

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2021

Online--Zoom

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Joe Maroney, Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Blaine Reeves, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Shaun Seaman	Chelan County Public Utility District
Steve Burke	King County
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Todd Hass, PhD	Puget Sound Partnership
Clinton Campbell, PhD	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard	Washington Department of Transportation
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Andrea Thorpe, PhD	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Robert Compton	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Lt. Commander Keola Velasco	U.S. Coast Guard
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher, PhD	Washington State Department of Ecology

Guests:

Megan Wallen, PhD	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Max Lambert, PhD	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charles Lee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
David Crowder, PhD	Washington State University
Theresa Thom, PhD	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Captain Eric Anderson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Erin Ewald	Taylor Shellfish
Marcie Clement	Chelan County Public Utility District

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Joe Maroney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. by welcoming attendees, members, and staff. Following, board liaison, **Julia McNamara**, reviewed ground rules, Zoom etiquette, and called roll confirming quorum.

Motion: Approval of December 9, 2021 as amended to include an additional item at the end of the meeting.

Moved by: Member Fyall

Seconded by: Member Pleus

Decision: **Approved as amended**

Motion: Approval of September 2021 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Fyall

Seconded by: Member Willard

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) Executive Coordinator, provided a summary of the events, meetings, relevant news, and outreach growth that has taken place since the September 2021 meeting. He highlighted the Pacific Northwest Citizen Science Summit that took place in October of this year, as well as the recently released Western Governors' Association podcast that reviewed the key take-aways from the Marimo moss ball incident from earlier this spring.

Lastly, Mr. Bush reviewed the past quarters social media growth, campaigns, and invasive species sighting reports. He highlighted the successful tree-of-heaven census that culminated with 375 sighting reports and over 100,000 social media-based interactions. Mr. Bush closed his presentation by thanking the council members for their efforts this year in all WISC was able to accomplish.

Council members asked clarifying questions and discussed the importance of engaging the public with invasive species issues.

Item 2: Southern Resident Killer Whale 101: Diet, Distribution, and Recovery

Megan Wallen, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Mammal Specialist, gave a high-level overview of the diet, biology, distribution, behavior, and recovery status of the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Dr. Wallen noted that there is a link between invasive species prevention/management and the success and overall health of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. The 2008 recovery plan specifically identifies two indirect invasive species issues that are relevant today. The first is that invasive species are capable of affecting prey abundance for Southern Resident Killer whales by either directly competing salmon for resources or preying upon them. Additionally, the presence of invasive species can have negative impacts on habitats of both Southern Resident Killer Whales and salmon through environmental changes and degradation.

Council staff asked clarifying questions and voiced their support for continued collaboration between invasive species issues and Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery efforts.

Item 3: Introduced African Clawed Frogs and their Management in Washington

Max Lambert, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, reviewed the history, biology, risks, and pathways associated with the currently known and understood populations of African clawed frog within Washington State, including recently discovered populations and newly initiated partnerships.

He stated the importance of Don't Let It Loose messaging as the primary pathway of introduction for this invasive species is through aquarium dumping. Next, Dr. Lambert reviewed the various management and monitoring methods used by the department to manage this invasive species. He noted there is still much work to be done as African clawed frogs can survive in sewer pipes and other city infrastructure which makes their management and eradication substantially more challenging.

Lastly, Dr. Lambert concluded his presentation with a high-level overview of department limitations, research needs, and the benefits of updating priority species lists to more comprehensively address various invasive amphibian species.

Council members discussed the various pathways of introduction of this species and asked clarifying questions.

BREAK: 10:43AM – 10:50PM

Item 4: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Northern Pike Suppression Update

Charles Lee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Biologist, gave the Council a high-level overview of the northern pike suppression efforts taking place in Lake Roosevelt and Lake Spokane. Mr. Lee reviewed the history of this suppression effort, partners, and results of a concerted effort over the last few years.

The primary goal of the department has been to develop a standardized monitoring strategy for Northern Pike within Lake Roosevelt. This monitoring plan, which is the culmination of several years' effort, was implemented in 2019. Modifications were made in 2020 to increase effort in the upper reservoir. Results of the monitoring surveys suggested that increased suppression efforts over the last couple of years have been effective at reducing northern pike abundance, particularly in the upper reservoir. Mr. Lee closed by highlighting the relationships between partners that have made this suppression effort possible. He indicated that the state is working internally to secure funding that will support the development and implementation of an early detection and emergency response plan for WDFW, coordinated with regional stakeholders.

Council members asked clarifying questions and discussed challenges and effectiveness of northern pike suppression efforts within Washington State. **Chair Maroney** requested that the WDFW inform the council with the response plan is released next year.

Item 5: Data-informed Decision Making for Agricultural Pests and Invasive Species

David Crowder, Washington State University (WSU) Entomology Professor, gave a high-level briefing on his lab's technologies and tools that can facilitate informed decision making. Dr. Crowder emphasized that delivering real time, regional data to decision and policy makers can allow for more robust responses to invasive species detections. Additionally, this technology may also be used to guide targeted monitoring efforts often utilized by the agricultural industry to minimize agricultural losses. While the technology is still being perfected, as well as the guidance for how to use it, Dr. Crowder is hopeful that this modeling tool will be useful in assisting managing agencies with their work.

Council members discussed modeling predication methods and asked clarifying questions.

Item 6: Invasive Species Impacts to Culturally Significant Foods and Resources

Todd Murray, Washington State University Entomologist, reviewed that invasive species impacts among agriculture, fisheries, and other industries are fairly well documented. However, invasive species impacts on culturally important plants and other first food items are less researched, but just as important to the indigenous peoples that rely on them for food and medicine. Mr. Murray shared a case study looking at the impacts spotted winged drosophila has on native huckleberries and blueberries. Mr. Murray concluded the presentation by encouraging the council to think more broadly as the council members define invasive species impacts—acknowledging that invasive pests affect far more than just the agricultural industry.

