

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2019

Port of Bellingham, Squalicum Boathouse - 2600 S Harbor Loop, Bellingham, WA 98225

Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Bill Tweit	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
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
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Steven Burke	King County
Linda Kunze	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Blain Reeves	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Tim Harrington	U.S. Forest Service
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Luke Woods	U.S. Coast Guard
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Guests:

Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dominic Maze	City of Portland
Stephanie Helms	City of Seattle
Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Teagan Ward	City of Bellingham
Brian Heinrich	City of Bellingham
Rachel Bomberger	Washington State University

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison
Brianna Widner	Outreach and Education Specialist

Note: This is Heidi McMaster's first meeting, she will be replacing Adam Sepulveda for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation seat.

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: December Meeting Minutes and March Agenda Approval
Moved by: Member Bill Tweit
Seconded by: Member Pat Stevenson
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 meetings since our last council meeting, highlighting an Interagency Farm Bill & Cooperative Agricultural Pest Coordination and Planning Meeting for the purpose of increasing interagency collaboration. The outcome of this meeting included each entity sharing or offering to share their resources and expertise such as the Washington State University's steam treatment equipment being shared with Washington State Department of Agriculture. Mr. Bush then moved on to speak on other outreach events such as the Seattle Boat Show, Western Governors' Association Invasive Fish Webinar, and Invasive Species Council of British Columbia Webinar. Mr. Bush briefly outlined upcoming events and meetings being held in the next quarter, such as the March 29th Bellingham invasive species workshop, the Salmon Recovery Conference, and two webinars the council is hosting with Washington State University and the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

Mr. Bush also spoke to social media outreach. Facebook likes had increased but overall outreach had decreased by about 9,000 from last quarter. The three biggest hits were related to proper Christmas tree disposal, King County employment opportunities, and the Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week news release. Instagram saw an increase of about 100 followers. Twitter also saw an increase of about 75 followers.

Mr. Bush reviewed a sighting and reports summary from last quarter. The three largest categories of reports are: mammals, land plants, and insects.

Mr. Bush then showed a State of the Salmon in Watersheds Report story map that the Council had created in collaboration with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The story map highlights three invasive species that threaten salmon recovery, including northern pike, knotweeds, and invasive mussels. The Northern Pike map illustrates the distribution of Northern Pike in comparison to Chinook salmon. Northern Pike are currently only 80 miles from anadromous fish populations.

The final message Mr. Bush left the council with was regarding the new Recreation and Conservation Office and Washington Invasive Species Council Web Sites. The updated Web Site will offer improved features to the public in order to identify and report invasive species.

Item 2: City of Portland Invasive Species Strategy and 10 Year Reflection / Dominic Maze

Dominic Maze briefed the council on the City of Portland's Invasive Species Strategy. He started by providing the council with an overview of the city, covering vegetative areas such as parks and natural

areas. Mr. Maze mentioned that in the early 2000's the city did an assessment of the vegetation and invasive species. They found they had a substantial invasive ivy issue (Irish and English Ivy). Mr. Maze spoke to the specific Bureau he represents, the Bureau of Environmental Services. They work mostly with the city sewer, storm water runoff and water quality. In 2008, they realized the real impacts invasive species had on the city's water quality and got involved in helping with invasive species. The city of Portland had already been involved, passing their first resolution aimed at invasive species in 2005. Mr. Maze spoke to some of the tools being implemented such as their Invasive Plant Strategy, which created four 10 year goals: Development, Outreach and Education, Inventory and Assessment, and Control. Accomplishments include 61% of projects from the assessment completed, 31% partially completed and 8% to still be completed. Mr. Maze mentioned specific invasive species in Oregon and the areas they affect. A specific example was loss of wapato within the Columbia slough, Wapato being naturally and culturally significant to the land and its people.

Mr. Maze then mentioned a new program, "Invasives 2.0" and covered the 7 goals of the new program and strategy. New goals are Continuous Improvement, Prevention, Detection, Control and Management, Community Engagement, Restoration and Rehabilitation, and Fund Sustainable Efforts. He then covered influencing aspects of this strategy such as stressors, work group, budget, etc.

The council then briefly discussed this topic before moving to item three.

