

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2020

Online--Zoom

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Ray Willard, Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Blain Reeves, Vice Chair	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Joe Maroney, Vice Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Shaun Seaman	Chelan Public Utility District
Steve Burke	King County
Kendall Farley	North West Power and Conservation Council
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Roy Hamblin	U.S Customs and Border Protection
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Department of Interior
Pat DeHaan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tim Harrington	U.S Forest Service
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Andrea Thorpe	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University

Guests:

Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Cindy Cooper	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Katie Buckley	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Cassie Cichorz	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Terry Smith	United States Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Ray Willard, Department of Transportation, opened the meeting at 9AM and took notice of COVID-19's impacts, one being online schooling from home, which may cause some members the necessity to leave the meeting for periods of time. Following, **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, covered the webinar instructions and etiquette. **Julia McNamara**, Interim Board Liaison, called roll, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of September 24, 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Fyall

Seconded by: Member Maroney

Decision: *Approved*

Motion: Approval of June 2020 Minutes

Moved by: Member Sinks

Seconded by: Member Thorpe

Decision: *Approved*

Motion: Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates

Moved by: Member Maroney

Seconded by: Member Fyall

Decision: *Approved*

Chair Willard recognized former Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) member, **Anna Lyon**, Okanogan County, who would be retiring and moving on from WISC. In her place would be Member **Ron Anderson**, Yakima County, with his alternate being **Adam Fyall**, Benton County. Because Member Fyall was present at the meeting, Chair Willard introduced him and ask Member Fyall to provide his background.

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report

Justin Bush, WISC Executive Coordinator, provided an update on WISC's activities and goings-on.

Opening with the meeting summary, Mr. Bush highlighted three different meetings and outcomes. The first was the June 24, 2020 Statewide Forest Action Plan Review and Contributors Meeting. Mr. Bush noted that the council was assisting with the Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan by providing invasive species information and connections to the work of the council. The DNR had submitted

the plan to the U.S. Forest Service for review and approval. This plan contains actions to guide the care of all forested lands in Washington, private or public owned.

Secondly, Mr. Bush highlighted the July 27, 2020 Interagency Plant Protection Action Section 7721 Planning and Coordination Meeting that WISC facilitated. The goals of this meeting were to avoid conflicts and overlap between state organizations submitting project suggestions and to promote interagency collaboration. Out of this meeting, two suggestions were submitted by WISC that were crosscutting in nature. This included the G5_WA_0826: *Washington State Interagency Outreach and Education- Comprehensive Approach for Youth and Adults* and G6_WA_0870: *Improving Interagency Emergency Response and Capacity*.

Mr. Bush then addressed the August 25, 2020 Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Advisory Meeting. One subject of this meeting was the University of Washington Climate Adaption Science Center's and US fish and Wildlife Services' (USFW) new regional network. This network would share information and survey participants in how to best address invasive species in light of climate change. Mr. Bush and Member Steve Burke are on the advisory team for this network.

Mr. Bush then gave an event summary highlighting the August 18-19 Virtual Washington Pest Control Tour, which was organized by the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration (WSCPR). This event is a policy tour where WSCPR brings together agency representatives and elected officials to learn from different natural resource specialists. During this recorded webinar tour, the council and invasive species were highlighted, including the Asian giant hornet and quagga/Zebra mussels. Mr. Bush expressed hope of collaborating with WSCPR in the future.

Mr. Bush also highlighted a future event- Alaska Invasive Species Workshop- which would be occurring October 27-29, 2020. During this event, Mr. Bush would be presenting the council's project to plan and facilitate the October 2019, Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Response Exercise and how to use the Incident Command System (ICS) to respond to invasive species.

Chair Willard inquired whether the WSCPR recorded webinar was available for public use, to which Mr. Bush expressed that he would investigate it.

Moving forward, Mr. Bush discussed the social media summary. Concerning Facebook, there was a 6 percent increase in followers, and the reach level was average. For Instagram, there was an average increase of 13 percent in the last quarter. Reminding WISC, Mr. Bush requested that they submit more photos for WISC's Instagram. Mr. Bush

then relayed that Twitter continues to remain as the most impactful social media account as it often gets the furthest reach, having 55,900 impressions in the last quarter.

