

***INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL***

***MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING***

September 15, 2011

Room 172, WA State Natural Resources Building  
Olympia, Washington

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**INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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| Kevin Anderson          | Puget Sound Partnership                          |
| Clinton Campbell        | U.S. Department of Agriculture                   |
| Raquel Crosier          | NW Power and Conservation Council                |
| Doug Daoust             | U.S. Forest Service                              |
| Luca Furnare            | U.S. Customs and Border Protection               |
| Alison Halpern          | Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board      |
| Jon Jennings            | Department of Ecology                            |
| Bob Koch                | Franklin County                                  |
| Tom McDowell            | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                   |
| Chris Parsons           | Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission |
| Pene Speaks, Vice Chair | Department of Natural Resources                  |
| Bill Tweit, Chair       | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Brad White              | Washington State Department of Agriculture       |
| Lisa Younger            | The Nature Conservancy                           |
| Vicki Yund              | U.S. Customs and Border Protection               |

**GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**

Nathaniel Jones  
Allen Pleus

**STAFF:**

Wendy Brown  
Rachel LeBaron Anderson

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**CONVENE AND WELCOME:**

Bill Tweit opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, introductions, and a review of the agenda. Then he introduced new council members: Raquel Crosier, staff to Phil Rockefeller representing the NW Power and Conservation Council; Luca Furnare from U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and Chris Parsons from Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

**HOT TOPICS:**

WDFW boat inspection update

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is still intercepting and decontaminating boats and working with states regionally. “Clean, Drain, Dry” is a national slogan, but WDFW is changing to “Clean, Drain, Rinse” because there is not always time to dry equipment between streams. For Level 2 contamination, WDFW wanted to ensure chemical use was scientifically based and discovered very few chemicals have been tested on aquatic species. Those that were, had been tested for specific species only.

Recommendations and information will be dispersed within the Department of Fish and Wildlife first since they have the highest number of people in the field, then they will broaden the information to the public. A scrub brush is a key item for cleaning in the field and a carabineer allows the brush to be hooked to backpacks. Other useful items are a boot hook for cleaning boots and a portable solar shower for washing equipment.

#### Thornton Creek (a tributary to Lake Washington) NZMS update

New Zealand mud snails were detected in a 2009 sample taken from Thornton Creek that had not been tested until this year. There have been other studies in the watershed, a University of Washington survey found New Zealand mud snails in Lake Washington. There is no funding to follow up; the long-term plan is to focus on prevention and decontamination of people and equipment leaving the creek, especially scientific equipment. Many science permits are issued to study urbanization's effect on local streams.

#### Crayfish in the classroom update

Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared a study plan with the council. A permit was approved this year to use red swamp crayfish in classrooms. A workgroup looked at the possibility of using local crayfish, studying supply, availability, and viability during shipping. There is limited opportunity to collect local crayfish, so storage is still an issue, there is also trouble keeping crayfish alive during shipping. There is strong support for the local crayfish program from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Pacific Education Institute, Everett schools and others.

#### Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Conference

Wendy Brown attended the PNWER conference along with several council members, there was good regional representation. There were speakers, state and provincial updates, and two breakout sessions to address the following questions:

- What are the most significant obstacles and opportunities we face as a region in addressing invasive species?
- What prioritized strategies/actions could address these obstacles and the ways we currently approach invasive species monitoring, prevention, and control efforts?

This work will continue with conference calls. There has been a lot of regional interest and enthusiasm for working on invasive species.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

#### Action Item: Approval of May Minutes

Pene Speaks moved to **APPROVE** the May 12, 2011 minutes. Doug Daoust **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the May 12, 2011 minutes.

#### Appointment of new Council Member

Bill Tweit reviewed council rules about appointing a member to represent counties and suggested Mike Mackey of Chelan County. Mike is a Port of Chelan Commissioner and local business owner in Chelan. Bob Koch says the council can send a letter to the Washington Association of Counties recommending Mike Mackey. Once they approve, the council will vote to approve the new member. Lisa Younger has worked with Mike Mackey and found him to be a vocal and wonderfully refreshing member of the weed board; she feels he would be a good addition to the Invasive Species Council.

