

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2022

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
Steve Burke	King County
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Todd Hass, Ph.D.	Puget Sound Partnership
Clinton Campbell, Ph.D.	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 State Department of Transportation
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Andrea Thorpe, Ph.D.	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Todd Murray	Washington State University
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lt. Alexandra Mostrom	U.S. Coast Guard
Marcie Clement	Chelan Public Utility District
Lizbeth Seebacher, Ph.D.	Washington State Department of Ecology
Branch Chief Roy Hamblin	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Sarah Navarro	U.S. Forest Service
Robert Compton	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Brad White, Ph.D.	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Sean McDonald, Ph.D.	University of Washington
Cassie Cichorz	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Karl Mueller	Lummi Nation Natural Resources Department
Erin Ewald	Taylor Shellfish

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
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Julia McNamara
A.F.

Board Liaison
Board Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order

Vice Chair Blain Reeves called the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) meeting to order at 9:00 AM by welcoming attendees, members, and staff. Following, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, **Julia McNamara**, reviewed ground rules, Zoom etiquette, and called roll determining quorum. Chair Joe Maroney had technical difficulties, and joined the meeting at 9:47 AM

Motion: Approval of March 10, 2022 Agenda

Moved by: Vice Chair Reeves

Seconded by: Member Seebacher

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of December 2021 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Willard

Seconded by: Member Taylor

Decision: **Approved**

Staff noted that **Ian Sinks**, Columbia Land Trust, has stepped down as council member. **Mark Taylor**, representing Trout Unlimited will represent non-profits on the council.

Item 1: Welcome of Brock Milliern, Recreation and Conservation Office Policy and Legislative Director

Blaine Reeves, WISC Vice Chair, introduced the new RCO Policy Legislative Director, **Brock Milliern**.

Mr. Milliern gave an overview of his history in state government specifically, policy, recreation and conservation. Next, he shared legislative updates that could affect the council, including an \$8.6 million funding request to respond to the European green crab emergency.

Item 2: Executive Coordinator's Report

Member Adam Fyall, Benton County, arrived late at 9:22 A.M.

Member Brad White, Department of Agriculture, left for a meeting at 9:27 AM.

Justin Bush, WISC Executive Coordinator, provided a summary of the events, meetings, relevant news, and social media growth that has taken place since the December 2021 meeting.

Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington took place February 28 – March 4, as [proclaimed](#) by **Washington State Governor Jay Inslee**.

During awareness week, several webinars took place, focusing on noxious weed impact to riparian habitat, the role of the Washington Conservation Corps, aquatic invasive species prevention and partnerships, Pacific green crab management (which was a council sponsored national webinar), the 11th Annual Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop, and giant hornets research.

Additionally, during Invasive Species Awareness Week, Mr. Bush also spoke to the Alaska State Legislature, as the state is working on forming an invasive species council. Mr. Bush was interviewed by Television Washington's The Impact and spoke about tree-of-heaven and the spotted lanternfly. He also partnered with Governor Inslee's Office and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to brief the state congressional delegation on European green crab.

Overall, outreach efforts across council website, event, and social media metrics reached nearly 100,000 individuals during awareness week. Mr. Bush acknowledged this was likely a small fraction of overall reach because it did not include views of news articles, television viewers, or those reached by outreach and education through many partnering organizations.

Covering upcoming events, Mr. Bush noted several events will take place during March and April including the Washington Weed Coordinators' Conference, a spotted lanternfly virtual tabletop exercise, sudden oak death virtual tabletop exercise and a first-of-its-kind aquatic invasive species Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) operations workshop in which regional dive teams will cross-train and practice invasive species response activities.

Mr. Bush acknowledged that **Alexis Haifley**, WISC Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist, left state service in January and announced the new member to the WISC team, **Chelsea Krimme**. Chelsea will begin March 16th, 2022.

In closing, Mr. Bush reviewed the number of invasive species reports made to the council through the developed application and announced the council will be receiving U.S. Department of Agriculture funding to develop a spotted lanternfly action plan beginning in August 2022.

Members discussed the invasive species reporting process to ensure public reports were reviewed and verified. Mr. Bush explained the workflow and that each report was reviewed by expert verifiers. All reports are automatically shared to the North American Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) database.