Item 3: City of Seattle Urban Forestry and Pest Readiness / Stephanie Helms

Stephanie Helms briefed the board on the City of Seattle Urban Forestry and Pest Readiness. Ms. Helms started with an overview of the goals of the Urban Forest and Pest Program as well as her background and then gave an overview of her presentation. Ms. Helms talked about past pests (such as Dutch Elm Disease) and current pests of concern (such as Emerald Ash Borer). Ms. Helms then discussed the tools they have such as their "street tree inventory", which helps track the trees throughout the city (labeling species and locations). Ms. Helms then discussed tree statistics she had pulled from the Street Tree Inventory, clearly showing a large amount of species that are vulnerable to invasives.

Ms. Helms covered the difficulties of the jurisdiction and enforcement, relaying that many areas within the city can fall into cross jurisdiction areas with varying priorities. She discussed how they orchestrate the many entities and who is responsible for parks, natural areas and lands within the city. Ms. Helms finished by discussing the importance of knowing the roles every entity has in order to be responsive when invasives are discovered as well as the advantages the city has as a whole.

Item 4: Panel Discussion on Municipal Invasive Species Issues and Challenges / Dominic Maze, Stephanie Helms, Teagan Ward and Brian Heinrich

The council moved to a panel setting made up of four members: Dominic Maze (City of Portland), Stephanie Helms (City of Seattle), Teagan Ward (City of Bellingham) and Brian Heinrich (City of Bellingham). Justin Bush also sat on the panel, representing the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC). The Council then presented several questions to the panel and allowed answers from the panel members and discussion from both the panel and the council.

The questions included:

1. Coordination across organizations and within organizations is a challenge faced by all invasive species managers.
 - a. From your perspective, are there any strengths or weaknesses you have found in coordinating with external organizations?
 - b. How about internal?

- c. How could the Washington Invasive Species Council assist in addressing any challenges, or what should the Council learn from strengths you have identified?
2. Programs and funding, whether for survey, monitoring, response or restoration are often driven by target lists. Priority targets often vary widely when moving from a national, to regional, to state, and local scale. How do you prioritize targets at a city-level and is there anything the Council should know about what's working or isn't?

Please see recording for overall discussion.

Break 11:07 a.m. – 11:17 a.m.

Discussions, Decisions, and Updates

Item 5: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Northern Pike Classification Consultation / Allen Pleus

Allen Pleus briefed the board on the proposed Northern Pike reclassification in consultation with the council as required under WDFW statute 77.135.030(5) RCW. Mr. Pleus started by explaining the evolution of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) classification system which started with listing zebra and quagga mussels as deleterious exotic wildlife in 1996, creating a 5-class AIS system in 2004, and most recently adopting a 6-class AIS system in 2014. Within the new classification system: Prohibited level one species are those AIS that pose a high invasive risk, are a priority for prevention and expedited rapid response management actions, and can trigger additional authorities such as quarantine and emergency measures; prohibited level 2 species are considered the same risk as level 1 and trigger the same authorities, but have become established and are now a priority for long-term infested site management actions; and prohibited level 3 species are AIS that pose a moderate to high invasive risk and are prioritized for management as resources allow. Northern Pike are currently classified as prohibited level 3 species.

Bill Tweit entered the discussion and spoke specifically about WDFW's proposal to reclassify Northern Pike from its current prohibited level 3 species classification to a prohibited level 1 species classification in the waters of the state where Northern Pike have not currently been found, and reclassifying them as a prohibited level 2 species in the waters of the state where they are currently found, such as Lake Washington or the upper Columbia River and its tributaries.

The council discussed the proposal and asked questions around whether Northern Pike should be considered a prohibited level 1 species statewide or a combination of prohibited level 1 and level 2 species varying by waterbody.

Motion: The council moved to recommend the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to move forward with the reclassification of Northern Pike from a current level 3 to either a level 1, or combination of level 1 and 2 prohibited species varying by State waterbody.

Moved by: Member Joe Maroney

Seconded by: Member Bill Tweit

Decision: **Approved** (unanimously)

Follow-up: WDFW informed the council they would follow-up on final decisions made by the department.

Item 6: Fiscal Year 2019 Invasive Mussel Funding to Washington State / Heidi McMaster, Eric Anderson and Allen Pleus

Heidi McMaster briefed the board on the Bureau of Reclamation funding for the State of Washington to prevent and prepare for the introduction of invasive mussels. Captain Eric Anderson and Allen Pleus briefed the council quickly on the future uses of this funding, including rapid response, the continuation of check station operations and onboarding of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife mussel detection dog.

