

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2022

Pavilion Room, Northern Quest Resort

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Joe Maroney, Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Blaine Reeves, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Ray Willard, Past Chair	Washington State Department of Transportation
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Marcie Clement	Chelan County Public Utility District
Steve Burke	King County
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Todd Hass, Ph.D.	Puget Sound Partnership
LCDR Alex Mostrom	U.S. Coast Guard
Steve Miller (Acting)	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Department of the Interior
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Carrie Cook-Tabor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Greg Haubrich (Acting)	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher, Ph.D.	Washington State Department of Ecology
Allen Pleus	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Todd Murray	Washington State University

Invasive Species Council Members Absent:

Andrea Thorpe, Ph.D. Trade Supervisor and Operations Manager	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission U.S. Customs and Border Protection
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Guests:

Holly McLellan	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Dr. Erika Rubenson	Four Peaks Environmental Science and Data Solutions
Camilo Acosta	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Wesley Glisson	Washington State Department of Ecology
Josh Milnes	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
A.F.	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Joe Maroney called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM due to technical difficulties, the chair opened by welcoming attendees, members, and staff to the first travel meeting since 2019. Following, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, **Julia McNamara**, reviewed meeting ground rules, described webinar etiquette, and called roll, confirming quorum.

Motion: Approval of September 29, 2022 Agenda

Moved by: Member Willard

Seconded by: Member Pleus

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of June 2022 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Pleus

Seconded by: Member Fee

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Council Staff Report

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) Executive Coordinator, highlighted several projects and events that took place since the June 2022 meeting. One such event was the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Annual Summit which included a cross border feral swine summit funded by the council and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Feral Swine Damage Management Program.

Mr. Bush explained USDA is providing funding to improve the Squeal on Pigs! developed by the Washington, Oregon, and Idaho invasive species councils. The Washington council will work with a graphic design firm to develop resources and graphics that can more easily be adopted by partners with the goal of sharing the campaign across the entire United States and Canada.

Mr. Bush shared that he spoke to the cities of Tacoma and Monroe to discuss urban forest pest readiness and reminded the council that there is funding to hold pest readiness workshops with municipalities in 2022, building to a 2023 statewide summit.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and council celebrated the installation of a CD3 (Clean, Drain, Dry, Decontaminate) watercraft cleaning station at Steamboat Rock State Park. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to purchase and install three cleaning stations as a pilot project to inform additional units being installed statewide. Excitingly, the national Wildlife Forever non-profit has been awarded U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding to purchase and install six "wayside" solar units and eight powerless "roadside" units in Washington. The council and WDFW are helping by determining best locations and connect Wildlife Forever to launch site managers. Mr. Bush emphasized the importance of giving the public the tools to aid in the defense against invasive species.

There are several upcoming events through the end of the year and into 2023. Some of these events include a Washington State University Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference, the Pacific Northwest Citizen Science Summit, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region economic leadership forum, a statewide noxious weed webinar, and the 2023 statewide Salmon Recovery Conference.

Member Allen Pleus asked how often members of the council assist and participate with events to ensure that Mr. Bush has the proper support he needs. Mr. Bush responded that each organization is different and the majority support council events. He noted there are opportunities to build relationships within agencies by connecting council staff to agency staff. Mr. Pleus followed up by noting the importance of the council staff and that the council should consider asking the Legislature for more funding to council staffing and discuss this at a future meeting. Chair Maroney shared that he could see the staff of the council expanding to between five and ten full time employees. Mr. Bush summarized the two positions that will be filled in 2022, while acknowledging that more staff would be helpful. Chair Maroney requested additional discussion at the December meeting.

Mr. Bush summarized communications and social media outreach, noting an increase in reach and interactions. He also informed the council that *Vespa mandarinia*, previously known as the "Asian giant hornet" or "murder hornet" has been officially named the "Northern giant hornet" by the Entomological Society of America. Member Pleus asked about the organization that sets common names and noted issues with some aquatic

invasive species common names. Chair Maroney requested that common names be added to the December agenda.

