

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2019

Department of Transportation, North Central Region, Area 3 Maintenance Office, 28862 Hwy 97, Okanogan, WA 98840

### Species Council Members Present:

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Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson, Vice Chair	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Bill Tweit, Past Chair	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
George Bruno	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rachel Bomberger	Washington State University
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Tim Harrington	U.S. Forest Service
Steve Burk	King County
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District

### Guests:

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Michael Zimmer	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Lisa Scott	Okanagan & Similkameen Invasive Species Society
Bill Whitacre	Western Governors' Association
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Amy Clow	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Kent Kovalenko	Okanogan County

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison
Julia McNamara	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:** September Agenda Approval

**Moved by:** Member Stevenson

**Seconded by:** Member Lyon

**Decision:** **Approved**

**Motion:** June Meeting Minutes

**Moved by:** Member Tweit

**Seconded by:** Member Lyon

**Decision:** **Approved as amended** (Add Ian Sinks to attendance and correct lunch time)

## 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 a visit council staff went on to see puddles. Puddles is a new Police K9 brought on by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to help detect invasive mussels entering Washington State. This trip included an excise put on by state and local agencies regarding rapid response.

Mr. Bush then moved to discuss upcoming events, such as an upcoming meeting around *Improving Statewide Readiness & Response to Washington Forest Pest Risks Webinar* that will take place at the end of October.

Mr. Bush also provided a social media update, which included a quarterly growth update: 10 percent growth on Facebook, a 5 percent growth on Instagram, and approximately 50 more follows on Twitter.

Mr. Bush also covered three news releases shared by the council and the sighting reports. Sighting reports included 154 plant reports and 212 insect reports alone. The reports increased substantially from the previous quarter, which only totaled 90 reports.

Mr. Bush closed by proposing a decision to the board to support a budget request going forward by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO is requesting \$543,000 to provide onetime Northern Pike Suppression and early detection grants. The funding will be used to enhance suppression efforts of Northern Pike where they are currently established, as well as monitor waterbodies downstream of where Northern Pike are known to exist.

Discussion: The Board entered into discussion around approving this support. Ultimately, the board decided to support the language with a slight amendment to include recommendations for RCO to work with the WISC in establishing methods to review and prioritize proposals for both suppression and early detection.

- Motion:** Move to support RCO funding request, with the request that if funding is received RCO work with the WISC in establishing methods to review and prioritize proposals for both suppression and early detection.
- Moved by:** Member Tweit
- Seconded by:** Member Maroney
- Decision:** **Approved**

### **Item 2: Northern Pike & the Okanagan Nation Alliance / Michael Zimmer**

Michael Zimmer briefed the council on northern pike and the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA). Mr. Zimmer started with a brief overview of what the ONA is and then moved to talk about how northern pike affects the ONA's goals. One of ONA's goals is to protect and help recover listed native species within their jurisdiction. Northern pike are a threat to this goal and the ONA has been conducting suppression efforts to reduce the impact of northern pike on native species. Efforts include bounty programs, electro fishing, netting and community outreach and awareness. Early detection efforts and rapid response are also tools exercised by ONA.

Mr. Zimmer finalized by sharing some pictures of northern pike and discussing how increase water temperature has also been playing a role in greater northern pike resiliency and growth.

### **Item 3: Okanagan & Similkameen Invasive Species Society / Lisa Scott**

Lisa Scott briefed the council on Okanagan & Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS). Ms. Scott opened her presentation by first covering invasive species legislation, covering the British Columbia (BC) Weed Control Act, which is where it all began. Currently there is an Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group. There are Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISOs) that help to control invasive species throughout BC; OASISS is one of these covering an area from the Okanogan US Border to BC's North Okanogan region. OASISS works with bordering partners to conduct outreach, including partners in the US. Ms. Scott shared some outreach numbers, stating they distribute outreach materials at over 350 locations contacting over 6,000 people a year.

Ms. Scott closed by discussing invasive insects and current OASISS work around select species, highlighting the Elm Seed Bug.

## **Discussions, Decisions, and Updates**

### **Item 4: Northern Pike Reclassification / Bill Tweit**

Bill Tweit briefed the council on the Northern Pike Reclassification work completed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) since the council's last meeting. Mr. Tweit announced that the Fish and Wildlife Commission has decided to place reclassification of northern pike, from a prohibited level 3 species to a prohibited level 1 invasive species, on a conference call set to take place on September 27, 2019. Mr. Tweit closed by informing the board that he would update them after the conference call takes place.

