

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2021

Online--Zoom

### Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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Joe Maroney, Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Stacy Horton	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 (arrived late)
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cindy Cooper	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard, Acting Vice Chair	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
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Chris Richards	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Alexandra Mostrom	U.S. Coast Guard

### Guests:

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Josh Milnes	Washington Department of Agriculture
Stephen Phillips	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Sasha Shaw	King County Noxious Weed Control Program

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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

## Welcome and Call to Order

**Chair Joe Maroney** welcomed attendees, members, and staff to the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC/council) meeting promptly at 9:00 a.m. Following, Board Liaison, **Wyatt Lundquist**, reviewed ground rules and called attendance determining quorum.

**Motion:** Approval of September agenda

**Moved:** Member Willard

**Seconded:** Member Thorpe

**Decision:** Approved

**Motion:** Approval of June meeting minutes

**Moved:** Member Cooper

**Seconded:** Member Fyall

**Decision:** Approved

Chair Maroney noted that **Vice Chair Reeves** was excused from the meeting and **Member Willard** would be acting in his place. **Member Seebacher** would also be excused from this meeting.

## Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report

**Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, provided a summary of the events, meetings, and relevant news, that have taken place since the June 2021 meeting. He highlighted the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Leavenworth Don't Let is Loose Event and the June 14<sup>th</sup> Washington State's Emergency Declaration Authorities Discussion.

Next, Mr. Bush reported social media growth and campaigns, invasive species sighting reports, and reviewed a new slide template that more directly draws a connection between WISC meeting topics and the council's strategic plan. Concerning campaigns and greatest social media reach, he highlighted the August Tree Month Check news release, which was written in partnership with Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

To close his summary, Mr. Bush suggested that a work group made of council members come together to develop and evaluate messaging and materials for people moving into the Pacific Northwest Region, including California, Oregon, and Washington, for the purpose of preventing introduction of invasive species. Thus far, this group would

include **Member(s) Cooper, Burke, Murray, and Willard**. Mr. Bush will summarize the purpose of the work group in email and solicit more work group members.

### **Item 2: Flowering Rush Cost-Share Program, and Recreation and Conservation Office Supplemental Budget Request**

**Stephen Phillips**, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and **Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator briefed the council on the history and background of the Flowering Rush Cost Share Program which was originally authorized by Congress in 2014 and has evolved into the program being considered today. Mr. Bush noted that the cost-share program is related to previous council work that went into creating the Columbia Basin Flowering Rush Management Plan.

Following, Mr. Phillips gave a high-level overview of the timeline and funding source that lead to this project in its current form. In his opinion the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and by extension WISC is a great place to house this program due to the collaboration among agencies that take place within the council.

Mr. Bush then closed the presentation by reviewing the reasoning behind asking the legislature for 2022 supplemental budget funding. This state funding would be used to administer the Washington portion of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission cost-share program covering the entire Columbia River basin including Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. It would cover staff time required to manage this new program.

Mr. Bush requested a decision from the council to continue work on this program.

- Motion:** WISC supports RCO's request for supplemental funding of \$28,000 [to administer a Flowering Rush cost share program].
- Moved:** Member Ripley
- Seconded:** Member Fee
- Decision:** Approved

### **Item 3: Spotted Lanternfly Risk to Agriculture and Connection to Tree-of-Heaven**

**Josh Milnes**, Washington State Department of Agriculture, reviewed the history, biology, potential pathways, and risks associated with Spotted Lanternfly, a species native to Asia, becoming established in Washington.

He stated that while this pest has not yet been trapped or reported in this state, it may only be a matter of time. He noted that preliminary research modeling shows that the Pacific Northwest (PNW) could provide ideal habitat for this invasive species. Part of this

ideal habitat is associated with the Washington invasive “Tree of Heaven”, which the Spotted Lanternfly prefers.

Mr. Milnes closed his presentation by giving a high-level overview of the economic damages this pest could cause to the agricultural trade in Washington State underlining the importance of early detection and rapid response.

Council members discussed the various methods in which this pest could be transported to Washington and the importance of increasing public awareness.