Sighting reports doubled this past quarter, with a notable public report of flowering rush along the Columbia River, which was correctly identified by the public. Mr. Bush then summarized a decision package seeking state funding to administer a flowering rush cost share program that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submitted to the Legislature. While supported and funded in the supplemental legislative session, the funding was not ongoing, although it was intended to be ongoing. Vice Chair Reeves commented in support of the request and acknowledged the risk flowering rush poses to aquatic resources.

Mr. Bush provided a brief staffing update – thanking the council members and partners that assisted on interview panels. The Invasive Species Program Specialist 3 position was filled by Jessica La Belle, joining RCO from the WSDA, and that the Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist 3 position is in the process of being filled.

In closing, Mr. Bush outlined staff priorities for the final quarter of 2022, including onboarding new staff, the 2021-2022 biennial report to the State Legislature, an interagency emerald ash borer communications plan, and the updated council bylaws.

Item 2: Northern Pike Rapid Response Plan for the Columbia River Between Priest Rapids and Chief Joseph Dams and the Okanogan River

Dr. Erika Rubenson and **Holly McLellan** briefed the council on a new northern pike rapid response plan funded by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and developed in collaboration with WDFW, Douglas, Chelan and Grant Public Utility Districts, and others. Dr. Rubenson summarized that rapid response plan is used for initial response and not long-term management.

To provide oversight to response to northern pike, a Multi-Agency Coordination Group would be established to communicate between response agencies and guide the response. Dr. Rubenson described various aspects of the plan including the process of reporting and verifying northern pike presence.

Member Stacy Horton thanked the speakers for their efforts noted the importance of quickly responding to northern pike. She then asked how points of contact are updated. Dr. Rubenson responded that they are hoping the plan will be turned over to the Mid-Columbia Public Utility District Fish Committees to maintain and update the plan contact information.

Member Pleus asked if there is funding to do an exercise after the plan is finalized and if there were additional obstacles. Dr. Rubenson said they will present to a regional northern pike working group. Permitting has been a difficult obstacle, noting currently organizations are leveraging permits on hand to conduct sampling.

Item 3: Emerald Ash Borer Background and Oregon Situation Briefing

Member Karen Ripley, U.S Forest Service (USFS), provided an update on the Emerald Ash borer (EAB) impacts in Oregon and the risk assessment for Washington. Member Ripley shared background on the EAB as it arrived in the United States and most recently spread to the Pacific Northwest with a detection in Forest Grove, Oregon on June 30, 2022.

Member Ripley highlighted the importance of prevention, planning, and preemptive removal of ash trees before death where dead trees may become a hazard. Trapping and survey efforts are underway but there is no effective lure for EAB and the initial signs of infestation are cryptic and high in the trees so are not very effective. There are control and management options, including chemical methods and biological control. However, they have not been overly effective solutions in other areas of the country.

Member Ripley shared that there are long term conservation efforts underway in Oregon to preserve over one million Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) seeds for resistance research and potential replanting. One site in the Forest Grove area has been approved for the release of biological control wasps in spring 2023.

Reflecting the intention of the Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan for Oregon (www.OregonEAB.info), the Oregon Department of Agriculture is leading an EAB task force, which includes over 40 local, state, and federal agencies. There are also seven sub-committees that meet monthly to focus on communication, monitoring, education, integrated pest management, wood waste management, research, and funding efforts. Some individuals from Washington are participating on these teams.

Member Ray Willard asked about any negative effects to off target insects when using chemical management. Member Ripley said that there are very few if any effects to other insects with the injected pesticides that are most highly recommended for EAB control.

Member Ripley emphasized the importance of proactive management for ash trees we want to protect. She said that ash is a difficult species to maintain after introduction of the EAB and suggested inventorying what ash you possess, identifying the important services it provides that you want to maintain, determining which individual trees to

actively protect with pesticides, and finding alternative trees to provide similar ecosystem services, especially in riparian areas.