Next, Mr. Bush discussed the sighting reports. In the last quarter, there were 377 reports via the invasive website and phone app. Mr. Bush explained that insect reports had increased due to the DNR and the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) August Tree check news release, where people were asked to take ten minutes to survey their trees for any signs of pests or diseases.

In closing, Mr. Bush discussed the US Department of Interior's (DOI) development of an Invasive Species Strategic Plan. The state agencies are currently reviewing the draft plan and are developing a state response letter. The state agencies will submit a comment by Friday, October 9, 2020. When given the opportunity to speak, Member McMaster explained that all the bureaus under the DOI has been reviewing the draft as well.

Addressing Mr. Bush, Vice Chair Maroney stated that there had been a Tribal consultation webinar prior to the WISC meeting that he could not attend. Vice Chair Maroney had questions, including how the DOI would be funding the Invasive Species Strategic Plan on a national scale. Member Maroney requested the Mr. Bush relay these questions on Member Maroney's behalf in the public listening sessions and would provide Mr. Bush his questions prior to the session.

Item 2: A Novel Approach to Enforcing Washington State Department of Agriculture Plant Health Quarantines

Cindy Cooper, WSDA, gave a briefing on plant health quarantines and a proposed a new approach to enforcement. Quarantines are placed on plants and seeds that are imported to Washington state. As an example, Ms. Cooper displayed the unsolicited "mystery seeds" that had been sent to many people within the US from China as part of an online sales scam. Because the seeds were improperly imported, they did not go through the normal importation process, and may be invasive species or diseased. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that all live plants and seeds have a phytosanitary certificate and inspection upon entering the US. This scam has resulted in Amazon banning international seed sales on the online platform.

Ms. Cooper also explained that both internationally and domestically, there needs to be a better way to enforce quarantines through internet sales, as these plants can bring in plant diseases and pests from other countries and states. In 2018 there had been a 25 percent increase in plant internet sales from 2017. Unfortunately, State agricultural departments lack the resources and time to track all plant internet sales.

Ms. Cooper then explained that there are inspectors in state or country of origin that certify plants for interstate or international shipment. WSDA has employees licensed that complete this work for the USDA. The work includes ensuring plant materials meet the requirements of the origin of destination. Once approved, WSDA will issue a federal phytosanitary certificate.

Ms. Cooper conveyed that WSDA focuses on domestic and interstate movement of plants and seeds, while the USDA regulates international movement of plant products, meaning that they do not enforce state quarantines.

For USDA's hefty job of tracking plant internet sales, there are only two full time staff nationally. For the WSDA there are only 10 Environmental Specialists statewide who inspect growers and shippers to ensure plants exported from Washington are free of quarantine pests and plant diseases. WSDA also inspects Washington retail and production nurseries, enforcing 24 plant pest quarantines. Currently, there are over 5,000 licensed nurseries in Washington.

Because the WSDA is only able to inspect an average of 700 out of the 5,000 nurseries a year, they target 100 percent of the out of state shippers, 50 percent of wholesale or retail, 10 percent of retail outlets, and 1 of each chain stores in each territory. When performing inspections WSDA finds violations such as no nursery license, plant pest infestations, lack of notification of material coming into the state, violations of plant disease quarantines, and prohibited plants for sale.

Ms. Cooper also noted that the 10 Environmental Specialists not only track nurseries, but they are also expected to inspect industries such as logging, lumber, hay, and cut forest greens.

Ms. Cooper explained that current staffing is not sufficient to adequately address online sales. WSDA is seeking Plant Protection Act funding to hire one additional fulltime inspector who would be dedicated to directly communicating with hundreds of domestic internet sites offering plants or seeds for sale.

This dedicated inspector would identify potential quarantine violations, provide outreach to shippers, nurseries, and website hosts, have plant inspectors notify the WSDA area inspector of plant quarantine violations, summarize and report findings weekly, and publish outreach materials to educate the public on online plant quarantine violations.

In closing, Ms. Cooper explained that WSDA was able to run a 2020 pilot program concerning online sales of blueberry plants and created an online database of quarantine enforcements. Concerning the blueberries, 12 online sellers were contacted

with 9 of the sites responding to the inquiries, communicating that they would begin to comply with the quarantine requirements. Ms. Cooper expressed how outreach was important in this situation, as many sellers aren't aware of quarantine requirements.