Item 3: European Green Crab Emergency Measures

Member Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Aquatic Invasive Species Unit Manager, provided an overview of the history and risks presented by European green crab (EGC), classified as a prohibited level 1 species. Due to a significant increase in green crab population over the last couple years and the imminent danger posed by the species, a statewide emergency proclamation ([Emergency Proclamation 22-02](#)) was issued by Governor Inslee.

A statewide management proposal was established and nearly \$8.6 million in supplemental funding was proposed in the House and Senate to help efforts to detect, respond to and reduce EGC populations statewide. In the short-term, WDFW will provide financial and staff support to Lummi Nation to combat EGC in the Lummi Sea Pond. Over the rest of this biennium, WDFW will be coordinating with tribes, state and federal agencies and stakeholders to collaborate response efforts. WDFW will also be assisting in securing additional funding through state and federal channels.

The committee briefly discussed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) serving as WDFW's federal partner in the EGC response. There has been a large response from federal agencies, including the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as they seek funding from the Department of Interior for a multi-agency collaborative project.

Item 4: Lummi Nation European Green Crab Declaration of Disaster and Task Force

Karl Mueller, newly hired Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Lummi Natural Resources Department, spoke of the colonization and expansion of European green crab on Lummi Reservation tidelands, and the tribe's emergency response to date to mitigate the species, culminating with the formation of a tribal council-directed task force.

Following the first detection of European green crab in 2019, the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) declared the species a serious environmental threat (LIBC Resolution 2020-032), paving the way for collaboration between many partners, including WDFW, the Puget Sound Partnership, and Washington Sea Grant (WSG), to trap, study and track the crabs on reservation tidelands, including the Lummi Sea Pond. Outreach and

education efforts have occurred throughout the Lummi community and within the Lummi Nation Schools system. Resources have also been directed at educating the public on the tribe's partnerships with state and federal agencies.

In 2020 and 2021, funding was secured from state and federal partners to remove European green crab from Lummi Nation waterways, with the 2021 trapping season producing over 70,000 crabs. The concept of utilizing a task force was introduced through LIBC Resolution # 2021-158; the task force is in the process of developing long-term strategic action plans in response to these large populations. LIBC Resolution # 2021-158 can be found in the item 4 meeting materials.

Members discussed the potential effects on the Lummi Sea Pond in response to various extraction methods like draining the pond or using Rotenone.

BREAK: 11:02 AM – 11:10 AM

Item 5: European Green Crab Dispersal Research Update

P. Sean McDonald Ph.D., University of Washington Associate Professor, discussed the European green crab dispersal rates and their effect on the State of Washington by sharing ocean modeling data and population genetic sampling.

European green crabs are versatile and have many food sources, enabling them to thrive in diverse environments. The species was established in the Bay area of California in 1989 and had moved up the west coast to the State of Washington by 1998.

Dispersal and retention models were developed to monitor green crab larvae. These larvae were shown to move up the US coast and down from Canada due to ocean currents, tidal migration, and counter currents within the Salish Sea. Genome sequencing is being used to determine green crab conductivity and monitor their relation to other crabs, specifically from outer coast and Sooke (British Columbia) origins.

Item 6: Council Discussion on European Green Crab Emergency

Chair Maroney stated that while the council supports WDFW's response to the EGC emergency, there is no specific WISC decision on record. He suggested defining the council's role in the efforts against the rising EGC populations. He asked for input from the WISC members and Member Pleus regarding the support needed.

Member Pleus stated he would be seeking collaboration and long-term management guidance but spoke of concerns due to WDFW staff capacity and bottlenecks occurring

within the department. He spoke to the delay of the emergency response due to lack of funding. Once funding is received, he will take steps towards a long-term solution.

Vice Chair Reeves suggested interagency coordination as a precursor to an “incident command system.” **Industry Advisory Panelist Erin Ewald** was invited to speak and asked if the 2000 or 2019 management plans were being used for strategic actions, and Member Pleus discussed the agency’s struggle with developing short-term, immediate actions rather than long-term as alluded to from these management plans.

Chair Maroney asked for clarification on the grant programs versus the rapid response intent. Member Pleus explained that the coastal grant was specific to coastal green crabs and the rapid response interagency agreement is a fund to get money on the ground quicker than the competitive and time-consuming grant programs.

Item 7: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) and U.S. Coast Guard Update

Member Alex Mostrom, US Coast Guard Lieutenant (USCG), discussed the agency’s work on vessel regulations and inspections.