Responding to a question about WSDA activities, Acting Member Haubrich shared that for Washington, the approach will focus on outreach and education, as funding and staffing are limited due to other agricultural pests of national or state significance.

Item 4: Grandview Japanese Beetle Eradication: An Update on Eradication Activities for 2022

Camilo Acosta, WSDA, provided an update on the quarantine and eradication activities, history, threats, and information identifying the Japanese Beetle.

Mr. Acosta showed the infested area in Grandview, Washington where over 24,000 beetles were captured in 2021. WSDA is executing an outreach plan to educate the public identification, containment, preventing spread from current sites, and management. Two open houses were hosted, and the WSDA offered to treat residential lawns for free.

The WSDA is also executing an eradication based upon the national Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan to detect and address the beetles in eastern Washington. WSDA has also proposed a quarantine in areas with verified populations to stop the spread by regulating items that may transport the beetles.

Item 5: Update on European Green Crab Response and Overview of Multi-Agency Coordination Group

Member Allen Pleus, WDFW, and **Justin Bush** provided an update on European green crab response in Washington and an overview of the European Green Crab Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group.

Member Pleus shared that the WDFW has been collecting information on trapped and removed crabs for situation reports every two weeks in addition to updates for Governor Inslee every 10 days. As of September 2022, over 176,688 green crabs have been trapped in the Salish Sea and Coastal management branches.

Mr. Bush shared an overview of the MAC Group and purpose, recommending similar application to other invasive species emergencies. In addition to supporting the MAC Group, RCO council staff are administering a \$1.1 million emergency measure interagency agreement program to quickly and efficiently fund interagency response.

BREAK: 12:20 – 12:30 PM

Item 6: Working Lunch – Open Public Meetings Act Video and Discussion

The council members watched an informative video about the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Audio feedback required the recording to be muted while council members in the meeting room listened to the video. The public and online council members watched the video on their own devices.

BREAK: 12:50 PM – 1:00 PM

Item 7: Introduction of Wesley Glisson and Overview of the Washington Department of Ecology Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Program

Wesley Glisson, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), shared background information on the Ecology Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Program and alerted the council to freshwater invasive plants on the horizon that are not yet in Washington.

The Ecology program was formed due to Eurasian watermilfoil impeding public boat launches and is funded by boat trailer registration fees. The program offers grants to various entities to prevent, remove, reduce, or manage freshwater aquatic weeds, to fund pilot projects, and to specifically fund hydrilla eradication. Public education and technical assistance are two additional focal areas.

Mr. Glisson assists with field assessments, technical assistance, reviewing grant applications, research, coordination of monitoring, and education and outreach.

Mr. Glisson highlighted the variable leaf watermilfoil (present in a few water bodies near Olympia) and the starry stonewort (which has not yet arrived in Washington).

During discussion on aquatic invasive plants. Mr. Glisson shared that starry stonewort is likely travelling to water bodies on boat anchors. He said that this species does dry out quickly and can be decontaminated with hot water. He highlighted the importance of Clean, Drain, Dry.

Item 8: Spotted Lanternfly Readiness and Action Plan

Josh Milnes, WSDA, shared an update on spotted lanternfly *Lycorma delicatula*, summarizing activities since his September 2021 briefing to the council introducing spotted lanternfly and new information on the risk to Washington's economy. The Lanternfly would be devastating to industries such as grapes, hops, or hardwood, orchards, and plant nurseries.

Mr. Milnes shared that the spotted lanternfly is often associated with a Class C noxious weed, the tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*. He shared results of a council-led 2021 public tree of heaven census in addition to survey agreements the WSDA is administering with county noxious weed control boards.

