

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2019

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

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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
Andrea Thorpe	Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Mary Braswell	US Customs and Border Protection
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
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Steve Burke	King County
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jon Jennings	Washington Department of Ecology

Guests:

Linden Lampman	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Amy Clow	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Eric Anderson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Wyatt Lundquist	Board Liaison
Julia McNamara	Administrative Assistant
Alexis Haifley	Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist

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 Agenda Approval

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Karen Ripley

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: September Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Joe Maroney

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

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council's (WISC) Executive Coordinator, briefed the board on the WISC section's quarter. The WISC section worked alongside the Governor's Office and facilitated work with state agencies to develop a set of comments to help scope the Department of Interior Invasive Species Strategic Plan. Mr. Bush then highlighted the October 9, 2019 Salmon Recovery Coalition Meeting, where there was discussion of bringing together an organization of state agencies who play differing roles in order to address invasive species that impact salmon recovery. Council member Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, informed the board that there was also discussion about better integrating salmon recovery into invasive species management.

Following the Salmon Recovery Coalition Meeting, Mr. Bush spoke on the Columbia Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting that took place December 10, 2019 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. WISC and a wide array of Columbia Basin organizations teamed up to obtain three years of funding for a cooperative weed management area to

address flowering rush regionally. Through that funding, they were able to create a steering committee that will continue without the assistance of WISC. The major deliverable is a basin-wide [flowering rush management plan](#).

Mr. Bush then covered the outreach events. These included the Improving Statewide Readiness Webinar, the National Gypsy Moth Management Board: Annual Gypsy Moth Review, and the Green Cities Network invasive species focus group. Looking forward into the next quarter, Mr. Bush expressed that the largest 2020 outreach event, The Seattle Boat Show, would occur once again the following quarter from January 24-February 1, 2020.

Mr. Bush continued by covering WISC social media, new releases, and invasive reports. WISC had observed a decrease in reach with Facebook. There was exploration of paid advertisement to address the decrease which was successful, but was not likely a sustainable approach. Once again in 2019, the larger audience was achieved through pairing a social media post with a new release. In the past quarter, WISC deployed two news releases working alongside the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and WDFW. These were "The State Bolsters Its Defense Against Urban Forest Pests with New Guidelines" and "Federal, State and Tribal Governments Join Forces to Practice Emergency Response Should Invasive Mussels Infest Washington Waters". The goal of 2019, which was exceeded, was to reach four news releases. Mr. Bush then moved to discuss the number of invasive species reports, which had decreased from 428 reports in the previous quarter to only 77 in the final quarter of 2019. Among the 77 reports, there were sightings of Yellow starthistle, Brazilian elodea, an albino nutria, Common carp, and an American bullfrog.

The briefing was closed with summarizing changes to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) WISC staff. Briana Widner, Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist, left her position, which was taken over by Alexis Haifley. In lieu of Ms. Widner's departure, a resolution was created to implement a Green Meeting Coordinator for each of RCO's boards, which will be led by Julia McNamara. The Green Meeting Coordinator is in charge of ensuring that every meeting uses the minimal amount of materials possible. The final staffing change was the addition of a remote intern through Western Washington University, Daphne Condon, who will be assisting with identifying best practices for rapid response to invasive species.

Item 2: State Bolsters Its Defense Against Urban Forest Pests with New Guidelines

Linden Lampman, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager at State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, **Justin Bush**, and **Clinton Campbell**, U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, briefed the board on invasive tree pests and a new state plan to increase community preparedness. Ms. Lampman opened by expressing the importance of working together with arborists and city foresters when dealing with forest pests and summarized the impacts of invasive species to urban forests.

Council member Campbell delved into the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook, expressing that it had several prompts and pathways on invasive pest management.

Following, Ms. Lampman informed the board local government across the county spend an estimated \$1.7 billion each year for tree removal and replacement due to invasive insects such as Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer. Homeowners spend an additional \$1 billion to remove and replace trees lost to pests and suffer an additional \$1.5 billion per year in lost property value. Tree removals are financially costly but are also costly in terms of the loss of eco-benefits that trees provide.

Moving forward from economic value, Member Campbell focused toward the physical impact that invasive pests have, specifically gypsy moths. Gypsy moth caterpillars are known for the defoliation of trees, leaving the trees vulnerable to other pests or disease. This can ultimately lead to the death of a forested area. While this negatively impacts urban areas, this impact reaches riparian areas as well, influencing salmon survival. Tree species such as *Quercus*, *Salix*, *Alnus*, and *Betula* provide shade in riparian areas, keeping the water temperatures lower for easier salmon survival. Without the shade, salmon and other fauna are left vulnerable.

