

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 10, 2009

Room 172, Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Chris Christopher, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Doug Daoust	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB)
Jon Jennings	Washington State Department of Ecology
Bob Koch	Franklin County
Lisa Macchio	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Mary Mahaffy	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brid Nowlan, Vice Chair	Washington Invasive Species Coalition
Ted Smith	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Pene Speaks	Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Mary Toohey	Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
Bill Tweit	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection

GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

Marc Daudon	Cascadia Consulting
Megan Duffy	Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Jennifer Knauer	Jones & Jones
Steve McLellan	Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Laila Parker	Cascadia Consulting
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

STAFF:

Wendy Brown
Gen Keesecker
Rachel LeBaron Anderson

Convene and Welcome:

Chris Christopher opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. He made welcome announcements, reviewed facility safety information, made introductions, and reviewed the agenda. Chris announced changes in Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) staff. Ted Smith announced his upcoming retirement.

Council member changes & vacancies

- Wendy Brown from DNR has become Executive Coordinator for the Council.
- Pene Speaks from DNR replaces Wendy Brown on the Council.
- Kathy Hamel from Ecology temporarily replaces Melodie Selby on the Council.
- Jon Jennings is Kathy Hamel's alternate.
- Brett Thompson for the U.S. Coast Guard replaces Niles Seifert on the Council.

Hot Topics:

Sudden Oak Death Update:

Brad White, Washington State Department of Agriculture, noted that Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is caused by a water mold. The disease acts as a blight, killing the plant. It was first seen on tan oaks in California in 2001. It moved into the California nursery system and is now spreading across the U.S. SOD could affect Washington with both economic and environmental impacts. It could add barriers to trade. It would be especially dangerous if it reaches the southwest states. The current surveys for this disease are costing the west coast \$7-10 million dollars. The U.S. Forest Service is currently providing funding and has spent \$5 million in the last 7 years on eradication in local forests. USDA is funding surveillance. SOD is currently in six nurseries in Washington and in the Sammamish River. The pathogen is not regulated; only the disease is regulated in Washington. It is difficult, if not impossible, to clean up in its current state in the Sammamish. It would require very strict quarantine measures if established in the wild.

Doug Daoust commented that the Council does not have invasive diseases listed in our priorities, and this is something the Council may want to add to the top of our list. Pat Stevenson said SOD was found in a rhododendron nursery on the Stillaguamish, and he was concerned about the suggested chemical treatment methods to remove it.

Tunicate Workshop, Ballast Water, Lake Roosevelt Tabletop exercise 2010:

Bill Tweit reported on a tunicate workshop WDFW held recently. The department recommends a revised survey effort.

The U.S. Coast Guard issued draft regulations for ballast water on August 28, 2009. The initial reactions received are concerns over the science and periods for implementation. WDFW will likely respond and hopes the Council will too.

Bill is also involved in planning for the Lake Roosevelt region-wide tabletop simulation training. It would be a hypothetical look at an invasive species emergency. They hope to schedule for spring 2010 to allow for legislative committee involvement. The WISC may want to interact in the exercise and look at the current rapid response plan.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has approved three letters regarding invasive species:

- The first was written to Secretary Salazar requesting that the Department of the Interior cooperate on control efforts for quagga mussels in Lake Mead and requesting they use Lacey Act authority.
- The second was to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asking them to look at dams and initiate risk assessment planning.
- The third was to the National Marine Fisheries Service to look at participation in the state response plan and to join the West Regional Panel (WRP) and adopt the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP). Washington is hosting the WRP in Seattle today. The WRP will likely adopt QZAP.

Senate Issues

Staff commented that the Senate Natural Resources Committee would use the October 1, 2009, work session to review invasive species issues. This is great opportunity for the Council. Staff will work with the Council to create a presentation. Chris Christopher is concerned with timing since this presentation is between Council meetings. He wants to ensure that the Council members have a chance to review the presentation prior to presenting it.

Vancouver Aquarium

Doug Daoust shared that the Vancouver Aquarium has been designated as a Coastal Learning Center. There are 23 centers on both coasts nominated by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others. A conservation group runs the Aquarium, and they want to highlight the Puget Sound area and educate people about invasive species in the Puget Sound. They do on-the-ground invasive species projects with funding they get from their work and want to collaborate with federal agencies and bordering states. The dedication ceremony is October 14-16, 2009. This is an opportunity to donate Council education materials. Lisa Macchio agreed to follow up with the appropriate contacts to get materials to these events.