Pene Speaks **MOVED** to recommend appointing Mike Mackey from Chelan County to the council. Doug Daoust **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that a letter be sent to WA Association of Counties recommending Mike Mackey from Chelan County join the council.

### **UPDATE ON PREVENTION PROTOCOLS**

Wendy Brown showed the council the new 'Prevention Protocol' page on the council website. This will be a resource for state agencies required by the Governor to implement prevention protocols for their field staff, as well as others interested in staying up-to-date on protocols. The council created some basic protocols that are simple enough for any agency to implement as written, although agencies may use them as a template to create their own protocols. A few agencies – federal agencies included – have prepared agency-specific protocols, and these are posted on the web page.

For WDFW, a web based information source is being set up for their employees. They will have agency training on protocols starting with a train the trainer program that will allow trainers to go back to their offices and show how to use all the field tools. They will hand out brushes and tools during the trainings.

Council members also suggested the protocols be posted:

- On signs at state and national parks and Forest Service trailheads.
- In the state fishing and hunting regulations.
- In a flyer that we could give to Cabela's to send out with waders and boots.
- In WDFW training videos about cleaning your dog after hunting and cleaning ATV equipment.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has had discussions with local fisheries enhancement groups and forest groups to discuss prevention protocols. The council suggested discussions with appropriate NGO's. One difficulty with cleaning in the field is that you have to capture the rinse and carry it out, especially rinse containing chemicals. If we ask people to boil items they would have to bring a propane stove and pan into the field. How do these protocols really translate into day-to-day activities? The council will ask for quarterly reporting on prevention work and updates on what is working or not working.

### **BREAK**

### **PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP**

Kevin Anderson gave an update on the Puget Sound Partnership action agenda, which is updated every two years. At the last council meeting we discussed strategies on invasive species that the council wanted included in the action agenda. Council staff prepared strategies and actions for the Puget Sound Partnership, which were included in the draft document. The Partnership asked for some refinements to this work, and the Executive Committee revised the strategies and sent them back to the Partnership. The changes have been accepted and included in the draft action agenda.

#### **Discussion**

There are no specific invasive species targets at this time, but the council can establish an invasive species threat reduction target. Kevin suggests a list of ten items the council can complete significant work on. He would also like the council to review and provide comments on the terrestrial and aquatic documents on invasive species. These documents include information tables and performance measures. He is looking to reduce the number of near-term actions to three items for the next biennium.

## **NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAILS IN CAPITOL LAKE**

Nathaniel Jones, from General Administration, and Allen Pleus have worked with many partners including: City of Olympia, Dept of Ecology, General Administration (GA), Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Invasive Species Council in a very productive relationship on this project. Nathaniel gave a brief overview on New Zealand mud snails including size, reproduction, and density per cubic meter, along with their adaption to changing environment. Response to the snail invasion in the lake included the hard freeze in December 2009 when water was lowered 2-3 feet resulting in a 98% kill rate. A fence was added around the lake to keep dog owners off the beach, but some dog owners have jumped the fence to gain water access. A saltwater back flush was attempted but only resulted in a 12% mortality rate, plots where rock salt was added achieved a 15% kill rate.

In May 2011, salt, iodine, pesticide, and hydrogen peroxide were lab tested, but controlling concentration levels and collateral impacts remain a problem in the Capitol Lake environment. A more extensive survey of Budd Inlet was conducted in June 2011, and no snails were found. A survey of the entire lake was also conducted in June 2011, and snails were found not just on the shoreline but throughout the lake. No snails were found at the mouth of the Deschutes or Percival Creek yet, but there is concern about them migrating up stream as they have done in other places throughout the United States. GA also removed a dock and added a vegetative barrier to help prevent people from accessing the shoreline. Public education is still the best defense. The next step is to move lab studies into field trials.