Justin Bush shared that the council has received funding from USDA to develop an action plan to prevent the spotted lanternfly, and by association, address tree-of-heaven as a preventative measure. Jessica La Belle will be leading the project, working with USDA, WSDA, and Samara Group LLC to develop and implement this plan. Mr. Bush summarized each task and step of the project beginning with the creation of an interagency preparedness advisory group. He requested that interested members of the council reach out if they wish to join the advisory group.

BREAK: 1:50 – 2:00 PM

Item 9: Discussion of Incident Management System and Invasive Species: Needs and Objectives

Chair Maroney shared his appreciation to staff for including less items on the meeting agenda to give the council more time to discuss each topic. He reminded the council that this discussion began at the June 2022 meeting following a presentation from the WSDA emergency management program manager.

Mr. Bush asked the council to share what role the council should play in planning and response to invasive species emergencies and sought guidance on what the council is requesting of staff. He reiterated that the council spoke at length about the need for a state invasive species focused Incident Management Team (IMT) at the June meeting and would like to hear more about what the council envisions.

Member Willard said the role of the council is to provide leadership and that creating a response template or checklist process would be useful. He suggested that there could be different pre-identified levels of mobilization response with criteria depending on the species, response options and level of severity.

Member Pleus pointed out that council meetings are open public meetings. He recommended that the council clearly differentiate council meetings versus working groups or participation in incident response advisory groups led by other agencies to ensure that OPMA requirements are being met and that response measures aren't hindered unnecessarily. As an example, RCO staff are supporting the European Green Crab MAC Group, but it is an advisory group to the WDFW who is charged with response. Member Pleus also shared the importance of RCO and the council as

independent organizations supporting many response lead agencies. He asked if RCO could be an interagency hub for response activities, offering support to any organization seeking assistance. In his experience, Member Pleus said efficient and effective staff and RCO processes significantly assisted development of the European green crab MAC Group.

Member Pleus continued by stating there are two parts that help response be effective: the people who know how to run Incident Command Systems (ICS), and the people who are knowledgeable about the species and/or topic. Member Pleus stated the importance of getting assistance from both perspectives. He suggested having an invasive species IMT dedicated to applying ICS as the initial attack phase of response until the lead agency or agencies mobilize long-term response.

Member Reeves asked the council if it would entertain a proposal to develop a general invasive species MAC Group. He suggested that a consultant could assist with a response framework for any new species.

Member Pleus suggested consulting the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division about this concept and to determine their intentions for supporting invasive species emergencies. **Chair Maroney** theorized that they could give suggestions of how to handle multiple invasive species emergencies occurring simultaneously.

Eric Anderson, WDFW, suggested polling the council to find out who has ICS training and their level of training. He suggested that the council organize and host ICS trainings to build capabilities. Some members expressed their disinterest in dedicating a meeting to training due to their current level of training.

Dr. Erika Rubenson was invited to speak due to her experience developing the northern pike response plan. She shared that in her experience funding for planning and training is limited. She asked if the council could secure funding to develop plans and exercise the plans.

Member Ripley appreciated the brief June 2022 ICS briefing and was not interested in another ICS training but stated she would like to have the Emergency Management Division speak to the council about their likely role in the event of a newly detected invasive species response.

Item 10: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

The proposed 2023 meeting schedule was presented before the council:

- March 23, 2023
- June 15, 2023
- September 28, 2023
- December 7, 2023

For the December meeting, the council proposed the following topics for agenda items: Washington Emergency Management Division, council bylaws, council staffing and capacity, and introductions to new employees. **Member Horton** requested a briefing of on the WDFW statewide northern pike rapid response plan.

Chair Maroney announced that he will be passing on the duties of chair to **Vice Chair Reeves** at the December meeting. **Vice Chair Reeves** said there should be a successional discussion to select a new vice chair. **Member Ripley also** requested a state agency legislative and budget update.

General Public Comment:

None.

ADJOURN: 2:38 PM

Next regular meeting: December 15, 2022, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98105