Public Comment:

Tim Arntzen, Executive Director of Port of Kennewick, shared information on the Eurasian water milfoil problem on the mid-Columbia river. He also brought a letter to share with the Council. He added that in July when it warms up outside and the water levels drop, the milfoil blooms and grows quickly. It has become substantially worse each year, making some parts of the river almost un-navigable by boat and dangerous for swimmers. He does not have a request for the Council yet, but wants us to be aware of the issue. He would be happy to create a coalition to work on this problem. He feels the problem is very serious. Current eradication includes boats harvesting milfoil, but the pruning only makes the plant growth more vigorous and it only works for one season. He would like to have pellets for prevention licensed in our state. He would be happy to provide the Council with more information on the pellets. Jon Jennings said there are a number of water bodies in Washington where permits can be obtained for chemically treating milfoil; though most of the focus is on lake treatment, not rivers. However, the current permits can be used as a starting point. Jon will follow up with Tim Arntzen after the meeting to provide more information. Bob Koch asked if the worst problems are in boat basins. Tim said yes, those areas have the most activity causing spread, but some river bends with shallower water also have a problem.

Council Business Items:

Council Minutes

Mary Mahaffy moved to **APPROVE** the May 7, 2009 minutes as presented. Vicki Yund **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the May 7, 2009 minutes.

Council Budget Update

Staff noted that the Office of Financial Management required a 2 percent cut in general fund dollars, which equaled \$5,582, leaving the Council with about \$16,000 for grants and interagency agreements (e.g., graphic design, printing). WISC may be asked to take another 5 percent cut but it could be as high as 10 percent, so the Council may need Council member support for funding printing and other projects.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Wendy Brown sent an email at the end of August asking for volunteers and nominations. Two people expressed interest, Chris for Chair, and Bill Tweit for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Brid will be Vice Chair for one more meeting.

Vicki Yund moved to **APPROVE** Chris Christopher for Chair. Bob Koch **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** Chris Christopher for Chair.

Vicki Yund moved to **APPROVE** Bill Tweit for Vice Chair. Bob Koch **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** Bill Tweit for Vice Chair.

Update from Oregon, Idaho and California Invasive Species Councils:

Chris introduced Lisa DeBruyckere, Coordinator of Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), Amy Ferriter, Coordinator of Idaho Invasive Species Council (IISC) & Robert Leavitt, Executive Director of California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, who joined the meeting by phone.

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Lisa DeBruyckere was pleased at the efforts Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California are making to work regionally. Lisa referred to a handout showing current legislation passed in Oregon. They are using a state lottery fund to cover their invasive species emergency funding. They also received \$350,000 from their State Parks ATV fund. This upset State Parks ATV staff so they met to discuss the benefits of removing invasive species for ATV groups. They are also working on firewood education and outreach. Lisa thinks that there is a good opportunity to get federal stimulus funding right now. Oregon gets \$50,000 in state funds biennially and uses fundraisers to get the rest of their funding through grants. Their next meeting is Sept 22-23, 2009, in Cascade Locks. They will have field trip of a log facility and will include an auction for purchasing manufactured logs.

Chris asked how big a problem feral swine is in Oregon. Lisa says it is not currently a big problem in Oregon; they are trapping and shooting them. They do consider feral swine a major threat to the state, and feel if they could find funding, they could eradicate them.

Idaho

Amy Ferriter commented that Idaho has feral swine located near the Oregon border. Idaho's legislators are active and informed, which made all of the difference when passing invasive species laws last session. The Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 passed last year giving them more authority. They are in a negotiated rule-making process. Last session boat legislation passed requiring stickers on boats at various prices, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. All funds go into an invasive species fund. The Director of Agriculture can ask for up to \$5 million a year for invasive species emergencies. The current inspection program has only one FTE so they have hired contractors to staff inspection stations at the state borders. If any biological material is on a boat, it is disinfected. They are recording where boats are registered and where they are going to track and predict locations of highest boat traffic. They hired a professional public relations firm. Wendy Brown showed the Council a large poster produced by Idaho targeting recreational boaters. They are monitoring all water areas and gathering federal partners.

