

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2019

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

Species Council Members Present:

Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Schwisow	Washington State Water Resources Association
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Blain Reeves	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Luke Woods	U.S. Coast Guard
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust

Guests:

Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Schroder	Independent Science Advisory Board
Laura Robinson	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Jesse Schultz	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison
Sophie Love	Administrative Assistant

Opening and Welcome

Chair Ray Willard opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements, facility safety information, introductions, roll call, and a review and approval of the agenda.

Motion: June Agenda Approval

Moved by: Member Stevenson

Seconded by: Member Lyon

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: March Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Stevenson

Seconded by: Member Fee

Decision: **Approved**

Hot Topic Reports

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report / Justin Bush

Justin Bush briefed the council on current happenings. Mr. Bush first went over a list of attended events since our last council meeting, highlighting an Exotic Snail Steam Treatment Meeting on April 17, 2019 and field tour on April 24, 2019. Mr. Bush also mentioned and spoke to an event on May 23, 2019 where Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife debuted their new Invasive Mussel Detection Enforcement Officer, Puddles. Puddles is a K-9 trained to sniff out muscles such as zebra and quagga mussels that are normally difficult to find with visual watercraft inspection.

Mr. Bush also spoke to social media outreach. Puddles posts being the most valuable for social media views. On Facebook Puddles had 2,400 views in a video of enjoying her new team and over 4,000 views of the debut, which was broadcasted live. Another large audience came with a Northern Pike news release and a suppression video.

Instagram did not see large growth like it has in the past, only a 5% increase this last quarter.

Twitter has about the same number of followers as Instagram. The most popular posts were about northern pike below Grand Coulee Dam, white-nose syndrome, and Puddles.

Mr. Bush reviewed a sighting and reports summary from last quarter. Aquatic plants reached 45 reports and are by far the largest invasive reported. The most interesting story went to a feral swine report, which reported the swine was at large for over two years before its successful removal.

Item 2: Mussel-Related Impacts and Costs at Hoover, Davis and Parker Dams / Heidi McMaster

Heidi McMaster briefed the council on Mussel-Related Impacts and Costs at Hoover, Davis and Parker Dams. First, Ms. McMaster discussed history of the mussels in Lake

Mead, a tributary to the Colorado River. Quagga mussels were first discovered there in 2007 but are suspected to have been first introduced in 2005, likely on watercraft/s coming from the greater Great Lakes area. Ms. McMaster then reviewed for the council where the mussels can infest and cause issues. The mussels can only be naturally impacted by temperature and stagnant water (minimal food). Other abiotic preventions being used in the Colorado system are UV lighting, water treatments and physical removal. UV lighting is the most utilized, but it costs close to a million dollars per dam thus far.

Ms. McMaster closed by opening the briefing up to the council for discussion and welcoming questions.

Item 3: Invasive Predators Science and Economics Review / Steve Schroder and Laura Robinson

Steve Schroder and Laura Robinson briefed the board on the Invasive Predators Science and Economics Reviews. Mr. Schroder first covered a report written by the Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB). A hard copy of this report was retained for the record. Mr. Schroder used an example of American shad, a non-native species, and the impacts from dams. American shad, native on the east coast, have exploded in the Columbia River since the instillation of the dams throughout the basin. The Columbia River now has the largest population of American shad in the world, proving we have created a strong environment for warm water fish.

Mr. Schroder then moved from this example to talk about the Northern pikeminnow sport reward program. He stated that, although this program has proved successful with the specific species, it fails to consider the impacts of other fish, specifically non-native predators such as Largemouth bass, Smallmouth bass, and Northern pike. By decreasing one species (Northern pikeminnow), it is likely to just benefit one of the predators. Potentially the most devastating species of non-native predator is Northern pike. Mr. Schroder then spoke to Northern pike and current distribution and control methods before moving to speak to a new method of prevention. This method involves breeding Northern pike to create YY chromosome males. Once these males are created, they could be released into the environment and when bred with naturally spawning females they would only have the potential to create male fish (XY or YY). The board then moved to discuss this PowerPoint briefly before turning it over to Ms. Robinson.

Ms. Robinson briefed the board on a Northern Pike Policy and Outreach Tool. This tool (website) is being built by Ms. Robinson, Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC) and Mr. Bush, WISC. The website will show real time economic impacts, monitoring stories and distribution and status data. This will help all entities have up-to-date and uniform information regarding Northern pike. Ms. Robinson then opened her presentation up for discussion and questions from the board.

Item 4: State Agency Budget Updates / All State Members Present

Chair Willard opened up this topic to the state agencies to allow them to discuss their budgets and the influence on invasive species. Each member was allotted approximately two minutes for his or her update.