Regarding the Ballast Water Management program, US regulations largely match International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements. The most distinct difference between the two ballast water management practices is that the IMO treatment systems sterilize organisms that pass through the ballast water treatment system, while the USCG approved systems kill the organisms that pass through the treatment system.

Member Mostrom explained that all vessels must have an approved Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) or Alternative Management System (AMS) when entering US waters. Vessel deficiencies most frequently include inoperable BWMS, incomplete or inaccurate ballast water management plan, and incomplete or inaccurate reports to National Ballast Information Clearinghouse. New equipment, lack of spare parts and unavailable maintenance technicians could all be contributing to the large number of vessel deficiencies. Member Mostrom noted that each offense is documented, and the vessel is reevaluated each time it enters US waters. It is possible that if a vessel fails to meet the minimum requirements within the regulations, it could be denied the ability to discharge ballast in US waters.

Member Mostrom did not have a VIDA update at this time, but it is expected by summer 2024. The existing regulations will remain in place until the new update is implemented.

Members discussed the expected response from VIDA, questioning if efforts will be consolidated from state agencies to guide and advise regulation.

LUNCH: 12:05 PM – 12:35 PM

Item 8: State Agency Supplemental Budget and Legislative Update

Vice Chair Blain Reeves, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, provided a legislative update, sharing that an additional \$5 million in general funds will be put toward the intentions set by the watershed salmon recovery strategy. \$2 million of this funding will be for aquatics, specifically restoration projects and Puget Sound Corps resources. Other bills of interest include House bill 1700 which deposits 25 percent of the Water Excise tax into DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal account, and Senate bill 5619 which will provide about \$1.15 million to prioritize kelp and eel grass environments.

Member Ray Willard, Department of Transportation (DOT), stated the agency is expecting funding from the Moving Washington package for maintenance and roadside weed control. DOT is waiting to hear back from counties to establish weed control assessments from highway corridors.

Member Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership, did not provide an update as he left the meeting early.

Member Brad White, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), shared the agency is receiving \$4.6 million for Japanese beetle response in Grandview, Washington.

Member Lizbeth Seebacher, Washington State Department of Ecology, stated that she had no budget or legislative updates. The agency will ideally hire for the open position Aquatic Plant Specialist by summer 2022.

Member Allen Pleus, WDFW, referenced his European green crab update earlier in the meeting. Member Pleus also stated there was also \$70,000 for the habitat program to support species affected by bullfrogs.

Member Mary Fee, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, shared that wildflower seed packets are being used to promote pollinators in areas where invasive species were removed. An education committee was recently created for the board to develop and implement a work plan for the creation of educational campaigns and materials to the public.

Member Andrea Thorpe, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), stated that funding was approved for a tribal liaison and a climate change and

sustainability coordinator. Funding was also received for forest health projects and ecological integrity assessments and vegetation surveys. Member Thorpe also stated that Parks, DNR and WDFW will all be receiving \$5 million for facility maintenance.

Member Todd Murray, Washington State University, said that there were no direct invasive species budget allocations.

Item 9: Better Common Names Project and Discussion

Member Todd Murray, Urban Pest Management Program Director, discussed the authoritative source of insect common species names and gave background on species naming, noting that common names of insects were formally recognized in the early 20th century to help bridge communication between those who study insects and those who don't. However, not all common names accepted in the past align with the goal of better communication, and some hinder it.

Responding to input from communities and entomologists, in 2021 Ecological Society of America (ESA) developed the [Better Common Names Project](#) which is a process to review and select better common names if a problem is raised such as a common name including references to race or ethnicity.

An ESA Common Names Committee was formed to review and finalize proposals to alter the accepted common names that do not meet the ESA guidelines. One initial species addressed is *Lymantria dispar*, formerly referred to as "gypsy moth", which will now be known as the "spongy moth." The term spongy references translation of the French name based on this destructive forest pest's sponge-like egg masses.

During council discussion, members discussed whether the council should make a recommendation to the ESA in shifting the terminology from "murder hornet" or "Asian giant hornet" to "giant hornet." No decision resulted from this discussion.

Item 10: Recreation and Conservation Office Board/Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Survey Results

Scott Robinson, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Deputy Director, provided the results of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Board/Council survey. This survey was distributed to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Invasive Species Council. It was notable that the majority of members feel positive and safe regarding their experience and engagement with the board or council. However, the boards/council seek to diversify the boards to be more representative of the state were revealed as desired and want additional training and

resources concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion Phase one of two is still underway. Results will soon be distributed and RCO will begin to work on implementation of these recommendations.

