

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2021

Online--Zoom

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Joe Maroney, Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Blain Reeves, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Kendall Farley	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Steve Burke	King County
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brad White	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard	Washington Department of Transportation
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Andrea Thorpe	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Robert Compton	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

Guests:

Cassie Cichorz	Washington Department of Agriculture
Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington Department of Agriculture
Rachel Gregg	EcoAdapt
Paul Heimowitz	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Erik Anderson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cindy Cooper	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Ryan Lothrop	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Megan Duffy	Director
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 Joe Maroney welcome attendees and members to the meeting. Following, **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, covered webinar ground rules and called roll, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of June Agenda

Moved by: Member Reeves

Seconded by: Member Thorpe

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Willard

Seconded by: Member Burke

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Introduction to Recreation and Conservation Office Director Megan Duffy

Chair Maroney introduced the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) new director, **Megan Duffy**. Director Duffy provided her career background, taking note that she had experience in law and had also previously worked for RCO. She explained that the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC/Council) is valuable to the state as they do phenomenal work. **Vice Chair Reeves** relayed RCO was lucky to have Director Duffy, who advocates well for state programs. Other members including **Members Farley, Thorpe, and Bautista** welcomed Director Duffy to her new position.

Item 2: Japanese Beetle Situation and Response Overview

Cassie Cichorz and **Sven-Erik Spichiger**, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), provided a briefing on Japanese beetle. Ms. Cichorz provided what the pest can do, how Washington has dealt with it historically, and what will happen if the beetle becomes established in central Washington.

The Japanese beetle is a scarab beetle native to Japan and feeds on over 300 types of plants. It was first detected in the U.S. in 1916 and is established in nearly half of our states.

Providing the beetles lifecycle, Ms. Cichorz explained that in the Spring, grubs awaken from winter and begin feeding on grass roots, later changing into pupae. In the summer, the pupae become adult beetles and emerge to feed on garden foliage and flowers. Soon after, they will lay eggs in the grass. In the Fall, these eggs will hatch, and the cycle will continue.

Because there is concern of the threat of Japanese beetles being established in Washington, WSDA looked at the 2016 Oregon Department of Agriculture's economic risk analysis, which estimated an annual \$45.5 million impact due to the species.

To keep this pest at bay, there are federal regulations that require prevention for moving the beetle. Thus far, the beetles have been detected in Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and most recently, Yakima County.

In response to Yakima county's detection, Ms. Cichorz explained that WSDA continued surveying the area, performed outreach, and created a plan. To fund the response, WSDA submitted an emergency budget request the State Legislature.

In response to the first detector outreach during Invasive Species Awareness week, there was a submission of photos of additional beetles in Grandview. To continue outreach, WSDA created a Facebook group, online reporting form, pest alerts, educational webinars, poster, cards, and yard signs.

Ms. Cichorz explained the emergency funding will be used to hire three additional trappers and a pest biologist who will help deploy an additional 300 traps around nurseries within Yakima and Benton counties. If this population becomes established, Ms. Cichorz explained that it could affect nurseries and the public. Nurseries may be required to have phytosanitary certificates, only grow outside of summer, grow inside of screens, screen all transport vehicles, and limit export. The public may have to treat lawns, put up traps, and comply with new yard debris requirements.

Closing, Ms. Cichorz provided several pathways to report suspected sightings:

- agr.wa.gov/beetles
- PestProgram@agr.wa.gov
- 1-800-443-6684

When opened to questions, **Member Ian Sinks** asked if detections are found mostly due to WSDA's trapping program? Ms. Cichorz expressed that historically that had been

the case, but outreach is encouraging the public to submit suspected detections. **Chair Maroney** asked if WISC could assist WSDA in any capacity. Mr. Spichiger asked that the council help spread the word about hiring for new positions.

Item 3: Washington Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Overview and New Initiatives

Vice Chair Blain Reeves, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Aquatics Invasive Species (AIS) Program, provided an overview of the DNR's invasive species program.

Covering the operating budget for the program, Vice Chair Reeves noted that \$1 million was allocated. While DNR can do some work with this funding, they also partner with state and county noxious weed boards, Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) planning groups, county marine resources committees, tribes, state government, federal government, landowners, Puget Sound Corps and EarthCorps.