After Ms. Cooper finished her briefing, Member Burke inquired whether WSDA should have a further partnership with Amazon to educate sellers on plant quarantines.

Following, Member Seaman asked if WSDA had a resource to seek out information on plant disease and pest concerns when a member of the public purchases' plants online.

Ms. Cooper relayed that a resource does exist on [WSDA's website](#) and that someone can be reach over the phone as (360) 902-1874. Member Seaman asked if a link to this WSDA website page could be added to the WISC website.

Item 3: Pollinator Health Task Force and Recommendations

Katie Buckley, WSDA, briefed WISC on the Pollinator Health Task Force (PHTF) and their recommendations. Opening, Dr. Buckley detailed that the PHTF work had begun in December of 2019 and would be complete in November of 2020. As an overview, Ms. Buckley explained that she would discuss what the PHTF is and how they intersect with invasive species.

In 2016, the federal government had a Pollinator Task Force which required states to create a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan. Out of that request, Washington state create an 11-page protection plan in 2018 that laid out the challenge's pollinators face, the programs that assist pollinators, and Best Management Practices for growers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators. Building upon the plan, the Legislature introduced and passed SSB 5552, which created the WSDA Pollinator Program, the PHTF, and established pollinators as one of the priorities for all state land managing agencies.

Dr. Buckley explained that the first PHTF meeting was held on December 9, 2019. This group was made up of a wide array of stakeholders, including state agencies, pesticide applicators and producers, conservation groups, agricultural producers, tribes, managed pollinator representatives, and other members of the public. The PHTF was split into 5 subcommittees: habitat, pesticides, education, managed pollinators, and research- who created recommendations that the entire task force would refine and vote on.

Dr. Buckley explained that the first priority in the PHTF recommendations was habitat. In relation to invasive species and habitat, she detailed that the PHTF would be recommending the funding of HB 2478-2015-16 which would produce methods for replacing invasive plant species with native or non-native/non-invasive flowering plants.

To support this work, there was a recommendation to create an ongoing small grants program and to encourage landowners to manage rangeland to support pollinators.

The second set of recommendations targeted pesticides. In relation to invasive species, the PHTF recommended the strengthening of invasive species prevention and control efforts, the addition of the WSDA Pollinator Health Coordinator to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Pollinator Committee, and to increase research into effective pollinator-friendly pest management strategies for Washington crops and bee keeping.

The third set of recommendations targeted education. In relation to invasive species, there was a need for education and development of county-based partnership panels around land management in respect to pollinator health that would educate the public on best native plants for our native pollinators and the removal of undesirable plants.

The fourth set of recommendations concerned pollinator management by restricting non-native bumble bee commercial use, the review of policies on state lands to protect native pollinators and to improve transparency for state land areas which may permit managed European honey bees, and the creation of registered yard locations and establishment of a WSDA apiary inspector position.

The final set of recommendations concerned research and understanding interspecies disease spread.

When opened to discussion, Mr. Bush noted that the recommendations document had been provided to WISC staff for review. Mr. Bush asked WISC if they would like to review and provide comments. Dr. Buckley relayed that comments would need to be provided before the end of October. Chair Willard recommended that Mr. Bush complete the review process on behalf of WISC.

Item 4: Upper Columbia United Tribes Northern Pike Resolution

Vice Chair Joe Maroney, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, briefed the council on the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) Northern Pike resolution.

Vice Chair Maroney explained that a tribal resolution is a formal document in which a policy is presented so that it may be discussed and integrated into policy and tribal law. In this instance, the UCUT developed a policy related to Northern Pike that expresses consensus position amongst the member Tribes.

Vice Chair Maroney provided a brief summary of the resolution, detailing that the UCUT classifies Northern Pike as aquatic invasive non-native inhibited species. The establishment of the species in the Columbia Basin threatens fish and wildlife resources

important to UCUT member Tribes. The establishment and expansion are due to the exacerbation of hydropower operations within the Columbia basin. UCUT member Tribes are implementing measures to decrease the Northern Pike Population.