Pat Stevenson asked how much money is coming in from the stickers. Idaho is forecasting \$1.3 million in revenue per year. This year, they spent \$1.2 million on equipment, outreach, and check station staffing, which are open 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The check stations are mandatory for trailered boats, and the Idaho state patrol is enforcing the boat stops. They have had two boats test positive for zebra mussels. Unfortunately, even after decontamination, they have shell material that cannot be removed.

Chris Christopher asked if they have received public feedback. Amy said hiring a public relations consultant was a very smart thing to do; they had 300 calls a day on their 800 number the first few days. After talking to many callers who were initially upset because of the mandatory boat check stations, the callers became the biggest supporters of the program. Their goal is to reach all Idaho citizens with their messaging.

California

Robert Leavitt, California Invasive Species Plant Council, noted how please they are to have a recently formed Council, which includes six agencies: Department of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health, Business and Housing Agency, and Emergency Management. They are adding an advisory committee, consisting of 24 members from industry, nurseries, The Defense Council, Sierra Club, citrus groups, farmers, and others. The first meeting will be next week.

They will work to come up with a list of priority species. Each agency has its own priorities, but they are working on a statewide list. Then they will create a statewide management plan. They have no new legislation, but the heads of agencies are recognizing the need to collaborate on their current plans. The Department of Agriculture currently has the greatest presence with border station inspections that check boats, and Fed Ex and UPS packages for plant materials. The California Department of Natural Resources covers forestry, fish and game, and marine programs looking at ballast water. DNR is working with USDA on an invasive species public outreach campaign. They have been campaigning for a month and will continue through December. Robert encouraged the Council to visit <http://www.Hungrypests.com> to find out more information. They are looking for more funding, both state and federal. They are still in the formative stages, but have already put together a “report a pest” form and hotline with the intention to go out and investigate all reports.

Council Discussion

Wendy Brown asked Amy and Lisa what role their councils had in getting legislation passed. Lisa said she used Idaho’s legislation as a model, she talked to Legislators, passed out one page factsheets, and she testified a lot in committee meetings. It was necessary to take a “hands on” approach. Amy said that they had legislators on their council as members. She also prepared a factsheet on what zebra/quagga mussels would cost the state, and that document really swung the legislative vote. Stressing the economic impact was key, especially given the current economy. Idaho will share their calculations of economic impact with us.

Lisa developed a communications plan with 2-3 key messages they repeated over and over to legislators. The most popular and memorable message was “pay now or pay later.” Bill Tweit asked Amy about her economic estimate - he did not see impacts to barge traffic on her list. There would be a large decontamination impact for barges. He asked how they might include that. Amy agreed to look into this and respond to him later with ideas. Bill also mentioned the costly damage to salmon passage facilities as another economic impact we should list for Washington. Chris Christopher asked Lisa if Oregon had plans to have check stations. Oregon’s state constitution does not allow mandatory traffic stops. Current money is going to the Oregon Marine Board for volunteer check stations and education and outreach.

Lisa requested information about the grant WISC received. WISC requested funding from the EPA and then published a Request for Proposals for two of our projects: our baseline assessment and information clearinghouse website. WISC is now working with consultants on completing the baseline assessment and are postponing work on the information-clearinghouse, because the Council did not receive any proposals. Responses from interested consultants noted that changes to the timeline are necessary to generate more interest.

Idaho is most concerned with Hydrilla and Spartina as regional threats. The Nutria Control Act is also important regionally. Chris Christopher offered to have a WISC member call into their meetings if they would like. Bill Tweit thanked council staff for coordinating the regional call and for supplying the handouts. Bill Tweit suggested a semi-annual conference call with other states. Chris Christopher and Council members agreed, as these calls allow for coordination and provide an opportunity to learn from their efforts.