One new initiative DNR will carry out lies within the realm of salmon recovery. DNR will be working with Puget Sound Corps, Snohomish County, and two weed boards to remove marine debris, derelict vessels, and monitoring eel grass and kelp.

Looking back on the last biennium, Vice Chair Reeves mentioned DNR has been tackling several species of noxious weeds including *Spartina*, flowering rush, knotweed, yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, policeman's helmet, Brazilian elodea, Eurasian watermilfoil, fragrant waterlily, European dune grass, phragmites, floating yellow heart, and perennial pepper weed.

While they are not required to deal with animals, DNR AIS is concerned with European green crab and burrowing shrimp and associated impact to aquatic lands.

Closing, Vice Chair Reeves highlighted AIS staff, Todd Palzer, Todd Brownlee, John Geist, and Micki McNaughton for their great work.

When opened to discussion, **Member Bautista** wanted to know DNR's connection to state forest weed control. Vice Chair Reeves noted this has been a challenge for DNR, as there are no identified upland invasive species coordinators. **Member Anderson** asked about knotweed, as he has been working with the Snohomish Weed Board to coordinate efforts against knotweeds for private and tribal lands. Member Anderson wanted to know how and whom to approach to coordinate treatment efforts. Vice Chair Reeves suggested reaching out to DNR AIS staff.

Item 4: Executive Coordinator's Report

Justin Bush, WISC Executive Coordinator, provided a briefing on WISC's activities in the past quarter.

One notable event was that the council had been reauthorized for 10 years with Senate Bill (SB) 5063.

Moving into events, Mr. Bush highlighted the March 31-April 1, 2021 Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System Summit. This summit highlighted new features and best practices for the system, which is run by the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

Alexis Haifley, WISC Outreach and Education Specialist, provided a video presentation that highlighted WISC's ability to connect many different organizations associated with invasive species titled "Washington's Interagency First Detector Collaboration: From Asian giant hornet to Zebra mussels".

Moving into meetings, Mr. Bush highlighted the March 12 Washington Nursery Advisory Committee meeting, the March 15 Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Department of Fish and Wildlife Online (WDFW) Quarantine Enforcement meeting, and the April 28 Quarantine Compliance Certificate Discussion on Marimo moss balls. These meetings shared information and resources between agencies to address the online tracking and quarantine enforcement process that has been developed by the WSDA. These processes will be applied toward the zebra mussel-infested Marimo moss balls through a state quarantine.

He also highlighted the May 21 Transboundary Feral Swine Work Group meeting and the June 1 National Feral Swine Damage Management Program meetings. Through Mr. Bush's work on the Western Invasive Species Council, there was a year-long project to produce findings and recommendations focusing on the Canadian border on preventing the movement of feral swine into the US and vice-versa. The council's "Squeal on Pigs" campaign is a focal point.

Next, Mr. Bush discussed the single news release of the past quarter. This news release educated the public on how to properly dispose of the zebra mussel infested Marimo moss balls, which can be tied to the "Don't Let It Loose" campaign.

Following, Mr. Bush covered WISC social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. From March-June there was an 18 percent increase in 'likes' and a reach of 61,682 people through Facebook, a 26 percent increase in followers on Instagram and 102,800 impressions made on Twitter.

Addressing sighting reports, Mr. Bush explained there were 144 reports versus the previous quarter when there were only 52 total reports.

Closing, Mr. Bush reminded the council that the Aquatic Invasive Species Courses and Workshops survey is due by July 2. Using response information, the council will plan and hold four formal courses or informal workshops.

When opened to discussion, **Chair Maroney** encouraged WISC members to complete the survey as it could be useful.

BREAK: 11-11:10A.M.

Item 5: Pacific Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network Survey Results and Discussion

Paul Heimowitz, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, and **Rachel Gregg**, EcoAdapt, provided a briefing on the results of the Pacific Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network (NW RISCC).

Mr. Heimowitz explained the goal of the NW RISCC is to establish a community of practice to help practitioners integrate climate change science and adaptation with regional invasive species management activities (e.g. prevention, early detection, control, monitoring, research).