Vice Chair Maroney explained that the resolution had been sent to a wide array of tribes, organizations, and agencies in order to gain letters of support. To date, UCUT had received letters from the Upper Snake River Tribes, letters from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Invasive Species Council, Idaho Invasive Species Council, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Chelan Public Utility District and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

On October 6, one of the UCUT member Tribes plans to present a similar resolution at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

Chair Willard asked if WISC should provide a letter of support, to which Member Maroney expressed that support from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) would be helpful. In further discussion, Mr. Bush expressed that he would be willing to contact GSRO and investigate a briefing to the SRFB. While support was portrayed, there was no decision made concerning a letter of support.

Item 5: Ten Minute Break- WISC took a break from 11:11AM-11:25AM

Item 6: Fall 2020 Statewide Invasive Species Workshop

Chair Willard and **Justin Bush** discussed the November 4-6, 2020 statewide Invasive Species Workshop. Chair Willard explained that this workshop was a collaboration between WISC and the Washington Vegetation Management Association (WVMA). The WVMA had almost cancelled the 70th annual Weed Conference due to COVID-19, but by partnering, the WISC and WVMA persevered. The workshop was to become a free virtual event for up to 1,500 people. Historically, the conference focused on noxious weeds and invasive plants, but would be expanded to include invasive species such as insects. Chair Willard expressed hope that invasive species would be included in the Weed Conference in the future.

Mr. Bush communicated that WISC had been moving toward hosting a statewide event for years after carrying out multiple highly successful regional events including the Columbia River Gorge, Pullman/Moscow, and Bellingham/Lower British Columbia events. This statewide event would be a great opportunity to train weed and vegetation managers how to detect invasive species.

Item 7: Asian Giant Hornet Citizen Science Trapping

Cassie Cichorz, WSDA, briefed the council on Asian Giant Hornet (AGH) citizen science trapping. Ms. Cichorz began a brief history on the discovery of the AGH in Washington. She explained that after the initial detection, WSDA drafted a communications plan that guided efforts to engage the public. The communications plan goals included determining the extent of AGH establishment, detecting populations, and eradicating AGH from Washington. The communications team put out several key messages, including the threat the AGH has to agriculture, honeybees, and human health. To promote the key messages, the plan included strategies, actions and stakeholders.

Following the communications plan development, WSDA's AGH communications team began public education. To do so, WSDA established an AGH Watch Facebook group, an AGH webpage on WSDA's website, and an email distribution list.

Ms. Cichorz explained that this education and public engagement had been successful, as there had been 9 confirmed AGH sightings made by the public.

Ms. Cichorz then highlighted two articles written by the New York Times concerning AGH. The first article was published in December of 2019 and titled "Asian Giant Hornet Threatens Honeybees in the Pacific Northwest". As a follow up to the article, the New York Times teamed up with WSDA in setting up experimental traps and wrote an article titled "Murder Hornets in the US: The rush to stop the Asian Giant Hornet" which was released May 2, 2020. Because of the term "murder hornet", this put AGH in a national and international spotlight. Ms. Cichorz explained that before the "Murder Hornet" publication, WSDA's website only had 240 views. The day of publication, the website had 4,300 views and the following day the website had over 25,000 views. This number continued to rise over the next few weeks.

Continuing with statistics, Ms. Cichorz noted that WSDA's Facebook typically had only 200,000 views per month, but this increased to over 1.2 million views following the month of May. WSDA had also received over 150 media contacts within the month of May.

Since that time, WSDA also continued the public's education by hosting webinars such as a recent webinar in partnership with Washington State University (WSU) and the Washington State Beekeeper's Association, which reached over 84,000 people.

Continuing outreach, Ms. Cichorz detailed that WSDA had sent out targeted postcards to nearby residences where the AGH had been seen, created a public health chart that explained what to do if stung, created a publication on size comparison of other similar looking species, and utilized public radio to ask people to continue reporting AGH.

There were also fact sheets created for different communities, such as farmers, gardeners, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, and outdoor workers. An education billboard had also been created and displayed on I5 North and South to encourage report sightings of AGH. One final communication effort was a social media campaign using the hashtag ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet.

Concerning trapping, Ms. Cichorz explained that WSDA was encouraging the public to participate in the AGH citizen scientist bottle trapping program that was occurring between July 1- October 31 of 2020, with over 1, 150 traps being set. During this program, the public was asked to collect their own material (bottles, orange juice, rice wine, and a hanging device) and to survey the traps weekly. WSDA also had 40 cooperators, who had set up 325 bottle traps.