Pat Stevenson said it was interesting to hear who served on other state boards and feels WISC should consider adding legislators and nursery representatives to the Council, an advisory group or workgroup. Doug Daoust commented that Oregon has a long list of people on an advisory board who do not meet regularly, but instead give input and edit important items via email. The advisory group members are listed on the OISC handout. All emails to the OISC also go to their advisory council. WISC’s current statute dictates who serves on our Council but also allows others to be invited. It is possible to add legislators as members of our Council. Chris Christopher suggested Senator Jacobsen or someone from the Senate Natural Resources Committee. WISC is scheduled to sunset December 2011.

Work Group Updates:

Priority Species

Wendy Brown announced that Alison Halpern is the new priority species workgroup lead. The group presented a priorities species management grid and asked the Council for feedback.

- Mary Mahaffy would like to see the baseline assessment findings also mentioned in the grid to show the overlap of the two projects. The baseline will provide a lot of valuable information on the first 15 priority species. She suggests highlighting species we are working on. There were many comments on the value of showing the species in quadrants instead of a list, and using color to show threat level. The list in each quadrant could display the top 15 species and do not need to be in any particular order.
- Bill Tweit is concerned that the axis lines are unclear and will invite arguments or confusion. One suggestion was to show both a list and a quadrant depending on the audience.
- Vicki Yund suggested we have more information on the website and keep our handouts simple, the grid could be smaller to create more room for text.
- Lisa Macchio really likes the topic headers on the back of the handout.
- Pene Speaks wants the instructions on “how to read the grid” to be more succinct and to appear on the front of the handout.

Wendy will email the handout with a due date for feedback. The web site will be added to the handout. Wendy reminded the Council to also provide feedback on whether “priority” should be in the title of the document.

Information Clearinghouse

Brid Nowlan, announced that her workgroup is working on the new WISC website that will be launched soon. Gen showed the Council the draft website. The Council reviewed each page and provided comments on suggested changes and updates to be made prior to launching it. Staff agreed to send the link of the test site to the Council for additional comments.

Education/Outreach

Mary Mahaffy referred to the recently developed education workgroup work plan and explained the actions listed in it. Task 1 is to promote the “Stop the invasion” message. She is hoping that agencies will recognize the actions listed in the work plan that are important to their agency missions and will help provide additional funding to accomplish these actions. She wants to make sure all WISC products have our logo, web address, and reporting hotline on them. Mary asked the Council for feedback on the actions and tasks listed in the work plan.

Ted Smith said at least 200 of the Council’s invasive species posters were posted in state parks this month. He has received feedback that people like the look of the poster and park managers are requesting carabineers for distribution.

Doug Daoust received a deck of invasive species themed playing cards from Oregon. The Joker was “take a hike spike” and each card had invasive species information. Mary Mahaffy is looking for other “useable” outreach items.

Draft Council Invasive Species Fact Sheets:

Bill Tweit asked for better pictures or better descriptions for plant identification to be placed on the Council invasive species fact sheets. Lisa Macchio asked if we could list websites for more information. Some factsheets do list websites. Alison Halpern said the weed board is having professionals revamp their website and will be a more useful tool to direct the public to in the future. Jon Jennings said identification pictures are rarely clear enough. He feels a single leaf is easier to match than a branch and knowing plant size is important. Lisa suggested we look at plant identification books for ideas. The Pojar and

Mackinnon book is one of the best for the northwest. Jon Jennings also has marine invertebrate identification information he will share.

Baseline Assessment

Alison Halpern, did not provide an update of workgroup activities, because the workgroup has been on hold since the project for the baseline assessment was set to begin.

Emergency Funding and Rapid Response

Wendy Brown said that this workgroup has not met since the last Council meeting. The group needs a new lead. Wendy asked interested members to contact her for more information. Brid stressed the importance of this group, because having a plan in place before something gets here or causes more damage is vital. Members discussed the strength of the federal FEMA plan; however, it would still need modification to fit the Council's needs.

Policy workgroup

This group was created to plan a legislative tour, but after further discussion the group learned that it was really too late in the year to plan such an event. This group will begin work on the tour for next year to put something in front of the legislature in the 2011 session. The group needs to find out what legislative changes are needed to enhance invasive species response and management. They are still in the planning process to determine the best way to do this. The Council needs to look at how things work on the ground and what pieces are missing. This process would be most successful if the Council included stakeholders and partners. The workgroup is looking to add an advisory group. The group will work with staff to review current regulations and see what changes could be beneficial to those involved in invasive species work.