Avoiding the widespread negative effects of invasive species can be difficult as new species often go undetected for long periods of time. Mr. Bush displayed a graph expressing the relationship between the time an invasive species is introduced to an environment and the time it takes for the public, city, and state to detect the species. The sooner that the public knows, the quicker the species can be managed by the community around it using the [Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook](#); A resource collaboratively developed in 2019 with over 30 communities and several different state or federal agencies.

Ms. Lampman closed the briefing explaining that Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program recently received U.S. Forest Service funding to begin a new phase of this project. Working in partnership with Washington Department of Agriculture and the Washington Invasive Species Council, this phase will develop additional tools for communities, hold outreach and training events, and develop an

aggregated dataset of tree inventories for improved pest surveillance, and response in Washington.

BREAK: 10:15am- 10:25am

Item 3: Invasive Species Issues in a Time of Climate Change

Shaun Seaman, Chelan County Public Utility District, and **Steve Burke**, King County, briefed the council on climate change and its effect on invasive species. Council member Seaman began by explaining that our climate is changing at a historically rapid rate, that non-native species are impacting the landscape, and that these two interactions could have impacts in unexpected and unpredictable ways.

Addressing WISC, he asked what the role of the council should be in addressing climate change effect on invasive species and how could they fulfill this role? Should climate change considerations be incorporated into WISC deliberation and activities, and should the next strategic plan update incorporate climate change objectives? Member Seaman followed by promoting collaborative opportunities with the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, universities, and regional invasive species councils.

Councilmember Burke followed, expressing how climate change will likely create new ranges for indigenous and non-native species. In King County, they have already observed plant species actively growing and flowering in winter, whereas historically the plants would be senescent. Member Burke suggested that the council should be proactive and consider incorporating expected climate scenarios into planning and recommendations.

To close this item, the council entered discussion surrounding how to incorporate climate change into the next invasive species Strategic Plan and how climate change will affect prioritization and management of invasive species. Chair Willard acknowledged that climate change should be considered and called for a council focus group to develop the council's approach to climate change in developing the next Strategic Plan.

Motion: Council request that WISC create a focus group of council members or agency delegates to review current plan and develop recommendations for the future strategic plan.

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Ian Sinks

Decision: **Approved**

Item 4: Results of Using Steam to Treat Green Waste

Following up on the September 2019 council field tour in Okanogan County, **Amy Clow**, Department of Agriculture, briefed the council on the use of steam to treat green waste. She relayed that Okanogan County had converted a roll-off container to a new and innovative system that uses steam and solar absorption to heat green waste to a temperature that would kill invasive pests. The Washington State Department of Agriculture installed monitoring devices to determine whether the system could reach a temperature of 165-degree Fahrenheit for four consecutive hours.

Ms. Clow closed her briefing expressing that the testing showed that the system worked very well and was successful. Treated green waste can now be used as daily cover for Okanogan's landfill and green waste will not be burned, which will benefit air quality.

TASK: Chair Willard and the council commended Ms. Clow for her work and this update noting that Okanogan County should be recognized and celebrated for this innovated work. Chair Willard encouraged council staff to investigate ways to recognize Okanogan County.

Item 5: Northern Pike Update

Joe Maroney, Kalispel Tribe, updated WISC on northern pike. He explained that the species had been reclassified from a level three prohibited species to a level one prohibited species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He and **Kendall Farley**, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, then displayed the new [northern pike policy and outreach tool](#), which keeps track of how far the pike are from the anadromous zone in the Columbia River Basin, in addition to highlighting various management stories.

Council Member Bill Tweit expressed the urgency of keeping northern pike out of the anadromous waters, as they will become much more difficult to deal with.

Carrying on with the briefing, Member Maroney then explained that the RCO/WISC decision package related to northern pike suppression and early detection monitoring was not included in the Governor's Supplemental Budget. However, northern pike was included in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife budget using Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Account funds.

Member Maroney closed his briefing by opening time for the board to discuss and ask clarifying questions surrounding northern pike.

Item 6: Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Response Exercise

Chair Willard opened the briefing by thanking a few of the key players in the Lake Roosevelt invasive mussel response exercise. These individuals included **Eric Anderson**, WDFW, **Heidi McMaster**, US Bureau of Reclamation, and **Allen Pleus**, WDFW.

Eric Anderson gave a summary of year-long build up to the exercise in October and then played a video capturing the final exercise to educate the council on the importance of response exercises and drills, the irrevocable damage mussels will do to Washington.

Following the video, Mr. Pleus thanks the Recreation and Conservation Office as well as other individuals and agencies that were involved.