If collections of AGH were found, WSDA had 9 different locations set up for people to drop off these collections. WSDA wanted these collections to monitor if any bees were being caught and to create a survey of all the Vespidae species in the area.

Closing her briefing, Ms. Cichorz encouraged WISC and the audience to report sightings and shared information about a new phone hotline being created for beekeepers if honeybee hives are attacked, or citizens that had captured a live hornet.

When opened to questions, Member Fyall asked if WSDA was collaborating with British Columbia. Ms. Cichorz expressed that meetings with British Columbia were occurring, but she did not know the details. Addressing Ms. Cichorz, Vice Chair Reeves asked if sighting reports had continued after July and if any AGH had been collected. Ms. Cichorz reiterated that citizens had discovered a total of nine sightings.

Vice Chair Reeves also asked if WSDA was concerned about honeybee trapping occurring with the bottle traps, to which Ms. Cichorz responded that the rice wine bait used in the traps are a deterrent to honeybees.

Item 8: Asian Giant Hornet Response Update

Sven-Erik Spichiger, WSDA, introduced himself and addressed the response update on AGH.

Mr. Spichiger began with a brief history on AGH detailing when it was reported, when the species was confirmed, the species of hornet, its origin, how it looks, the size of the hornet, the habitat it prefers, the threat it has to humans, its life cycle and the threat it has to honeybees. Greater detail on AGH can be found in WISC's [March 2020 meeting minutes](#).

Moving forward, Mr. Spichiger explained the 2020 response plan for AGH. This included conducting surveys around the 2019 detection sites, implementing the outreach and communications plan, trapping and tracking live specimen, eradicating located nests, and researching new detection and eradication methods.

Mr. Spichiger also noted that financial support was provided by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine and Washington State. In addition to WSDA traps there had been trapping assistance provided by many cooperating agencies, non-profit groups, citizen scientists, and industry organizations. Technical support has been provided by the USDA, WSU, University of Washington and many others.

Of 2,135 total traps, Mr. Spichiger explained that 615 had been set by WSDA, 325 were set by cooperating organizations, and 1,195 were set by citizen scientists. When one of these traps caught an AGH, WSDA then deploys a delineation grid.

Moving forward, Mr. Spichiger addressed the live trapping and tracking. He explained that WSDA would be live-trapping hornets, attaching Bluetooth tags to the hornets, and tracking the hornets back to its nest using cell phones with external antennas. Once the general location of the nest is detected, a thermal imaging camera would be utilized to discover the exact location. Once a nest was found, a crew wearing protective equipment would use vacuum extraction followed by carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Of the nine sightings between 2019 and 2020, three of the AHG had been live specimens. Because many of the sightings had been near the Birch Bay area, additional traps and public education have been deployed. Part of this public education included tips for working safely near AGH. This included being alert if you are performing fieldwork in an area with detection. If a nest is encountered, one should calmly leave the areas and report the detection. Mr. Spichiger also expressed that people should stay on managed paths and trails and avoid walking in the woods. The final tip was to avoid wearing strong fragrances or perfumes, as these can attract hornets.

In closing, he encouraged people to report sightings, noting the address, latitude and longitudes. He also expressed the importance of including the date and time, contact information of property owners, photographs, and the direction that the hornet flies if it escapes alive.

Item 9: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Request

Member Allen Pleus, WDFW, provided a summary of WDFW's agency-request funding for the 2021-2023 biennium with focus on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit. He noted that this is preliminary information only, as the budget request is under review by the Governor's Office and requires approval.

WDFW would be requesting a \$17 million enhancement. From that enhancement, Mr. Pleus noted that \$2.82 million would go toward the AIS Unit.

The intent of this request amount is to continue with status quo work and not to expand the department. This funding would target zebra/quagga mussel early detection monitoring, watercraft inspection pathways, European green crab management, and Northern Pike management.

Mr. Pleus communicated that this funding is a follow-up to 2020 supplemental funding actions. WDFW had requested and received supplemental funding for European green crab management, but the governor vetoed supplemental funding for watercraft inspections, and reduced funding for Northern Pike management due to COVID-19 revenue shortfalls.