General Public Comment:

No general public comment at this time.

LUNCH: 12:10 – 1:10 p.m.

Item 7: Sudden Oak Death and the Impact of Other Invading Plant Diseases / Rachel Bomberger

Rachel Bomberger briefed the Council on Sudden Oak Death and the impact of other infectious plant diseases. Ms. Bomberger explained the signs, symptoms, and impacts of Sudden Oak Death such as foliar damage and stem infections. Sudden Oak Death moves quickly and limits the flow of water through the infected plants. Ms. Bomberger then briefed the council on another invasive species, walnut twig beetle, and its relationship with Thousand Cankers Disease. Thousand Cankers Disease will kill an infected tree within 2-3 years of causing noticeable effects of the infection. The most common symptom is canopy decline. There are not many options to use when responding to this disease and all are reactive not proactive—reinforcing the need for prevention and early detection.

Item 8: Overview of Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Activities and Work Plan / Mary Fee

Mary Fee provided the board with an overview of Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board activities and work plan. Ms. Fee started by introducing herself and gave a quick overview of her presentation. Ms. Fee first discussed noxious weed list changes for 2019, including name updates and classification changes. The public and/or public entities can submit proposals for noxious weed listing each year. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board then reviews the proposals and makes a decision following a public hearing. Ms. Fee then spoke about new outreach materials including a toxic plant pamphlet and Bea-u-tify seed packets. Ms. Fee then outlined Class A noxious weed eradication proposals that were accepted and awarded with funding for 2019. The final topic Ms. Fee discussed was future planning for the State Noxious Weed Control Board, potentially clarifying Revised Code of Washington 17.10.

The council then entered into a brief discussion with Ms. Fee regarding her presentation.

Item 9: Northern Pike Update / Joe Maroney

Joe Maroney provided a very brief update to the council on Northern Pike including some of the presentations and discussions at the recent Western Governors' Association invasive fish webinar. Justin Bush reported that he provided an update on Northern Pike to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in March. Joe finalized with emphasizing how crucial it is to act now on Northern Pike.

Item 10: King County Healthy Lands Project / Steven Burke

Steven Burke briefed the council on King County healthy lands initiative called "Project Help". The goal of this new project is for all lands (65,000 acres) protected through the King County Land Conservation Initiative to be free of impacts from noxious weeds. Project Help is a proactive effort to deliver a

significant short-term reduction in noxious weeds and a long-term legacy of stewardship to maintain investments over time. Mr. Burke outlined targeted species for removal, including unregulated invasive plants such as English ivy, English holly, butterfly bush, blackberry, and yellow archangel. Additionally, regulated noxious weeds such as giant hogweed, garlic mustard, and others will be targeted for eradication.

Note: The break was removed from the agenda

Item 11: Invasive Species Awareness Week Debriefing / Brianna Widner

Brianna Widner provided the Council with an overview of Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 24-March 2, 2019). Ms. Widner first explained that Governor Jay Inslee had proclaimed this as Invasive Species Awareness Week. Ms. Widner also explained that multiple local jurisdictions had proclaimed the week in solidarity with the Governor. Most notably, the City of Bellingham passed a resolution recognizing the week—the first city to do so in three years. Brianna then outlined events of the week such as two webinars hosted throughout the week in collaboration with Washington State University, the University of Washington, and Oregon Invasive Species Council.

Item 12: Councilmember Survey Results and Discussion / Justin Bush

Justin Bush gave an overview of responses received from the council in response to the feedback survey that was sent out. There were three areas of suggested improvement such as time management, relevancy and public outreach. Mr. Bush then went over each question and the responses/comments received and how staff would use the results to further improve council meetings.

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

- June meeting topic suggestions:
 - May 6-10th interagency northern pike suppression report
 - A state agency budget update
 - An update on Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Response Exercise Planning
 - Lessons from the Lower Colorado River in responding to invasive mussels
 - An update on the Washington State Department of Transportation Asset Management Plan
 - An update on the Washington Pest Watch lesson plans
 - Climate change and invasive species

- September Meeting Changes:

Justin Bush gave a quick overview of changes expected for the September meeting. September will be our second travel meeting for the year and the proposed location has changed from Spokane to Okanogan. The meeting will run from 9AM-1PM and will be followed by an invasive species field tour around Okanogan County.

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

June 6, 2019

Date