Mr. Anderson closed the presentation and the council discussed the importance of holding exercises on a more regular basis, as it teaches agencies how to respond in an emergency situation and implement plans.

Item 7: European Green Crab Update and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Discussion

Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, followed with a briefing on European Green crab and recent detections in the Salish Sea.

In 1998, there was an early detection of green crabs and after a two-year study, it was determined that the species did not pose a threat to the environment it possessed. In 2015, there was an increase of green crab, which prompted the activation of Crab Team, funded by a Washington Sea Grant, who leads citizen scientists in looking for crabs.

Shortly following this event, there was a green crab detection in the San Juan Islands and a rapid response occurred directly after. In the past three years, over 222 green crabs have been collected from the Dungeness Bay, 38 recently captured in Drayton Harbor, and 64 recently collected in Lummi Bay by the Lummi Tribe.

Management resources are limited but, the goal is to keep the crab populations low enough to prevent establishment of reproducing populations. Although, trapping can be difficult as the trapping is only occurring in lower tidal areas and not in the deeper waters.

Mr. Pleus expressed that there has been discussions surrounding management of green crabs at two regional meetings that occurred in November of 2019. Mr. Pleus believes that this issue can no longer be handled by WDFW alone because of its limiting

resources and small staff. WDFW and partners are considering various options to address the resource shortage in both the short and long term.

Mr. Pleus briefly outlined various options and looked to the council for direction. The council agreed that there was a resource shortage and that action must be taken and motioned to do so.

Motion: The council acknowledges the urgency of the issue and shortage of resources and will help convene and participate in processes to determine short- and long-term solutions.

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Blain Reeves

Decision: **Approved**

General Public Comment

Bill Dewey, Director of public affairs of Taylor Shellfish, expressed concern of green crab movement toward the Salish Sea. The crew at Taylor has been trained to know what the crabs look like and are willing to become a monitoring team and take up trapping. Mr. Dewey stated that Taylor Shellfish has expressed interest in assisting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife multiple times.

LUNCH: 12:28pm-1:15pm

Item 8: Watercraft Inspection Year-End Summary

Eric Anderson updated the council on the 2019 watercraft inspections performed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2019, there were approximately 32,000 boat inspections between the two stations, which was a 31% increase from 2018. Eighteen of the watercrafts inspected contained zebra or quagga mussels. Notably, this is the most boat inspections performed in one year by WDFW.

The largest issue the program faced was a \$240,000 budget cut, which pushed Mr. Anderson to become more efficient in running the watercraft inspections. The program also found creative funding solutions by working with partners such as the Recreation and Conservation Office and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Mr. Anderson closed by noting that while the department was able secure funding for 2020, there is a large gap in funding for 2021. The program is looking to the for ideas on how to establish consistent and permanent funding for watercraft inspection.

TASK: Chair Willard suggests that this conversation continue in the following meeting.

Item 9: Novel Partnerships and Treatment Methods to Combat Mediterranean Snail and 2020 Pest Eradication Proposals

Sven-Erik Spichiger, Managing Entomologist for Washington State Department of Agriculture(WSDA), briefed the council. He began by informing the council of the Asian Giant hornet, a species native to Eastern Asia. This species became an insect of concern with its first detection in Vancouver, Canada. This detection is the first within the United State.

Following this detection, in December of 2019, a suspected Asian giant hornet was found in Blaine, Washington by a citizen and reported to the Washington Invasive Species Council through the Washington Invasives app. The report was then directed to the WSDA for validation and response.

Mr. Spichiger informed the board that this species is typically in hibernation in the beginning of October and their presence in these late winter months is concerning. The species also poses lethal threat to humans and pets, in addition to possessing the ability to kill an entire beehive in less than three hours. To create a plan for addressing this species, WSDA and Washington Department of Health will be holding a stakeholder meeting in early January of 2020.

Following the Asian hornet update, Mr. Spichiger explained that there were nineteen invasive insect trapping projects that occurred in 2019. Through these projects, they were able to find 13 European gypsy moth populations, one Asian gypsy moth population, and nine Japanese beetle colonies. WSDA also treated populations identified in 2018 trapping and 1,706 acres treated through aerial application. In 2019 and there are two proposed aerial treatment areas in Snohomish County to be complete in 2020.

He closed the update by informing the council of a novel Mediterranean snail treatment made using steam with the Port of Tacoma. Overall, the infestation has been reduced to a fraction of the initial 300 acres. The steam treatment was performed by Washington State University researchers and showed promise. Treated areas were then covered with certified weed-free hay donated by the Washington Invasive Species Council and later were seeded with native wildflower seed donated by the Washington Department of Transportation.