Mr. Pleus went on to express that the AIS program does not have the base financial resources to effectively prevent or manage aquatic invasive species or the ability to implement the broad authorities provided by the state legislature under RCW 77.135. He also expressed concern over the decline of recreational watercraft registration fees and the lack of funding coming from the aquatic invasive species prevention permit revenues.

From a 2017 funding advisory report, the AIS program estimated that \$10.4 million would be needed per biennium to fully fund the program. Mr. Pleus detailed that \$3.7 million would be devoted to prevention, \$2.5 million toward enforcement, \$2.2 million to ballast water enforcement, and \$2 million for local management grants.

Because the AIS Unit cannot request that amount of funding in the current economic climate, the unit will only address priority invasive species and react quickly to new invasive species detections. The AIS Unit will also leverage base resources to build cooperative, collaborative, and co-management alliances that expand resources and offer opportunities to have ownership in outcomes.

Member Pleus noted that while integrated management may benefit all agencies, there are disproportionate costs to Native American Tribes, rural communities, small businesses, and lower income citizens.

Before moving onto a brief update on European green crab (EGC), Member Pleus asked if WISC had any questions.

Mr. Bush noted that WISC supported previously introduced AIS legislation and asked if WISC wanted to express formal support toward this proposed funding. Member Pleus expressed that a letter of support would be requested following the Governor's Office approval.

Concerning EGC, Member Pleus provided detail on the response action areas, which were the Coastal region and the Salish Sea Region. Within the Coastal Region, there is Makah Bay, Grays Harbor, and Willapa Bay. Within the Salish Sea Region, there is the Dungeness Spit, Drayton Harbor, Lummi Bay and Samish Bay. Member Pleus displayed data that compared captures of 2019 and 2020.

In Drayton Harbor, there were 38 captures in 2019 and 203 captures in 2020. In Lummi Bay there were 64 captures in 2019 and 1,500 in 2020. In the Dungeness Spit, there were 53 captures in 2019 and 3 captures in 2020. In the Samish Bay there were 8 captures in 2019 and 95 captures in 2020. In Makah Bay, there were 1,441 captures in 2019 and 1,030 captures in 2020. In Willapa Bay, there were 176 captures in 2019 and 1320 captures in 2020. Finally, in Grays Harbor, there were 150 captures in 2019 and 150 captures in 2020.

Chair Willard thanks Member Pleus for his briefing.

Item 10: Feral Swine Response Update

Terry Smith, USDA, provided a feral swine response update. Opening, Mr. Smith gave a brief background on who the USDA's Wildlife Services are. He explained that the mission of the program is to provide federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife and human conflicts, so both can coexist.

One species that Wildlife Services tackles is feral swine. Mr. Smith detailed that in 2014, congress appropriated \$20 million to USDA-APHIS Wildlife Service to implement a collaborative national feral swine management program in states where there was a recognized feral swine population. The goal of this program was to minimize damage caused by feral swine in order to protect agriculture, livestock, natural resources, property and human health and safety.

Mr. Smith explained that \$42,000 of the \$20 million federal dollars are devoted to feral swine management in Washington. Feral swine in Washington are typically escaped domesticated pigs that revert to feral tendencies versus European wild boar.

In 1982, there were 17 states that had feral swine, but this number had quickly jumped to 35 in 2017. These populations and distribution of the species have expanded due to intentional translocations, escapes from fenced farming and hunting operations, breeding with free-ranging domestic pigs, and prolific breeding behavior at a young age.

Feral swine can easily destroy an area that they have established. Feral swine damage may impact riparian habitat, historical sites, agricultural land, someone's front yard, and many other landscapes.

Mr. Smith detailed several state regulations concerning feral swine. This includes WAC 16-54-101, WAC 16-54-065, WAC 16-54-111, WAC 232-12-017, and WAC 16-80-060.

While Wildlife services can tackle this issue, public education and outreach plays a large role. After raising awareness to feral swine, reporting is essential. Mr. Smith noted that there were several avenues for feral swine reporting. This includes calling the feral swine hotline, WISC's phone application or the WISC's website.