The council asked clarifying questions and thanked Mr. Murray for his briefing which will allow for more in-depth discussion during the next section.

Item 7: Invasive Species Impacts to Culturally Significant Foods and Resources Discussion

Shaun Seaman, Chelan County Public Utility District Manager, facilitated a discussion concerning invasive species impacts to culturally significant areas, resources, and foods. He noted that this topic is in line with the council's statewide strategy as diversity, equity, and inclusion topics are an obvious nexus to this topic. Member Seaman noted that the council already has an existing assessment tool for ranking priority invasive species, however this tool does not address culturally important issues. Member Seaman concluded by noting this is a much larger discussion topic than can be properly considered today, but that he hopes this will continue in future council work.

Council members thanked Member Seaman for his presentation, asked clarifying questions, and discussed the benefits of creating a separate work group to review this issue. This working group would be adjacent to the existing Invasive Species and Nexus to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social and Environmental Justice focused work group.

Chair Maroney, and Councilmembers Anderson, Ripley, Murray, Clement, and Horton volunteered to be on this working group.

LUNCH – 12:05PM-12:30PM

Item 8: Recognition of Councilmember Shaun Seaman

Chair Maroney called forward **Member Seaman** to recognize his service on the council and wish him well in his retirement. Chair Maroney reviewed the resolution and congratulated Member Seaman on successfully completing his career.

Chair Maroney opened the floor to council members and staff to thank Member Seaman for his time on the council. Chair Maroney noted that Member Seaman will be replaced by **Marcie Clement** as the representative from the Chelan Public Utility District. Chair Maroney also noted that **Erin Ewald** will be stepping into Shaun's position of representing the industry panel on the council.

Council members discussed Member Seaman's contributions to the work of the council and thanked him for the time served on the council.

Item 9: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update

Theresa Thom, US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, provided a briefing on some of her agency's activities over the last quarter including funding updates, a Marimo moss ball response update, new pathways investigation and identification, horizon scanning, monitoring projects, and a brief update on the European green crab response taking place in Washington State. Dr. Thom closed by encouraging council members to reach out to her with questions or concerns.

Council members discussed various funding sources and asked clarifying questions.

Item 10: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Watercraft Inspection Update

Eric Anderson, WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement Captain, gave a briefing on the department's watercraft inspection program. Captain Anderson stated that 2021 is their best year on record yet for inspections, decontaminations, and detections. He credits the permanent funding allowing for two of the three check stations to be open year-round as part of the success of this program. He noted that Washington is the only state in the Pacific Northwest that has fully staffed, year-round check stations. Due to the program's success, they have received funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will allow the program to expand, including the addition of another mussel detection canine.

Council discussed the growth and addition of another mussel sniffing dog, asked clarifying questions, and thanked Captain Anderson for his presentation.

BREAK 1:33PM-1:40PM

Item 11: European Green Crab Response Update

Allen Pleus, WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Manager, provided a current European green crab status update. Member Pleus started with a review of the biology and

historic range of European green crab before summarizing the trapping and monitoring efforts that took place in 2021. Next, Member Pleus reviewed several of the department's management objectives including collaboration with multiple entities, and the cooperative management strategy. Member Pleus continued his briefing with a review of the emerging situation at the Lummi Sea Pond, noting that WDFW is working closely with Lummi Nation to manage this population.

Lastly, Member Pleus closed his presentation by reviewing short-, mid-, and long-term needs of the department, including a review of funding sources, department response, and staffing needs.

Council members asked clarifying questions and discussed upcoming funding requests and rapidly evolving needs of the department for their European green crab response.

Item 12: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Chair Maroney began initial discussion for meeting planning in 2022. Due to the unpredictable effects from the pandemic, no decision about in-person meetings versus virtual or hybrid meetings has been determined. He noted that many agencies, organizations, and tribes are also wrestling with this question of how to host valuable and mission-critical meetings in a virtual manner.

Council members asked clarifying questions about what the other Recreation and Conservation Office-administered boards are doing and discussed various pros and cons of the options reviewed.

Chair Maroney called for topics and ideas for the March 2022 meeting, noting that there is plenty of time before the deadlines, but council members could volunteer items at this time. The following items were offered:

- Member Reeves would like an update on the Flowering Rush program funding by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Member Pleus would like to give an update of the WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species program.
- Member Murray would like to have a discussion on species common names.
- Member Willard would like to review Department of Transportation's roadside plan in relationship to invasive species.
- Member Cook-Tabor would like to provide an agency update.
- Member Compton would like to provide an agency update.
- Member Valasco would like to provide an agency update on the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.

Item 13: Announcement & Congratulations

Chair Maroney, congratulated executive coordinator, Justin Bush on winning the 2021 Recreation and Conservation Office Director's Award for Excellence. The Director's Award for Excellence is given to staff members that embody the core values and competencies and exhibit outstanding leadership in carrying out their responsibilities and/or advancing the positive culture of the agency.

Scott Robinson, deputy director, noted that in the four years RCO has been hosting this award Justin Bush is the only nominee to ever receive support from outside the agency. He congratulated him on this well-deserved recognition.

Council members thanked Mr. Bush for his excellent work in the invasive species management field, as well as setting such a high standard for the council.

General Public Comment:

Paul Rudnick, owner of Growafrog.com, provided public comment on the WDFW regulation of the frogs in the genus *Xenopus*. Mr. Rudnick requested that the council discuss the current state of available tadpoles for education and to make recommendation on a classification change to WDFW.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Next regular meeting: March 10, 2022, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia WA 98501