

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2022

Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA

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
Marcie Clement	Chelan County Public Utility District
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
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
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Alexandra Mostrom	U.S. Coast Guard
Brad White	Washington Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Yolanda Inguanzo	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Robert Compton	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Erin Coyle	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
Chelsea Krimme	Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist
A.F.	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Joe Maroney called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM by welcoming attendees, members, and staff to the first hybrid meeting. Following, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, **Julia McNamara**, reviewed ground rules, Zoom etiquette, and called roll confirming quorum.

Motion: Approval of June 16, 2022, Agenda

Moved by: Member Fyall

Seconded by: Member Cook-Taber

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Fyall

Seconded by: Member Clement

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Welcome of Chelsea Krimme, Washington Invasive Species Council Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist

Chair Joe Maroney welcomed **Chelsea Krimme** and invited her to share her educational and professional background.

Chelsea Krimme received her bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from Southern New Hampshire University. Ms. Krimme was a Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) team lead that worked in conjunction with the Snohomish County Noxious Weed Board, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and within Olympic National Park. She also assisted with disaster response and served as a member on WCC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

In this role, Chelsea identified and developed treatment plans for various noxious weeds and leading incident command and strike teams.

Item 2: Council Staff Report

Member Todd Hass left the meeting from 9:15 AM to 9:45 AM.

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) Executive Coordinator, provided a summary of the events, meetings, news, and outreach activities that had taken place since the March 2022 meeting.

Staff participated in ten events this quarter. Mr. Bush highlighted several of these events and trainings including a watercraft decontamination training hosted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, an Aquatic Invasive Species Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) Workshop, and the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) virtual training.

Another event of interest was the Invasive Species Preparedness for Tribal Governments Workshop. Mr. Bush shared that a five-year and a ten-year action plan are in development. He also stated that the council worked to connect different tribal nations with potential funding resources to aid with preparedness.

There are several upcoming events, including the: Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group) Workshop, Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit, Municipal Forest Pest Readiness Workshops, and Pacific Northwest Citizen Science Summit.

Member Horton shared that in her experience, entities spend significant time focused on securing funding rather than preventing or managing invasive species. She suggested creating an event to help entities gain more information about funding opportunities. Mr. Bush suggested that the PNWER could have room to discuss funding resources. Members discussed the challenges surrounding finding and securing funding to handle responses.

Chair Maroney explained that, in part, financial struggles result from the performance period of funds such as the state or federal fiscal year, when organizations need unrestricted funding for response.

Mr. Bush then highlighted outreach metrics from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. He offered to assist the other agencies with sharing hiring and invasives information through the council's social media.

Lastly, Mr. Bush shared that the council's Biennial Report is due in November and that he would share an outline and draft with the council for comment.

Item 3: Port Interceptions of Invasive Species Port Interception Working Group, and Case Studies of Port Interceptions

Member Clinton Campbell, State Operations Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provided the summary in partnership with **Greg Haubrich**, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and **Justin Bush**.

Member Campbell summarized historic amphibian detections at ports of entry and challenges with response. Port interceptions of invasive species included an Asian frog in 2008, frog and slugs from Hawaii in 2018, woodboring insects from Russia in 2019, and spongy moths in 2019. Due to challenges and gaps in readiness, Dr. Jim Marra convened a Port Interceptions Working Group with the goal of developing an incident action plan which included contacts, legal authorities, and decision matrices. The working group is made up of organizations such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Invasive Species Council and the WISC.

Member Campbell shared several case studies to demonstrate the detection and response action taken when an organism is found at a port of entry.

Item 4: Priority Land Mollusks and Overview of Eradications in Washington

Yolanda Inguanzo, Pest Survey Specialist with the USDA, provided an overview of exotic snails and slugs, and eradications in Washington.

The USDA has identified priority pest targets through the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). Ms. Inguanzo shared several species of mollusks that are on the CAPS priority list, such as the Giant African Land Snail. Washington State regularly performs mollusk surveys. Several detections have resulted from port interceptions.

Ms. Inguanzo shared an overview of the Mediterranean white snail eradication program in Tacoma, as well as the challenges faced in eradication. Lastly, Ms. Inguanzo offered several [survey tips and techniques](#) to best identify these mollusks as well as the safety precautions to take.

During the member discussion, **Member Horton** asked if these priority mollusks are included on the WISC reporting app. **Mr. Bush** shared that a few are included, but that he would be interested in coordinating with Ms. Inguanzo to more fully include targets. It was also clarified that terrestrial plant pests are the focus of the mollusk surveys.

Shawn Ultican, Aquatic Pesticide Permit Specialist for the State of Washington, inquired whether the aquatic invasive species permit could be used to treat snails in Tacoma.

BREAK: 11:00 AM – 11:20 AM

Item 5: Fiscal Year 2022 U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive Species Funding

Chair Maroney began the discussion as **Robert Compton** was having technical difficulties.

Chair Maroney stated that the Kalispel Tribe has received funding from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to manage invasive species. However, funding timelines and performance periods are challenging and it would be useful to roll-over funds annually. Additionally, Chair Maroney was interested in investigating how state agencies can provide opportunities to roll-over funding beyond fiscal years.

Robert Compton, BIA Northwest Rangeland Management Specialist, shared an overview of the work that the bureau performs. He stated that there are three general categories of Indian Lands: tribal land trust, allotment, and fee land. There are currently 14 agencies and 45 tribes, and seven that have rangelands in the BIA Northwest Region.