#### **Item 4: Spotted Lanternfly Action Plan Proposal and Discussion**

**Josh Milnes**, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and **Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, reviewed the council Spotted Lanternfly Action Plan suggestion for the council. The state action plan is proposed to include the following sections:

- Economic and Environmental Risk Assessment
- Preventative Measures
- Detection Protocols, Validation, and Notification
- Communications
- Initial Response Actions
- Long Term Response Actions
- Restoration and Recovery

Mr. Milnes noted that the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and council may not put begin planning until 2022—however he stressed the importance of getting this plan ready *before* 2022 would be ideal. Mr. Bush voiced his support for the plan and noted that facilitating collaboration between agencies is a specialty of the Council and they may be able to assist with this proposal.

Council members asked clarifying questions about scope of work and timelines. Several council members stressed the importance of ensuring this plan is based in actions that will drive actual work, rather than just a data gathering mission.

Mr. Milnes, and Mr. Bush closed the presentation by emphasizing the need for a plan of this scope, as well as the urgency in which it needs to be completed before it can be truly useful in guiding management actions and planning.

**Break: 11:10-11:20**

### **Item 5: Invasive Species and Nexus to Environmental Justice**

**Shaun Seaman**, Chelan Public Utilities District, provided background information on the Invasive Species and Environmental Justice working group. Member Seaman noted that in the 2020 Statewide Strategy, the council agreed to form a working group to examine the relationship between invasive species and diversity, equity, inclusion, and social and environmental justice. He acknowledged that this is a much bigger issue than can be covered in today's meeting but provided updates on what the working group has been focusing on. Within their discussion, Member Seaman had focused on invasive species impacts towards cultural resources, the harvesting of traditional foods, and habitat damage, which was highlighted in SB 5141. From the group discussions, they intent on bringing forth recommendations and an overall action to move forward with.

He closed his presentation by reviewing the three main questions he would like to gather feedback on from the council members, as this discussion will be imperative to guiding the work of the group until the next meeting.

### **Item 6: Invasive Species and Nexus to Environmental Justice Discussion**

To streamline and facilitate effective discussion, **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, and **Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, called on each member allowing for 2 minutes of discussion for the following questions:

- 1. What is your agency's approach to achieving environmental justice?**
- 2. Do you see a nexus between environmental justice and the council's strategic plan and objectives?**
- 3. The council work group is considering how environmental justice and cultural significance could be integrated into the invasive species assessment and prioritization tool. Do you have any initial thoughts for the work group to consider?**

Council members discussed what their respective agencies are doing to address environmental justice as it relates to invasive species. Several members noted that the council differs from their agencies both in how the council operates by bringing people together, and how the scope of the council is a statewide one.

## **Lunch 12:10 PM-12:30 PM**

### **Item 7: Connecting with all Communities- Invasive Species and Language**

**Justin Bush**, Executive Coordinator, reviewed information from the Office of Financial Management and Washington Emergency Management Division that the top languages spoken in Washington, with the most used language other than English being Spanish. Mr. Bush noted that one of the topics related to the council's strategic plan and mission is to engage all communities within Washington to prevent and stop invasive species and one way that could be achieved is by translating the council's materials into different languages.

Council members asked clarifying questions about Mr. Bush's presentation and discussed the challenges, but necessity, of prioritizing tasks for an undertaking of this magnitude.

### **Item 8: King County Noxious Weed Control Program Spanish Language Poisonous Plants Outreach**

**Sasha Shaw**, King County Noxious Weed Control Board, presented a case study of how her agency has been integrating multiple languages into their outreach and education materials. She prefaced her presentation by noting how King County has been engaging in this work for several years, but they are far from finished. Thus far, their primary focus has been translating material into Spanish.

Ms. Shaw reviewed the various demographics of the residents of King County, noting that there are over 30 different languages spoken there. The top spoken languages in Washington after English are Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalong, Korean, Russian and Chinese.

Ms. Shaw continued by highlighting the importance of prioritizing translating materials that have the biggest human health impacts first. For example, giant hogweed grows prevalently in King County, and can cause severe burns and rashes to those who may touch it. This human health risk made translating educational and warning materials of giant hogweed into several languages a top priority.