**Please see the official recording for the specifics of these updates.*

Updates provided by:

Lizabeth Seebacher, Department of Ecology

Blain Reeves, Department of Natural Resources

Ray Willard (Chair), Department of Transportation

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council

Mary Fee, Noxious Weed Control Board

Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership

Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Todd Murray, Washington State University

Chair Willard allowed the last couple of minutes for discussion before recessing the board for a break.

Break 11:04 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Allen Pleus provided a brief update for University of Washington funding after returning from the break.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 5: Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Rapid Response Exercise / Allen Pleus, Eric Anderson and Justin Bush

Justin Bush introduced this topic to the board. Mr. Bush briefed the members on a Bureau of Reclamation agreement of \$150,000 for invasive mussel response capacity building funding. Most of the supplies and equipment to be purchased with this funding will be on standby for use with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the responding agency. However, some supplies will remain with the WISC for interagency response use. Mr. Pleus and Mr. Anderson then spoke more specifically to the functional and full scale exercise itself. The project was established to improve the state response plan, test the improved plan in a functional exercise, and be followed by a first-of-its-kind full scale rapid response exercise using incident command. The full scale exercise is scheduled to take place in mid-October. Mr. Bush then went over the proposed objectives of the exercise, scheduled trainings around incident command and

registration priorities, which includes council member organizations. The board then entered discussion and asked questions regarding this topic.

Item 6: Washington Pest Watch Youth Curriculum Update / Brianna Widner

Mr. Bush then introduced the Washington Pest Watch Youth Curriculum. Brianna Widner, not able to be present, created a video to brief the board on this topic. The video was played for the board and covered the recent pilot testing program conducted with public schools in Spokane and Olympia, in partnership with the Pacific Education Institute, Spokane Conservation District, and Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board. This pilot program was an opportunity to test the newly created Washington Pest Watch Invasive Species Lesson Plans. These plans teach students general information about invasive species and empower them to take action to manage invasive species in their communities. After learning general information on invasive species, the students explored a site in their community to learn about invasive species in their area. Some students were even given the opportunity to utilize the “WA Invasives” app/tool to help identify and report the invasive species they found. Ultimately, the pilot program proved to be successful; 252 students and 2 teachers were reached in Spokane and approximately 30 students and one teacher were reached in Olympia. Ms. Widner’s video wrapped up with lessons learned, suggested improvements for the future and next steps.

General Public Comment:

No general public comment at this time.

LUNCH: 11:52 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Item 7: Mussel Inspection Dog and Watercraft Inspections / Eric Anderson

Eric Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Police, briefed the Council on the recent addition to the team, Puddles, an Invasive Mussel and Watercraft Inspection Dog. Puddles is a 2 year old rescue dog from California that has been professionally trained to sniff out quagga and zebra mussels. Puddles is handled by Sergeant Pam Taylor, also with WDFW Police. So far this year, with Puddles, WDFW has conducted 2,500 more inspections than all of last year. Another new introduction this year is a Sea Plane self-certification program to encourage Sea Plane owners to qualify annually by watching a 14-minute video and passing a knowledge test. A score of 80% or higher certifies a pilot to carry a card saying they have passed the assessment. Another item that became of this program is that sea planes now keep a log of the water bodies landed on in the previous 30 days.

Item 8: State Waterbody Invasive Mussel Risk Analysis / Jesse Schultz

Jesse Schultz, WDFW, provided the board with an overview of the State Waterbody Invasive Mussel Risk Analysis. Mr. Schultz discussed vertical and horizontal “Plankton Tows”, which are used to identify mussel plankton in water bodies. Plankton Tows

involve net dragging to collect samples. Other methods of testing include PVC collection slats called artificial substrates. These are devices designed and built by WDFW to catch mussel plankton. Mr. Schultz and his team drop these devices in water bodies and check them periodically throughout the course of the year. Another form of detection is visual bank inspections. This is where Mr. Schultz or a member of his team go around the perimeter of a waterbody and check docks, pilings, etc. for mussel growth. WDFW is also conducting eDNA testing for mussel detection.

Mr. Schultz then spoke about a new risk assessment analysis that has been conducted to identify the highest risk or most vulnerable lakes in Washington State. The higher risk lakes were identified through the application of multiple influences such as location, use frequency, water content and user groups. Lakes scoring higher will now be inspected annually at minimum and lakes scoring lower will now be monitored on an every other year basis.