Working Lunch – Update and Discussion on Transforming Natural Resource Agencies:

Steve McLellan and Megan Duffy, policy staff from the Recreation and Conservation Office, discussed how WISC can give input as a Council in the Transforming the Natural Resource Agencies discussion. They are meeting with the Governor at end of October so comments are due by October 9, 2009, to allow for preparation.

The goal of this process is to increase efficiency, save money, and advance the state's commitment to protect the environment and public health. Ideas considered include:

- A two-agency, three-agency, four-agency and five-agency models,
- Looking at realigning boundaries to make them match between agencies.
- The Invasive Species and Biodiversity Councils are examples of successful structured collaboration and there is a call for more of this type of work.
- There are suggestions for resource sharing GIS, citizen science, and grant making.

Comments should focus on the parts of the report most relevant to the Council's work. There are many ways to provide comments. Boards can comment as a full group, from a subcommittee, individual members can provide comments or council members can comment just for their agencies and not for the Council. It is expected that a mix of changes will result from this - new executive orders, legislative changes, agency partnerships, etc. The ideas generated from this report will play a large role in the legislative session this year.

Natural resource agencies are not the only ones being reviewed, but they were the only ones mentioned in a budget proviso. Chris Christopher asked if the report would review the functions of individual councils. It is not likely and in fact, the mandate for the Council expires before recommended changes for the natural resource agencies would occur.

The Council discussed the issue of how invasive species work would continue if the Council did not exist. There will also be serious discussions with labor unions. Doug Daoust said the Forest Service is sending comments through DNR. Steve says the sooner comments are provided the better because they will shape requests this year. Some ideas may take years to implement. This comment period is the best time to shape what goes in front of the Governor. If you have an idea that was not suggested, add it to your comments. Steve says collaboration is high on the list of ideas in all the models presented, as it can be done more quickly, but it does not take the other options off the table. Wendy urged the Council to comment and reminded the Council that it makes a statement if there are no comments submitted by the Council. She feels the Council should take this seriously and be proactive. Brid agreed. Steve suggested we have a smaller group work on this consistent with open meeting rules. Bill Tweit suggested that the newly suggested executive committee could draft comments for the Council to review. Members agreed and expressed interest in empowering the committee today.

Workgroup Changes/Formation of Executive Committee:

Brid Nowlan noted that WISC has always had functioning workgroups to focus on specific tasks, and the leads of each workgroup was responsible for coordinating these tasks. That system worked well for the strategic plan, but the new projects and actions of the Council require more interim decision making. The executive committee would only have the authority to make decisions on items already discussed by the full Council or listed in the Council's work plan. All decisions made by the executive committee would be reported back at or between Council meetings. This would allow for more timely responses to letters of support submitted for Council approval, grant applications, and the baseline assessment deliverables. It would consist of the Chair, Executive Coordinator, and up to four council members.

- Mary Mahaffy feels this would be very important to establish so that the Council does not miss opportunities; however, clear guidelines for the Council would have to be followed.
- Brid clarified that the executive committee could also help guide some operational decisions that staff should not make alone.
- Vicki applauded the idea but did not want to rush into authorizing the group just for the upcoming comments. She wants an initial ad hoc committee for the comment process that is separate from the Executive Committee.
- Bill Tweit said that it is likely the Council will have several decisions to make before the next meeting and encouraged the Council to authorize the executive committee now. If changes to the committee and its functions are needed, they can be made in December.

The executive committee would only work on items consistent with WISC's current work. Within the Open Meetings Act, the Council cannot have email discussions about Council business, but a small workgroup can coordinate the comments. A special meeting may not be appropriate for all decisions. The Executive Committee should also operate with consensus. Doug Daoust asked if we need a six-member group or if this can be handled with fewer people. Brid says the committee will be backing Council staff, if we make the group too small someone may not be available. Bill Tweit said currently the Chair and Vice Chair are both from state agencies and we need more variety in the executive committee. Vicki Yund suggested we have a short-term executive committee until the next meeting.

Pene Speaks moved to **APPROVE** the Temporary Executive Committee as presented. Ted Smith **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the Temporary Executive Committee. The Temporary Executive Committee will consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Mary Mahaffy, Bill Tweit, and Mary Toohey.