Following, Mr. Smith displayed a map of the number of reports and removals from the years 2014-2019. He noted that these reports are not a reflection of the number of pigs in Washington, but a reflection of the public's awareness of feral swine and how to report.

While many of the responses to feral swine reporting are not actionable, Mr. Smith detailed that for those that are actionable, the population will be eliminated. Often after population elimination, genetic material would be collected and inputted into the Feral Swine Genetic Archive. By tracking the genetic information, you can tell if it was a new population that had not been eradicated or an old population that had not fully been eradicated.

Item 11: Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan Update

Justin Bush updated WISC on the Interagency Feral Swine Response plan. Opening, Mr. Bush thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and expressed that without the work of Wildlife Services, it is likely that there would still be a population of feral swine established in Washington State.

Moving forward, Mr. Bush noted that a feral swine interagency plan did not exist prior to 2015. This plan was created through the collaboration of USDA, WISC, WSDA, and

WDFW. An updated plan has now been produced and Mr. Bush expressed that there may be an annual update from here on out.

Motion: Approval of Washington State Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan Update

Moved by: Member Thorpe

Seconded by: Member Reeves

Decision: **Approved**

Item 12: Tribal and Municipal Response Capacities and Capabilities Survey

Justin Bush and **Todd Murray**, Washington State University (WSU), briefed the council on an initiative to survey Tribes and Municipalities statewide to gauge invasive species response capacity and capabilities. The initiative was conceived following the 2019 Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Rapid Response Exercise and the Urban Forest Pest Readiness playbook. Through both of those projects, Mr. Bush expressed that WISC had interacted with several partners that they had not previously collaborated with. Through these interactions, it gave WISC ideas of new activities that could be implemented into WISC's work. Building upon the information collected informally, a formal survey will provide additional ideas and activities for the future. .

To collect the information, the council contracted with WSU to assist the survey process. Mr. Murray explained that WSU Extension had partnered with the WSU Division of Governmental Studies and Services to develop the survey. Currently, the survey goals and objectives have been defined by the initial survey advisory team and the draft questions are being finalized.

Once the survey is finalized, Mr. Murray relayed that it would be send out to the two target audiences; tribes and municipalities. After receiving the survey responses, WSU and WISC will analyze the results to summarize them for stakeholder workshops. The results and findings will then be integrated into the short and long-term work plan for the council.

Item 13: Ten Minute Break 1:20PM-1:30PM

Item 14: Invasive Species Curriculum Teacher Workshops

Alexis Haifley, WISC Community Outreach and Educational Specialist, gave a briefing on teacher workshops and educational materials. Giving background information, Ms. Haifley explained that through feedback from stakeholders there was an identified need to create educational material for school age children concerning invasive species, so

WISC applied for Farm Bill Section 10007 funding during Fiscal Year 2018. Brianna Widner, previous WISC staff, and the Pacific Education Institute then used the appropriated funding to create a middle school curriculum that would meet Next Generation Science Standards. Once developed, the project was shifted toward education workshops for the pilot program.

Ms. Haifley then explained that the teacher curriculum was made up of 6 different lessons: What is an invasive species, bioblitz game, be a first detector, map the invasion, presenting the worst invasive, and time to act. To teach the lesson, there is a breakdown that includes an introduction, materials needed, preparation detail, the goals and objectives, procedures, activities and timeframes, and the Next Generation Science Standards.

In 2019, the first teacher workshops were held, and continued into 2020 through an online platform. Because of cost savings through virtual webinars, additional workshops were added in 2020.

Ms. Haifley then highlighted two comments from the feedback received from educators that had participated in the workshops. One expressed that they “used to think appropriate hands-on science would be hard in distance learning. Now [they] think it can be easily done and enjoyable with minimal resources”.

Overall, there was positive feedback following the workshops and most educators who attended intended on conducting the invasive species lessons with their students. For those that were unlikely to use the materials, Ms. Haifley explained that these educators did not fall into a science category and therefore could not easily implement it into their lesson plans.

Closing, Ms. Haifley explained that additional workshops would also be held in 2022.

Item 15: Council Reauthorization

Opening, **Justin Bush** noted that WISC is set to expire in June of 2022, but the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has submitted a request to extend the council to June 30, 2032, which is a ten-year reauthorization versus the historical 5-year reauthorization. The RCO has submitted this request to the Office of Financial Management for the Governor Office’s approval.