Item 9: White-nose Syndrome Update / Justin Bush on behalf of Abby Tobin

Due to Ms. Tobin's need to focus on field response, Justin Bush provided a very brief update to the council on White-nose Syndrome on behalf of Abby Tobin, WDFW. Mr. Bush provided a brief history on White-nose Syndrome and the role the WDFW and WISC have played. Mr. Bush also made an announcement about the spread of White-nose, which has now been detected in Western Long-eared bats in King County and recently also detected in Pierce County. Mr. Bush then relayed resources for education and reporting pathways.

Item 10: Aquatic Weeds That Impact Salmon / Mary Fee and Justin Bush

Mary Fee and Justin Bush briefed the council on aquatic weeds that impact salmon. Ms. Fee started by briefing the board on a new working group to discuss aquatic weeds that impact salmon. The group is working with an Evergreen State College graduate researcher to investigate which noxious weeds most affect salmon habitat in Washington and what evidence exists to support these assertions. The group has identified several objectives: 1. Identifying gaps in research, 2. Identifying criteria to determine which noxious weed species affect salmon habitat, and 3) Conducting field research on selected species. In the long-term the group hopes to use the information from the work group to identify areas of action or how to reprioritize current actions. The board then entered discussion around this topic.

Break 1:47 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Item 11: Urban Forest Pest Readiness / Justin Bush

Justin Bush provided the Council with an overview of the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Project. Mr. Bush started by giving a quick overview of the program and how it got started. The goal of the program is to give local governments and entities the tools and information needed to be more prepared to detect and respond to urban pests. So far

there have been two stakeholder meetings held and two more scheduled for the future, aimed at developing robust pest readiness guidelines. The current draft plan is about 80% completed at this time.

Item 12: Invasive Species Incident Response / Justin Bush

Chair Willard introduced the topic and identified two questions for the board. The objective of this item is to allow the board to discuss what a professional incident command must have in order to be successful.

Comments on what creates a successful incident command are summarized below:

Member Woods: *Multiple agencies, sharing information and resources.*

Member Fee: *Emphasize early detection and rapid response. Multi-agency and stakeholder work. No lack of resources or funding. Have the authority to address the issue across jurisdictions.*

Member Bautista: *Identify roles and responsibilities prior to the incident response. Planning and preparation is key. Identify needed facilitators and have contracts in place. Identify how qualified or key management entities can be "freed" up before incidents happen.*

Member Schwisow: *Having the ability to reach out to partners efficiently and effectively. Perhaps a contact list or inventory of available resources. This inventory would need to be diverse as invasive species are diverse.*

Member Anderson: *Have an actual incident command team with an incident commander that makes decisions and responds on the ground in real time.*

Member Sinks: *Columbia Land Trust and other land trusts in the state can be a resource for incident response depending on the region.*

Member Reeves: *This format funnels towards a decision, but is ambiguous about authority structure and who makes the decisions. Additionally, navigating land ownership and engaging parties that hold responsibility may be difficult.*

Member Maroney: *Good framework but every response will be need to be species specific with clear leadership allocation.*

Member DeHaan: *Good communication, structure, coordination of resources, and definition of roles. Too many people may be involved and indecision may arise due to lack of clear authority.*

Member Campbell: *Different than other ICS's, invasive species response cannot be handled the same as a fire response. ICS Light.*

Member McMaster: *Having folks that are able to make the decisions and commit the resources. Without these people the ICS is useless. ICS Light. Also identify when the response is "done". The issue may never be resolved, just managed.*

Member Lyon: *Having multiple partners make commitments to respond and make decisions. Also identifying folks that can work together and limiting the politics/bureaucracy behind decisions.*

Member Farley: *Making sure everyone is on the same page. Also, identify when the "response" is over.*

Member Pleus: *Communication is key, call it ICS, take it seriously, have prior agreements, set guidelines and priorities.*

Member Stevenson: *Identify an incident commander early, someone who can call the shots and make the hard decisions when you don't have consensus.*

Summary: Council members found the Invasive Species Incident Response to be a strong framework that facilitates bringing together the necessary agencies and resources, communication, stepwise decision making, and commitment and responsibility from the parties involved. However, there were also concerns that a weak authority infrastructure would lead to indecision or bureaucracy, collaboration with private parties may impede speed of response, and that the framework may not fit into all invasive species response scenarios. There were also concerns that there is ambiguity surrounding wrapping up response projects, specifically, knowing when to do so.

The council then entered discussion on the comments.

Item 13: Future Meeting Planning and Closing Remarks / Chair Ray Willard

- September meeting topic suggestions:
 - Tour from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Guests have been invited to come speak including representatives of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, and other regionally important organizations.
 - Shaun Seaman would like to discuss climate change.
 - Other ideas can be submitted to Justin
 - WHOOSHH Innovations may be added to the agenda

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

September 26, 2019

Date