Moving forward, Ms. Gregg reminded WISC that the goals of the survey were to:

- Identify the degree to which practitioners are considering the nexus of climate change and invasive species; and
- Emerging practices and policies that may address the dual goals of reducing climate related vulnerabilities and invasive species management efforts; and
- Needs, opportunities, and limitations faced by practitioners in the region.

From the survey, there were over 300 respondents including local, state, federal, or provincial government agencies that work in project or program management or on the groundwork.

Addressing management priorities, Ms. Gregg noted that the most common were:

- Biodiversity
- Rare species and habitats
- Habitat connectivity
- Freshwater resources
- Endangered species

Next, Ms. Gregg presented the results of several questions:

1. How much time are people spending managing invasive species and what are their success rates?
 - a. Most respondents spend more time addressing existing invasives and 49 percent of them believed they are currently holding ground against invasives.
2. What is the level of concern about the effect of climate change on invasive species management?
 - a. Most respondents indicated they are very to somewhat concerned about the effects and that most have been integrating climate resilience into their practices.
3. What do you prioritize for the nexus between invasives and climate change?
 - a. Respondents' highest priority was native community resilience and environmental degradation, while the lowest priorities were sleeper species and biocontrol efficacy.
4. Which species are going to be a priority currently and within the next 10-20 years?
 - a. Respondents' listed zebra mussels, eelgrass, bird cherry, ravenegrass, spurge flax, snakehead fish, mitten crab, Argentine ant, zooplankton, and the Asian clam.

When examining limiting factors on managing invasive species and incorporating climate change into invasive species management, respondent's noted issues with staff capacity, funding, technical expertise, and availability of data to name a few.

Ms. Gregg noted that information and resources most of the participants rely on are best practices, lessons learned, and knowledge from peers. People would also desire to get information from case studies, targeted guidance on integrated climate change and invasive species management, workshops/webinars, and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange.

Closing the briefing, Ms. Gregg reported that there is a survey report available and that there will be a NW RISCC Symposium from September 15-16, 2021.

When discussing the topic, **Member Seaman** noted he was pleasantly surprised by the survey and the group efforts of the NW RISCC. **Member Burke** thought the forum was helpful in targeting invasive species and climate change. **Member Willard** was wondering about modeling done in the past and how projected temperature and sea

level rise will affect the eco region maps. Ms. Gregg relayed that that is a goal of EcoAdapt and they are examining different studies that have already been done.

Chair Maroney said that anyone else who wanted to participate in the work group for the symposium should reach out to Ms. Gregg.

Item 6: 2021-2023 Department of Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Invasive Species Funding and New Initiatives

Members Allen Pleus and Captain Eric Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided a briefing on the 2021-2023 legislative session. In terms of funding, Mr. Pleus explained there was an appropriation of \$6 million for the Aquatic Invasive Species Unit. The budget will focus on zebra mussels, European green crab, watercraft inspection, and Northern pike. Mr. Pleus also noted that in the long term, WDFW's AIS Unit intends to carry out RCW 77.135.030, which prompts the department to create a classification and reclassification process.

Moving forward, Mr. Anderson explained the new funding being put toward the watercraft inspection unit has led to a better operating level, as there are three inspection stations in Washington versus two. Mr. Anderson noted the Spokane location will be operating 24 hours and the Pasco location will be running from dusk until dawn this summer. The funding also made the core crew permanent.

Mr. Anderson also mentioned that this year alone, there have been 14,565 inspections and of those, 18 had mussel detections. Mr. Anderson also announced that as of June 4th, the Cle Elum station became permanent.

During council discussion, **Chair Maroney** suggested the watercraft inspection track their use of funding and the results of the program to continue with this level of funding. **Cindy Cooper**, WSDA, asked if a tour for WSDA staff could happen for the watercraft inspection stations. Member Anderson was happy to oblige.

LUNCH 12:00 P.M.-12:40 P.M.

Item 7: Washington State Department of Agriculture On-line Quarantine Enforcement Results and Future

Guest speaker **Cindy Cooper**, WSDA, provided a briefing on the online quarantine results and future intentions.