## **LUNCH**

## **WEED BOARD UPDATE**

Alison gave an update on the state weed board. They are considering additions and modifications to the 2012 Noxious Weed List. One plant they are looking to add is Oriental clematis (a problem in Utah and Colorado), nicknamed Yakima kudzu because it is so aggressive. So far it has not been found anywhere outside of Yakima County, where they found a 12-acre infestation. They are also considering tree-of-heaven, which is currently in all counties, aggressive, and spreading by seeds and sprouting. It would be added as a class C since it is so widespread. The third species is Japanese eelgrass, a problem for shellfish growers. Japanese eelgrass was a protected species under WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species classification until February 2011. The listing of this species may be limited to commercially-managed shellfish beds only. A class "C" listing acknowledges the problem at a state level and allows counties to mandate treatment if they choose.

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

### Recommendations remaining in the strategic plan

Doug Daoust, U.S. Forest Service, has been meeting with Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Affiliated Tribes regarding Invasive Species concerns. Some items the council could address as a region are:

- A regional invasive species action plan, vetted by each council.
- Coordinated and consistent messaging and outreach on an important pathway, like the Don't Move Firewood program.
- Feral swine control, "Report a Pig" could be a new regional message (1-800-PigsOut).
- Training exercises with the ports – Asian toad incident in Oregon showed issues in state and federal response.

- A regional invasive species toll-free hotline.
- Regional risk assessments, currently the *Arundo donax* risk is being viewed differently by each state. A regional assessment may be more useful, especially with an independent scientific review. Oregon has done a management assessment of everyone in their state who was managing invasive species at all levels.

The council reviewed a summary of the strategies and actions in *Invaders at the Gate* and the items that are complete. There remains a strong need for emergency response capability. This is a regional response issue, much the same way we would address the zebra/quagga mussel, with detection and response exercises. The council suggested we have a time on our agenda for updates from regional councils or, since we have some council members sitting on these committees, they can give updates. We could have written reports or presentations. To keep within the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. meeting time, we could have the groups report every other time so that we can divide the presentations up.

The hotline is an issue because we lack immediate response. An Asian longhorn beetle was reported at a time when Wendy was not in the office, but, fortunately, the person also called Border Protection and received an immediate response. What should the reporting structure be? How does the council think we should operate the hotline in the future?

Wendy will discuss the list of options for more regional coordination with the Oregon and Idaho council coordinators and report back in December. The hotline is a priority, but the council needs further discussion at the next meeting before we give all of our priorities and some priorities may fall out naturally in the process of working with the other states. We may also want to look at just having “radar issues” we share with the other states like the large-scale planting of *Arundo donax*.

#### Plans for 2012 legislation

Bill Tweit asked council members to share any known agency plans. There may be some Discovery Pass fixes. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for flexibility in classifying species by area instead of statewide, but will need to work with stakeholders first.

#### Review annual work plan

The council still has work to complete from their 2011 work plan:

- Completing ‘Are we ready to respond’ documents on web site for first 15 species.
- Creating an emergency fund and long-term funding for the council.
- New membership and connecting with partners.
- Looking for additional opportunities to work with the Pacific Education Institute.
- Reviewing agencies performance measures on invasive species as part of GMAP.

These will be added to the agenda for the next meeting so we can decide our 2012 work plan. The council may need to look at this list and come up with a funding wish list, then look for some creative funding and possibly apply for grants.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Schedule 2012 Meetings:

- March 15, 2012
- June 14, 2012
- September 27, 2012
- December 13, 2012

**INVASIVE SPECIES AND SEPA**

A council workgroup went through the SEPA checklist to see where invasive species issues need to be raised for consideration. The intent is not to change the checklist itself, which would require legislative action, but to change the guidance document that accompanies the checklist. We need to include links to best management practices (BMPs), especially federal BMPs and federal prevention practices. Tom McDowell has a BMP document for minimizing brook trout invasion, and there are also some for preventing the spread of white nose syndrome, which is devastating to bat populations. This is an effective low-cost way to implement invasive species procedures. Once we trigger the question and flag an issue how much further do we want to go? It would be great to review the checklist after 6-months of use to see how the changes are reflected. Send comments to Wendy Brown, Bill Tweit, and Pene Speaks.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Bill thanked everyone for attending.

Next meeting:  
December 1, 2011  
Natural Resources Building  
Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

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Bill Tweit, Chair

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Date