After examining several more case studies, Ms. Shaw closed her presentation by summarizing that translating materials is time consuming, important, and expensive—therefore prioritization is key. She recommended prioritizing public health and safety issues first, as well as any plants or species that are toxic and the most risk to the populations you're trying to communicate with.

Council members thanked Ms. Shaw for her presentation and asked clarifying questions about the materials presented.

### **Item 9: Discussion on Invasive Species and Language**

To streamline and facilitate effective discussion, **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, and **Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, called on each member allowing for 2 minutes of discussion for the following questions:

- **Is your organization doing multilingual outreach about invasive species?**
- **What languages are you using to communicate about invasive species, and what communities (demographics and geographic locations) are you engaging?**
- **Would it be helpful for the council to create tools or other guidance resources to determine which languages to use?**
- **Are there organizational gaps or barriers that the council could help overcome?**

Several members voiced concern that if materials were translated into other languages, but none of the staff spoke those languages and there is a communication gap for the public reaching out with questions. Council members discussed options on how to overcome the multilingual barrier. Lastly, several members inquired if there is a manual, or best practices, that can assist WISC in figuring out what their role is. In addition to spoken language, the topic of Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility was brought up for those who may not be sighted or may have reading disabilities.

### **Break 1:26PM-1:40PM**

### **Item 10: Improving Response Preparedness for Aquatic Invasive Species- Survey Results and Next Steps**

**Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, reviewed the importance and history of improving response preparedness for aquatic invasive species. He noted that rapid response and early detection are key elements in the council's statewide strategy. Mr. Bush reviewed the key findings of a survey sent out to aquatic invasive species managers and workers.

This survey included a list of formal trainings and informal workshops that would assist in improving rapid response. Based upon the survey results, there will be four informal workshops that WISC will host. The trainings include the following:

1. Zebra/Quagga Mussel Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) Operations Rapid Response Workshop
2. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
3. Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop
4. Watercraft Inspections and Operations Workshop

Mr. Bush closed his presentation out by reminding the council that this is an ongoing project and there will be additional opportunities to be involved in the future.

### **Item 11: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion**

**Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, reviewed the findings of the survey he sent out to the council. While council members generally provided positive answers, council members found that more sufficient background material could be provided towards member reports and guest speakers when a decision is required. **Chair Maroney** also requested that WISC staff provide motion language to council members.

Using the online tool Mentimeter, **Mr. Bush** and Mr. Lundquist asked several clarifying follow-up questions in response to the survey.

Council members continued the discussion on how to improve council meetings and topics they would like to see brought up in future meetings.

Mr. Lundquist reviewed the dates proposed for the 2022 meeting calendar and reminded the council members to contact him if they had conflicts with any of the dates.

**Motion:** Approve the 2022 meeting calendar

**Moved:** Member Fee

**Seconded:** Member Burke

**Decision:** Approved

Following the decision, **Chair Maroney** moved the discussion to the proposed agenda for the December 2021 council meeting. Council discussed possible ideas and topics they would like to see during the winter meeting, including climate change and the nexus to invasive species management.

Several council members voiced their support of reviewing the results of the recent climate change panel—specifically asking **Chris Harley**, University of British Columbia,



to talk more about the mortality event that took place in the intertidal zone due to the heat dome effect from earlier this summer. Additionally, **Theresa Thom**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, volunteered to provide an update on Moss Balls.

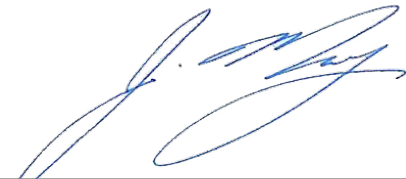
Chair Maroney closed out the discussion by thanking the speakers of today's meeting and reminded council members to submit any suggestions for December's meeting topics to Mr. Bush.

*General Public Comment: no public comment at this time.*

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Next regular meeting: December 9, 2021, Natural Resource Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501- **Subject to change considering COVID-19**



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Joe Maroney, Chair

September 16, 2021

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