Ms. Cooper began by noting that during the pandemic of 2020, online plant and nursery sales increased by over 50 percent, causing the need for enforcement to increase to avoid the introduction of new pests and plant diseases into Washington.

To improve the inspection process at vulnerable points, Ms. Cooper explained that WSDA received grant funding from the Plant Protection Act 7721. To start this, there was a pilot project created for online compliance where one person was hired to target online sellers. The goals of the program are to:

- Decrease the potential for harmful pest introductions
- Increase compliance and awareness of state plant health regulation through targeted communication and education
- Maximize effectiveness of online domestic quarantine enforcement by sharing WSDA findings with other state departments of agriculture

Ms. Cooper highlighted several insects and plant diseases that can be introduced to Washington through plants. Among other insects and diseases, there was the Japanese beetle, scarlet lily beetle, sudden oak death, and day lily rust. While there may not be Washington Administrative Codes' (WAC) for all plant diseases and pest, there are several WAC's that WSDA is enforcing through the plant quarantine, such as WAC 16-472, 16-470, 16-752, and 16-482. Each week, the quarantine specialist will choose one WAC to focus on and tackle online. Ms. Cooper mentioned the most difficult part of the quarantine process is locating where plants are being imported from, as plants can be sold through a brokerage process where there are two or three different owners.

To further improve the online quarantine process, WSDA implemented a new social media policy allowing them to create accounts on platforms like Etsy and eBay. This makes compliance much easier on both WSDA and the seller, as they don't get punished by the site admin for violation and, typically, vendors are much more willing to comply this way. Out of the 45 Etsy vendors directly contacted, Ms. Cooper said there were 36 sites updated to comply with WAC's.

When running the online pilot program, WSDA discovered a technology company that had created software for plan vendors to comply with state agricultural regulations. It is known as the Plant Sentry Program.

Through grant funding, WSDA has also developed a SharePoint site for internal staff to track all online quarantine enforcement.

In order to sustain the online quarantine efforts, WSDA will be raising their fees for requested services.

When the council entered discussion, **Member Burke** asked if they would take reports from other agencies and follow-up on them. Ms. Cooper said they would be happy to follow-up if they have the authority to regulate those specific issues.

Item 8: Tribal Government Invasive Species Capacity and Capabilities Survey Results and Discussion

Chair Maroney, Kalispel Tribes, and **Justin Bush** provided the results of the Tribal Government Invasive Species Capacity and Capabilities survey.

Providing background information, Mr. Bush explained that this survey was a result of two invasive species events: the Lake Roosevelt invasive mussel response exercise and stakeholder meetings to develop the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook.

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), funding was acquired to formally survey tribal governments and cities. Through partnership with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) tribal contact list, and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), there was the identification of 219 tribal government employees and 29 tribal nations that had a nexus to invasive species.

To engage people in taking the survey, previous RCO Director, Kaleen Cottingham had sent out the initial invitation, followed by Chair Maroney, and then Justin Bush.

In response to the survey, there were 34 tribal government employees that either completed or nearly completed the survey for a response rate of 15.5 percent; 26 of them identified their tribal government affiliation, 15 were from a unique tribal government, and 11 respondents were affiliated with the same tribal government.

From the survey results, it was conclusive that the tribal governments were able to identify at least one invasive species, most of which were plants.

Another question asked how respondents identified their organization:

- Key sectors: 38.2 percent
- Resources: 67.6 percent
- Infrastructure: 17.6 percent

The survey also asked what steps have been taken by the tribes to prevent invasive species. The answer that held the greatest weight (62.1 percent) was following prevention policies and protocol.

The final questions Mr. Bush and Chair Maroney highlighted were if each tribal government had the departmental authority to respond to invasive species, if there was an interdepartmental strategy, if there was enough leadership and community support, and if people were aware of who WISC is and how it can assist.

Moving forward, WISC plans to schedule virtual workshops to review results and gain additional insight, schedule in-person workshops to gather additional information, and to identify key gaps and develop a council action plan in the short and long-term.