The council followed up Mr. Spichiger's update with a brief discussion on Asian giant hornet.

Item 10: 2019 Outreach Summary and 2020 Outreach Plan

Justin Bush and **Alexis Haifley** briefed the council on news releases, events, social media and new educational products from 2019. Mr. Bush stated that there was a total of 21 outreach events with a reach of more than 4,232 people. The largest outreach event was the Seattle Boat Show. Following outreach events, Mr. Bush covered social media outreach and expressed that it is important to use multiple platforms because reach and demographics change significantly between Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Alexis Haifley then updated the council on new invasive species [school curriculum](#) for that was developed using funding by U.S. Department of Agriculture through Farm Bill Section 10007. The curriculum meets new generation science standards and includes six different lesson plans which can be used by middle school teachers. In 2019, staff and the Pacific Education Institute held two teacher workshops across the state to teach teachers how to use the lessons. Ms. Haifley noted while the lessons are intended for use in formal education of middle school students, but could easily be adapted for younger students, informal education, as well as older students and adults.

Mr. Bush then shared an outline of 2020 outreach events and targets, seeking council discussion and direction. Events are intended to be held both in eastern and western Washington.

The council discussed various educational messages it promotes including, "Be a Yard Guard: Keep Noxious Weeds from Spreading" which was developed by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. Councilmember Bill Tweit expressed concern with the number of outreach messages being created. He stated that by putting out too many different messages, the older messages may be overlooked even though they are still presently relevant.

The council appreciated this feedback and noted some messages are used for specific audiences and that not every event included every message. Mr. Bush acknowledged the importance of revisiting old messages and keeping the information fresh, while suggested "Yard Guard" be promoted in 2020 to college data on use for review by the council in December 2020.

Continuing the discussion focused on 2020 planning, Mr. Bush discussed social media platforms, set a target of 4 news releases, and 10 outreach events statewide.

Following these future plan updates, the board discussed how to increase social media following and the location of the outreach events.

Item 11: 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and 2021-22 Work Plan Timeline

Justin Bush brought to the council's attention that the 2020 Strategic Plan was intended to be updated for the 2020-2025 period and summarized various approaches that the council could take in creating a new Strategic Plan.

The council discussed how members use the Strategic Plan and asked staff how it was used to guide daily operations. Chair Willard expressed the importance in the plan for developing a plan of action for the council which is then tracked and reported on—documenting that the council is fulfilling its mission and is a working council. He would like to have a working group put together in order to create a visionary five-year strategic plan. Mr. Bush expressed intent to meet with each council member individually to create this plan, in addition to convening a work group.

Item 12: 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Work Session

During this period, **Justin Bush** separated the council into four separate groups. The groups spent time discussing what the strategic plan should look like and topics that need to be edited, updated, or integrated within the text. Following the separated time, the members came back together and reported what had been discussed in a 3-minute synopsis.

Item 13: Leadership of the Council

Chair Willard reminded the council that he intends to fill his role for one more year and that the council should consider a transition plan. **Vice Chair Pat Stevenson**, indicated that he no longer has the capacity to become Chair as he is now the Natural Resources Director with the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

Chair Willard noted that Pat Stevenson was the first time council member representing Native American tribes had filled a role on the council leadership team. He noted that the council Executive Committee had sincerely appreciated this perspective and contributions and felt like creating a second Vice-Chair role with the intent of offering the position to the two council members representing Native American tribes would be a good decision.

This followed with a discussion on Co-Vice Chairs and which council members would be interested in filling the role of Co-Vice Chair or Chair.

Motion: As part of a working guideline, adopt the proposed Co-Vice Chair model, with one Co-Vice Chair position always behind held for a council member representing Native American tribes.

Moved by: Member Bill Tweit

Seconded by: Member Mary Fee

Decision: **Approved**

Item 14: Future Meeting Planning and Closing Remarks

Mr. Bush announced that all four council meeting dates are booked for room 172 in the Natural Resource Building, in Olympia, Washington. The meeting dates are March 12, June 4, September 24, and December 10.

The council discussed whether to hold a travel meeting in June or September, and discussed locations. Chair Willard recommended that staff investigate meeting venues in Walla Walla. As it stood, there were conflicting events with the June date and discussion of the board on where to hold a travel meeting. Mr. Bush would send a poll to the council to identify a better meeting date for June.

Chair Willard closed the meeting and apologized for going over the agenda’s end time.

General Public Comment: No public comment

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 3:11pm.

The next regular meeting will be March 12, 2020, in the Washington State Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Minutes approved by:



Ray Willard, Chair

March 12, 2020

Date