered. This information specifically highlights the need for citizen science training and the educational materials being created by Washington Pest Watch, referenced in the previous topic. She had several questions she was particularly interested in including how they had heard about the reporting form. She reviewed several of the most common answers to her survey questions and said overall the response was positive. She noted, all of the data she's collected so far is available if anyone wants to dive in further.



Council discussed her findings on the survey and asked several follow-up questions.

**Break 2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.**

**Item 16: Regional Invasive Species Council Northern Pike Meeting / Kendall Farley**

Ms. Farley updated the council on the Regional Invasive Species Council Northern Pike Meeting and reviewed several other upcoming meetings that they have been trying to set up in order to spread the message and coordinate throughout the region. She noted that they will be piggy-backing off the WISC meeting this June in order to hold an invasive species meeting to specifically discuss Northern Pike. They will also be attending another meeting with Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) in July to discuss the invasive species work group, they think this is the best platform to spread their message.

Council discussed and asked brief clarifying questions.

**Item 17: Flowering Rush Summit Overview and Next Steps / Justin Bush**

Mr. Bush gave an overview to the council on the Flowering Rush Summit that happened to coincide with invasive species awareness week. This meeting brought together over 80 stakeholders to talk about flowering rush from states and provinces within the Columbia River Basin. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians opened the event, followed by a video welcome from Senator Hansell (OR). The Senator clearly defined a connection between flowering rush and northern pike. There were 88 attendees at the meeting representing various organizations. The plan was to start a regional discussion, lay the groundwork for a regional management plan, and eventually to leverage funding using the plan. Mr. Bush noted \$1 million is included the omnibus budget for the management of flowering rush, although it is unknown how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will interpret the language.

Council discussed planning and events for the upcoming year.

**Item 19: Council Business/ Chair Ray Willard**

**A.) Approval of updated Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan**

**Motion:** Move to approve the Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan  
**Moved by:** Member John Gamon  
**Seconded by:** Member Bill Tweit  
**Decision:** Approved

**B.) Approval of December 2017 Minutes**

**Motion:** Move to approve the adoption of the December 2017 Minutes.  
**Moved by:** Member Bill Tweit  
**Seconded by:** Member Steven Burke  
**Decision:** Approved

**C.) June 2018 Roundtable topic requests**

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.

Mr. Gamon suggested a future presentation from the DNR Forest Health Program about Sudden Oak Death or forest health aerial surveys.



Mr. Tweit and Ms. Farley would like to continue the discussion about Northern Pike at the next meeting and invite the co-managers of Lake Roosevelt to present.

Chair Willard would like the Director of Environmental Service for WSDOT to talk to the council about a recently released strategic plan.

Other topics mentioned include: inviting the British Columbia Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group to present, an update on cross border green crab coordination, and a field trip to the new AIS boat cleaning station and an update on how the inspections are going.

**D.) Next meeting information**

Next WISC meeting will be a travel meeting.


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

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

  
Ray Willard, Chair

  
Date