**TASK:** Member Tweit to update the board on the Fish and Wildlife Commission's decision around northern pike.

### **Item 5: Invasive Species Incident Response / Justin Bush**

Justin Bush updated the council on the Invasive Species Incident Response planning. Mr. Bush opened this topic up for discussion to the board inviting in ideas for potential adjustments or uses for rapid responses in the future. Some of the things discussed include:

- Incident Command Systems (ICS)
- Tools, such as emergency text messaging, permitting
- Clear Communication
- How to correctly fill out incident forms
- Emergency funding
- Agreements that are in place prior to responses, for instance who is the lead? (Example: US Dept. of Agriculture has Memorandums Of Understanding [MOUs])
- Knowing what is allowed to be used as a tool, when and where

**TASK:** Council to define what constitutes an invasive emergency.

**TASK:** Request a December briefing on the US Fish and Wildlife consultation guide.

### **Item 6: Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution & Western Invasive Species Council / Bill Whitacre**

Bill Whitacre briefed the council on the Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution & Western Invasive Species Council work. Mr. Whitacre covered some policies discussed at the Western Governors Association (WGA), but called out five specifically, which include big action items:

1. Continuing work on invasive mussels
2. Work on Cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses
3. Invasive species data storage and sharing
4. Bio control and improving communication

5. Lacy act and other invasive species

Mr. Whitacre also mentioned the creation of Western Invasive Species Council (WISCers), which has been created to help with the five action items above.

Mr. Whitacre opened it up for questions and the council entered discussion around this topic.

**Motion:** Move that the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) partner with the Western Governor's Association (WGA) on their data sharing efforts.  
**Moved by:** Member Tweit  
**Seconded by:** Member Stevenson  
**Decision:** *Approved*

*TASK: Add this topic as a future meeting agenda item.*

**Item 7: Empowering Boaters to Clean, Drain, Dry Watercraft / Allen Pleus**

Allen Pleus briefed the council on Clean, Drain and Dry watercraft initiative. Mr. Pleus started by covering the mission of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) division and then quickly moved to discuss watercraft pathways. Mr. Pleus stated that there are approximately 240,000 registered boats in Washington, but only a little over 6,000 inspections are conducted annually.

Mr. Pleus then discussed a solution to reach more boaters, CD<sup>3</sup> stations. These stations are not decontamination stations, but rather cleaning stations that could potentially eliminate 90-95% of the threat before it leaves or enters the water. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to purchase three stationary units and one trailer unit. WDFW is working with stakeholders to select three locations in eastern Washington and the final transportable unit would be kept at the WDFW headquarters in Olympia.

The board entered discussion around this topic.

**Item 8: Washington State Department of Agriculture Municipal Green Waste/  
Amy Clow**

Amy Clow briefed the council on the Washington State Department of Agriculture Municipal Green Waste. Ms. Clow introduced this topic by covering apple maggot. Apple Maggot can be spread by transportation of homegrown fruit and municipal waste. Apple Maggot impacts growth of apples and overall yield.

Ms. Clow then discussed how preventing the spread of apple maggot is being conducted. A few examples of public outreach include signs, social media postings,

letters, and events. Commercially WSDA issues permits for waste. There are two types of permits, which include Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) permits and Municipal Green Waste (MGW) permits. A MSW permit allows transportation of solid waste from a quarantine area to outside a quarantine area to be managed. A MGW permit allows transportation of green waste (or yard waste) from a quarantine area to outside a quarantine area to be managed. MGW permits require more steps to cure waste (such as steaming) before disposal of waste is permitted.

General Public Comment:

No general public comment at this time.

**Member Seaman** took advantage of the extra time to discuss a two-page handout, regarding Invasive Species and Climate Change, provided in the board meeting materials.

***BREAK: 12:30 – 12:40 p.m.***

**Field Tour**

**1:00 p.m. – Depart on Field Tour (Location)**

Stop 1: Okanogan County Central Landfill

Stop 2: Carlton/Okanogan Complex Fire

Stop 3: Brewster Pool Aquatic Weeds and Northern Pike

**3:50 p.m. – Return from Field Tour (Location)**

General Public Comment:

No general public comment at this time.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



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Ray Willard, Chair

December 19, 2019

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Date