Brid reviewed the workgroup changes:

- The Priority workgroup and Education and Outreach workgroup will both continue.
- Communications and Tools workgroup will be put on hold.

- Baseline assessment and information clearinghouse workgroups will shift into advisory groups to those projects. Membership to the advisory groups will be reviewed and updated.
- The Rapid Response and Early Detection workgroup will continue but needs a new lead.
- A policy workgroup has been created to review existing invasive species statutes and prepare recommendations to improve Washington's invasive species policy.

Ted Smith introduced Rob Fimbel as his replacement on the Council. Rob will take Ted's place on the workgroups in which Ted participated.

Educational Materials Review & Distribution Plan:

Gen Keesecker distributed the new Council reporting hotline wallet cards and carabineers to Council members. She asked the Council for feedback on the distribution plan and for ideas of how to distribute these to the appropriate people. The posters are weatherproof and UVA protected. The carabineers come in two styles one is green for terrestrial species and one is blue for aquatic species. Gen will send an email with the event list for Council member review. Members agreed to respond with additional event dates and to indicate if they are able to attend and help distribute Council educational materials. Pene Speaks said there would be a two-day track for invasive species at the upcoming Natural Areas Conference.

Baseline Assessment & Information Clearinghouse RFP Update:

After posting the RFP for the baseline assessment staff received three responses. A small group of Council members and a staff person from RCO Information Technology division reviewed the responses. One group really stood out, The Cascadia Consulting Group, with Marc Daudon, Jennifer Knauer (project manager and contact), and Laila Parker.

Marc Daudon, Cascadia Consulting Group, gave an overview of the baseline assessment project and goals. Marc has been facilitating the work of the Biodiversity Council for several years. For the baseline assessment, he looked for a team with scientific expertise and familiarity of the Puget Sound. Laila has previous experience with studying invasive species. Both Jennifer and Laila have backgrounds in science. Cascadia Consulting and Jones and Jones will work hand in hand. The technical resources needed may evolve as the project gets underway. Cascadia Consulting will meet the objectives of a baseline assessment on the 15 top invasive species threats and will look at their impacts considering both economics and ecosystems. They will review what is known and will reveal the gaps. This will involve examining policies currently in place and the quality and availability of data. This is a starting point for statewide response.

Marc outlined phases of work and specific tasks, including collaboration with the Council, making presentations, choices for directions, methodology and design phase, data analysis and framework, and presentation of data. Jennifer said she hopes to outline the methods and steps along the way. Her methods of data collection and generating reports will be dynamic; she has provided technical work for Puget Sound Partnership and works with state of the art online tools. In the data collection and gathering phase, they will create an online tool reaching out to information groups and activity groups pertaining to the 15 species. They hope this will create a good snapshot of data; they will follow up with phone calls. A challenge they foresee is the fact that there are so many keepers of data and many formats of data. The information needs to speak to each other and connect. In 2010, they will assess programs currently underway. They will also create metadata reports. They will meet our legislative statutory needs and will package the data in a way that is easy to understand and access. Pene asked about if there will be a direct way of taking data from the baseline assessment when we revisit the clearinghouse project. The consultants will gather and store the data with this accessibility in mind. Wendy will send the Council an overview of the consultant's work plan.

Annual Project & Annual Report Discussion:

WISC is mandated to do one project per year. The Council reviewed the three suggested project ideas listed in the handout. The group could choose one or all of the projects listed. The projects selected were chosen to show the Legislature that the work we are doing is relevant and important. All of the items were also listed as goals for 2009 in the 2008 annual report. Lisa Macchio wants to have an annual report that offers recommendations for the future. Bill Tweit wants to work toward a Washington State rapid response plan based on the FEMA model. This may work well with a tabletop exercise. Gen will create a framework for the annual report and send it to the Council for review.

Schedule 2010 meetings:

The Council chose the following dates for 2010.

- February 25th (Thursday)
- May 27th (Thursday)
- September 9th (Thursday)
- December 2nd (Thursday)

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. Chris Christopher thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting:

December 3, 2009

Natural Resources Building

Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

Chris Christopher, Chair

Date