During discussion, **Member Burke** asked what federal funds tribes were able to access and if WISC should partner with them to gain more access. Chair Maroney explained partnerships are helpful and that there is limited funding available for tribal governments.

Item 9: Municipal Government Invasive Species Capacity and Capabilities Survey Results and Discussion

Alexis Haifley, WISC Community Outreach and Education Specialist, and **Member Todd Murray**, Washington State University, provided the results for the Municipal Government Invasive Species Capacity and Capabilities survey.

Ms. Haifley informed the council there were 600 individuals that received the survey and 60 people replied.

Covering the results of the survey, Ms. Haifley highlighted several questions and their responses.

Respondents were asked whether their organization had identified invasive species that pose a risk to their community. And, if so, what category/species had been identified. The category that had the greatest rate of identification were invasive plants.

The next question Ms. Haifley displayed was whether respondents' leadership was informed about the risk of invasive species. From that, 38.3 percent replied yes, 21.7 percent replied no, and 40 percent were unsure or did not know.

For those that had replied that their leadership was not informed, or they did not know if they were, the survey asked how WISC could assist. From the results, having fact sheets sent out would be the most helpful, with web links following close behind.

Another question asked whether their organization has specific public messaging used to engage community members in preventing and stopping invasive species. From that question, 78.9 percent of respondents said no.

When respondents were asked if they knew who WISC was, close to 50 percent responded yes.

For those that were familiar with WISC, they were asked how WISC could help build community support, to which respondents preferred training and workshops.

Following this survey, the finalized report will be created, workshops will be scheduled to review the findings, and WISC staff will identify any key gaps.

During discussion, **Vice Chair Reeves** suggested using the emails from some municipalities and sending them regular updates. **Member Burke** believes this is a great untapped resource and using them as a medium for local communication could be effective and important.

Member Bautista asked if there was an organization that municipalities belong to that would make the outreach easier. **Member Murray** said that there is the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties.

Item 10: Nexus of Invasive Species and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work Group Update, and Outreach Demographic Report

Justin Bush, Member Seaman, and Member Thorpe provided a briefing on a report for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion's relation to invasive species.

Opening, Mr. Bush provided background information, explaining there was a commitment to the topic within the 2020-2025 WISC Strategic plan. This commitment led to the creation of a workgroup at the March 2021 meeting, and it included members Seaman, Thorpe, Farley, and WISC staff. Mr. Bush noted that Ms. Haifley was the liaison between the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group and WISC. Her role is to relay what RCO is doing and ensure WISC efforts fit that into the overall actions of the agency.

To assist the workgroup, there are two objectives:

1. Define question to assist with scoping the process and deliverables.
2. Collect demographics information from council website and social media account to better understand council audience and reach.

To begin, the work group developed a demographics report using data from the WISC's social media platforms and website. Mr. Bush said it appears that the greatest reach targets ages 25-44. Mr. Bush also displayed data on the cities that WISC reaches the most, and the gender (male/female) reached the most.

Ultimately, Mr. Bush would like to create a layered map including this data and more to examine where WISC needs to dedicate further outreach and education to and how to do that.

Addressing the council, Mr. Bush asked that they think about the following questions:

- Where is there a diversity, equity, inclusion, social and environmental justice nexus to invasive species, and what does statewide policy level direction and planning look like to you?
- How is your organization or program considering these issues and how is it applying them to its invasive species program?
- If applicable, how is your organization planning to comply with [E2SSB 5141](#)? If not required to comply, is your organization considering complying with the requirement of the act?
- The work of the council is broad and multifaceted, as is this issue which is also wider in scope than the charge of this council. With no sidebars or constraints by reality, if you could choose one outcome of our work on this topic, what would it be?

To respond to the question above, Mr. Bush will create a survey to send to the council.

During discussion, several members had questions, which led Chair Maroney recommending this topic be included on the September agenda with an hour minimum.

Break: 2:04 P.M. -2:06 P.M.

Item 11: Pacific Salmon Commission, Okanogan Work Group, Northern Pike Workshop

Guest speaker, **Ryan Lothrop**, WDFW, provided an overview of the Pacific Salmon Commission, Okanogan Work Group workshop.