This request for 10-year authorization gained approximately 35 letters of support from different agencies and organizations.

While the 10-year reauthorization is specifically listed in WISC’s work plan, Mr. Bush addressed Chair Willard to see if WISC would like to make further recognition of their

approval during this meeting. Chair Willard expressed that a formal recognition would be welcomed.

Motion: Approval of WISC Executive Coordinator, Justin Bush, acting on behalf of WISC to support the reauthorization bill as necessary going forward and stated within the 35 letters of support.

Moved by: Member Reeves

Seconded by: Member Pleus

Decision: **Approved**

Member Pleus and Member Maroney suggested that Mr. Bush create a memorandum or formal letter recognizing this decision.

Item 16: Change in Leadership Discussion

Chair Willard expressed that he would be stepping down as Chair., with Vice Chair Reeves and Vice Chair Maroney being the next possible chairs. If anyone else was interested in the position, Chair Willard encouraged them to step forward.

Vice Chair Reeves nominated Member Maroney to step in as the next chair as he has served on the council for a number of years and brings a unique tribal perspective into the role.

Motion: Approval of Member Joe Maroney becoming the next Chair of WISC beginning in December of 2020

Moved by: Member Reeves

Seconded by: Member Seebacher

Decision: **Approved**

Vice Chair Maroney thanked everyone for their approval and the opportunity.

Item 17: 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Update

Justin Bush gave an update on the council's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

To begin, Mr. Bush reminded the council of their 2015-2020 Strategic Plan that is coming to an end in December. In that Strategic Plan, there are 5 different areas of work: Leadership and Coordination, Prevention, Education and Outreach, Early Detection and Rapid Response, and Containment, Control and Eradication.

Concerning the next Strategic Plan, Mr. Bush displayed an outline. He communicated that in December 2019 there had been a strategic plan work session during the WISC meeting. During that work session, WISC came up with new areas of work and how the

areas of work were rated. At the March 2020 WISC meeting, there was another work session that led to workgroups in April/May 2020. During the work sessions and workgroup meetings, there was discussion surrounding climate change and including the topic as a stand-alone area of work. Mr. Bush explained that climate change would not be its own section, but rather an aspect that is integrated into each area of work within the Strategic Plan.

In June/July of 2020 there was a compilation of feedback and a 50 percent draft by WISC staff. As of now, there has been an 80 percent draft created.

Within the newest draft, the "Areas of Work" has now been deemed "Key Strategic Area". The Key Strategic Areas are now Leadership and Coordination, Innovation and Research, Prevention, Education and Outreach, Early Detection and Rapid Response, and Containment, Control, and Eradication.

Mr. Bush also detailed that the structure of the document had been changed to address questions and concerns that were identified during the previous strategy. The new format is intended to more clearly identify exactly what the council will be doing, versus what the council is recommending or calling for at the local, state, regional, or national scales. The structure is also designed to be visually expressive and less text-heavy with the inclusion of photos that illustrate the various activities that are captured in the plan.

Closing, Mr. Bush informed the council that they would be requested to review and comment on the 80 percent complete draft shortly after the meeting. Following those revisions and review by the RCO communications team, public notice and invitation for comments will be send out in November of 2020. In December of 2020, the final draft will be adopted by WISC and later launched with a news release following.

Member Seaman suggested that the council dedicate a significant amount of the December 2020 meeting agenda to this topic to ensure that approval could be reached. Furthermore, Member Seaman explained that the strategy should be available when the Legislative Session begins in January 2021 as an informational tool.

Item 18: Future Meeting Planning and Closing Remarks

Chair Willard encouraged WISC to provide topics for the next WISC meeting. Through discussion, the following topics arose: WISC's Strategic Plan, Department of Transportation's new national work group, a new United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) invasive species and climate change network, and update to European Green Crab, and an update on the flowering rush surveys.

Closing, Member DeHaan, USFWS, expressed that he would be leaving his position in Washington State and the WISC for a new position along the Great Lakes involving invasive Asian Carp and fish genetics.

Public comment: no public comment at the time.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM

The next meeting will be December 10, 2020 on Zoom.



Ray Willard, Chair

December 10, 2020