Mr. Robinson mentioned that the survey was anonymous, but it was optional for participants to identify their board association. Not everyone opted to share this information so specific board/council results are not available.

BREAK: 1:30 PM – 1:40 PM

Item 11: Invasive Species Impacts to Transportation Infrastructure

Member Ray Willard,

Member Ray Willard, Professional Landscape Architect and State Roadside Landscape Asset Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation, provided an update on the impact of invasive species on roadside infrastructure and the tracking efforts taking place.

Member Willard worked with the Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Research Board, Roadside Maintenance Operation Committee (AKR20) and the Committee for Landscape and Environmental Design (AKD40) to develop a national model for roadside landscape asset management.

A [website](#) and [report](#) were developed from these collaborative efforts to educate the public on invasive species and noxious weed impacts on the national highway system. A contractor reviewed several case studies looking at the degradation of infrastructure due to invasives. The committee will continue to work on asset management for the roadside landscape, to help states better manage their land and improve infrastructure sustainability.

Item 12: Asian Giant Hornet 2021 Wrap Up and 2022 Forecast

Cassie Cichorz, WSDA Outreach and Education Specialist, shared the agency efforts from 2021 and planned 2022 efforts regarding Asian giant hornets.

2021 efforts included the Exotic Hornet Identification Workshop, the Northwest Washington Fair, 56 virtual events and 25 in-person events. Materials were created and distributed at these functions to educate and train the public about the hornets and aid in identification.

Ms. Cichorz noted that trapping, tracking and nest eradication efforts took place with several successful results.

Reporting and trapping campaigns will continue throughout 2022, as well as the “Adopt-a-Wasp Nest” program and a second identification workshop. The public can remain informed through various social media platforms, such as agr.wa.gov/hornets or the [Asian Giant Hornet Watch Facebook group](#).

Member Willard asked about drone usage, and Ms. Cichorz responded that contracts are currently underway.

Item 13: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist Guidance Improvement

Justin Bush, provided information to the council regarding the purpose and background of the SEPA checklist. He shared verbiage updates with the council focusing on animals and plants.”

Mr. Bush clarified that SEPA is intended to ensure that environmental values are considered during decision-making by state and local agencies.

To address gaps in the SEPA Checklist Guidance, the document was updated in an interagency working group coordinated by WISC that involved the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, WSDA, and WDFW. The working group reviewed and improved both the animal as well as the plant Checklist Guidance. Animal guidance was expanded to clearly include all animals (terrestrial or aquatic, mammals, crustaceans, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and mollusks). Plant guidance expanded information on prevention, quarantines, and classifications of noxious weeds.

The working group has a longer-term vision of further improving guidance using the model of WDFW priority habitats for conservation species. WDFW has interactive maps which show priority habitats and conservation species. This allows SEPA applicants to view issues within land parcels to understand whether their project involves priority habitats and conservation species. In the long-term, state agencies wish to develop a similar system for invasive species locations and quarantines.

Item 14: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Chair Maroney and **Justin Bush** shared meeting updates relevant to the June 2022 meeting. Mr. Bush will be out on paternity leave for the month of May, so a possible travel meeting will be postponed until September.

Several meeting topics have been suggested. Any additional topics should be submitted in April. **Julia McNamara**, **Chelsea Krimme** and **Scott Robinson** will collaborate to schedule the June meeting. Mr. Bush briefly covered these potential topics:

- Introduction of Chelsea Krimme, Council Outreach Specialist
- Port Interception Working Group and Case Studies
- Terrestrial mollusks in or threatening Washington
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive Species Funding Update
- European Green Crab Update
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update
- Invasive Species Tabletop Exercises and After-Action Takeaways
- Flowering Rush Update

Chair Maroney has been serving as the chair for two years and discussed transitioning from this position in December 2022 or 2023. Chair Maroney encouraged council members to provide him feedback and for members to consider who may be interested in a future leadership role.

TASK: Justin Bush will email the council to solicit requests for June meeting topics.

General Public Comment:

None.

ADJOURN: 2:53 PM

Next regular meeting: June 16, 2022, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia WA 98501



Joe Maroney, Chair

June 16, 2022