Providing background information, Mr. Lothrop mentioned there was Species at Risk classification consideration (Canada version of Endangered Species Act) for Okanogan Chinook salmon due to conservation concerns. To address this, an Okanogan Work Group (OWG) was formed. This group created a workplan and under the work plan they were to develop a report on historical/current escape abundance of Okanogan Chinook, conduct exploitation rate analysis and host workshops with experts to develop recommendation around recovery efforts.

This group would also be providing a summary report to the Pacific Salmon Commission in Fall of 2021 of their efforts.

Through the OWG Northern Pike Workshop, there were key finding and recommendations made concerning impacts, prevention, early detection and monitoring, and response preparedness.

Essentially, the impact of Northern Pike toward the Okanagan Chinook and fisheries would be detrimental, but the workshop assisted in teaching WDFW in what to do to before they arrive and if they do.

Closing, Mr. Lothrop provided his thanks for those that contributed.

Item 12: European Chafer Update and Advanced Master Gardener Diagnostic Training Debriefing

Member Todd Murray, WSU, provided an update on European chafer and two WSU Master Gardner advanced diagnostic trainings.

Mr. Murry provided an overview of European chafer, *Amphimallon majale*, explaining it is brick red to light brown, about 0.5 inches long, and can lay up to 50 eggs. The adults are active from June to July, meaning they can be found swarming around trees in hopes of mating. Following mating, the females deposit eggs in soil. The eggs develop into larvae which feed on grass roots within the first two inches of soil from fall to spring. The larvae will then become pupae beginning in April.

Providing a history of this invasive species, Mr. Murray explained that they were first detected on the West coast in British Columbia in 2001. This concerned Washington and led to light trap surveys in 2002, with the first detection occurring in 2008 in Spokane, Washington. Most recently, there has been an infestation detected in and around SeaTac in 2016.

To discourage the spread of this species, WSU will be promoting healthy drought-tolerant lawns where they will teach the public how to manage lawn mowing, pesticide use, and lawn feeding. To help golf courses and other municipalities, there is light trap research occurring through Oregon State University and WSU.

Moving forward, Mr. Murry provided an overview of training for WSU Master Gardeners. WSU Master Gardeners are key in reporting invasive species. Almost 25 percent of new invasive insect detections have come through the WSU Master Gardener Program and plant clinics.

Through funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, WSU and WISC were able to provide two virtual trainings for WSU Master Gardeners. There were two session in May 2021, and they were trained as first detectors for invasive species.

Following the advanced diagnostic trainings, the participants were asked to participate in a survey to make sure the training provided was adequate for identifying different invasive species.

Member Murray expressed hope to provide this training further than the master gardeners.

Guest speaker Cooper asked if there were recordings of the master gardener trainings. Mr. Murray explained they had recorded them, but some editing may be necessary for a broader audience. Mr. Murry made it known he was a great point of contact.

Item 13: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Justin Bush and Chair Maroney opened a discussion for future meetings.

Council Member Willard expressed interest in hosting a meeting in Walla Walla in September, but ultimately many members were not comfortable meeting in-person at this time.

Moving forward, Chair Maroney requested topics for the next meeting. Topics brought forward included:

- An overview of the Ballast Water Work Group Meeting and outcomes
- European green crab response
- Outreach and education discussion for 2022

In closing, Mr. Bush reminded the council that there was no U.S. Coast Guard member currently.

General Public Comment:

Paul Rudnick, GrowAFrog.com, informed the council that many children have not had the opportunity to see a tadpole change into a frog successfully, as the species he provides are classified as prohibited aquatic invasive species. He disagrees with this assessment and the findings of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Furthermore, he explained he was searching for a mechanism to get the classification changed.

Following comment, **Chair Maroney** clarified that WISC does not have the authority to change classifications.

Member Pleus explained that WDFW has the authority to change the classification of species. The reclassification process has not been developed and has been stalled since 2014, as funds and staff time were very limited.

ADJOURN

The meeting closed at 3:00 P.M.



Joe Maroney, Chair

September 16, 2021