Mr. Compton then shared the funding that is awarded to tribes for invasive species management. There are currently two funding sources tribes can apply for annually to address invasive species or noxious weeds. From 2021 to 2022, nine additional tribes received funding, and \$1,154,106 more dollars were awarded; with \$1,271,906 being awarded to 19 tribes in 2021 and \$2,426,012 being awarded to 28 tribes in 2022

Lastly, Mr. Compton shared that the bureau hired a new Fish Biologist, Ashton Harp.

Chair Maroney asked what options are available if tribes are unable to spend the funding and there is not flexibility to roll over the funds. Mr. Compton responded that awarded funds can be used within a two-year time frame.

Item 6: Update on European Green Crab Response

Member Allen Pleus, Aquatic Invasive Species and Ballast Water Unit Manager with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided a brief background on European Green Crab (EGC), noting that the population has been rapidly increasing in recent years. This exponential increase prompted [Emergency Proclamation \(22-02\)](#) by Governor Jay Inslee.

Member Pleus shared an overview of the cooperative strategy being used to address EGC. WISC discussed the complexity of coordination and management efforts and the commended Member Pleus for his efforts.

Member Pleus shared that the department is hiring 6.5 permanent EGC staff and 20 seasonal staff to address EGC. The department also created a Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC Group) to coordinate response and resources across jurisdictions. Member Pleus shared a membership roster and summarized the first meeting that occurred on June 8, 2022.

Lastly, Member Pleus summarized an obligation to provide the Governor reports every 10 days, and that the department issues situation reports every two weeks followed by a MAC Group meeting to discuss challenges and prioritization needs. Member Pleus will keep the council apprised through sharing the situation reports.

During discussion, the council expressed support for use of the incident command system and stated the importance of having clear communication and coordination efforts. The council discussed WISC representation on the MAC Group, determining that a member representing WISC does not need to sit on the MAC group as there are already several WISC members appointed to the MAC Group to represent their respective organizations.

Chair Maroney requested staff to include a standing EGC update at each WISC meeting.

LUNCH: 12:18 PM – 1:00 PM

Item 7: Overview of the Incident Command System as Applied to Plant Health Emergencies

Erin Coyle, Washington State Department of Agriculture Emergency Management Program Manager, discussed how the Incident Command System (ICS) should be used for invasive species and plant health emergencies.

The ICS is a standardized incident management system which is organized and scaled to match the complexity of each incident. Ms. Coyle summarized several instances of use in Washington, including wildfire response, COVID-19, and eradication of spongy moth.

Ms. Coyle provided an overview of ICS including the process, structure, applicability, as well as the scalability and flexibility of the system to tailor to incident needs and complexity. Ms. Coyle suggested that WISC and invasive species response agencies utilize ICS to aid in rapid response to new invasive species.

Item 8: Invasive Species Virtual Tabletop Exercises and Recommendations for Improvement

Chelsea Krimme, WISC Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist, summarized two tabletop response exercises held in April focusing on Sudden Oak Death and Spotted Lanternfly. Participants were presented with a fake scenario and discussed authorities and response actions to address the invasive species. Most notably, it was determined that the Washington State Department of Agriculture would be the lead state agency for response to Sudden Oak Death found in the wildland

environment—whereas it was previously believed that the Washington Department of Natural Resources would be lead.

Ms. Krimme summarized the scenario, injects, and participants in the exercises in addition to the strengths and challenges of the tabletop events.

Members shared their support for tabletop exercises and credited the success to Ms. Krimme and Ms. Coyle.

Item 9: Discussion on Invasive Species Rapid Response, Planning, Exercises and Needs

The council discussed the need for a rapid response to new invasive species. Members also spoke of jurisdictional issues and how the ICS structure and process could help deliver successful response.

Members discussed and agreed that development of an invasive species incident management team could help expedite mobilization and response as delegation of authority and forming an initial management structure was time consuming, as illustrated by the European green crab emergency. The council suggested that an incident management team could be a standing group of capable and trained responders who would provide initial response management until long term management by the lead agency or agencies was up to speed.

Chair Maroney requested time during the September meeting to have the ECG response team discuss what they have learned from the green crab emergency.

BREAK: 2:23 PM – 2:30 PM

Item 10: Flowering Rush Update

Member McMaster left the meeting at 2:48 PM.

Member Mary Fee, Executive Secretary with the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, briefed the council on flowering rush and a project to control flowering rush in Lake Roosevelt.

Member Fee briefed the council on identification and impacts of the invasive plant. She also spoke about a grant received by the board for coordination, surveys, and treatment of flowering rush in Lake Roosevelt.

Chelsea Krimme then provided an overview of the Recreation and Conservation Office's flowering rush cost-share program funded by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries

Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The current cost-share program is supporting treatments in Silver Lake, Lake Entiat, and the Pend Oreille River on both tribal and non-tribal lands. In future years, it may be used in Lake Spokane and Nine-Mile Reservoir and the Yakima River.

Item 11: Future meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Justin Bush shared that the September 15, 2022 meeting may need to be moved due to a Recreation and Conservation Office conflict. The council discussed the issue and recommended that staff move the WISC meeting to September 29th to have a travel meeting; the location will be determined through an email survey.

The council discussed and proposed several topics for the September agenda including an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group, possible updates to the council priority species list, invasive species naming conventions, elk hoof rot, walnut canker disease, first foods of Native Americans, EGC response, spotted lanternfly action planning, northern pike, and Mediterranean oak boar.

Chair Maroney requested that staff reduce the number of agenda items down to offer more time to each topic.

General Public Comment:

None.

TASKS:

Mr. Bush will follow up with a council email to share the tribal government invasive species capabilities and capacity survey report.

Mr. Bush will send an example of what the report process looks like.

ADJOURN

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