

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2022

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

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
April Gassman	Puget Sound Partnership
LCDR Keola Velasco	U.S. Coast Guard
Clinton Campbell, Ph.D.	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Heidi McMaster	U.S. Department of the Interior
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Regan McNatt	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Ripley	U.S. Forest Service
Brad White, Ph.D.	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
Andrea Thorpe, Ph.D.	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Guests:

Erin Coyle	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Doug Adams	Green Seattle Partnership Forest Steward

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
Maria Marlin	Outreach and Education Specialist
Jessica LaBelle	Invasive Species Program Specialist
Brock Milliern	Policy and Legislative Director

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Joe Maroney called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and invited **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, to provide an overview of the meeting ground rolls. Ms. McNamara called roll, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of December 7, 2022, Agenda

Moved by: Member Ripley

Seconded by: Member Willard

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of September 2022 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Reeves

Seconded by: Member Willard

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Council Staff Report and New Staff Introductions

Before providing an overview of the past quarter, **Justin Bush**, Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) executive coordinator, introduced the newest staff members **Maria Marlin**, community outreach and environmental education specialist, and **Jessica La Belle**, invasive species program specialist.

While there were eight events that the council staff participated in, Mr. Bush provided details on three: the October 11th, Kettle Falls Marina Clean Drain Dry Dispose (CD3) Grand Opening; December 6-7, 100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team event, where staff provided an update on the flowering rush management; and the December 6th, Pulling Together to Prevent and Stop Noxious Weeds in Washington webinar event, which was a collaborative effort with the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

Mr. Bush then moved on to news releases. There was one news release this quarter that spotlights a digital art contest for high school students. This contest is in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the winner will have their artwork displayed on a new WDFW outreach trailer. The art contest is open until December 31st and state legislators will choose the first and second place winner.

In his social media report, Mr. Bush mentioned that the most popular Facebook posts included a video on brown marmorated stink bugs and mention of the removal of tree-of-heaven video produced in the Columbia River Gorge. Twitter impressions are slightly

down, and the top tweet was related to Washington State University's pest workshop in Tacoma. WISC's most popular Instagram post was a spotted lantern fly video featured on Saturday Night Live.

Related to invasive species sighting reports, Mr. Bush noted that insect reports on the WA Invasives app were abnormally high during this quarter, perhaps due to stink bugs moving indoors.

Additionally, the council has received funding to improve and deploy the Squeal on Pigs! campaign across the United States and Canada. Funding will go toward updating the graphic, translating the text and slogans, improving the Squeal on Pigs! mobile application and turning the app into a digital field guide.

Closing, Mr. Bush announced that the 2021-2022 biennial report has been submitted to the Legislature and the Governor's Office and provided an overview of WISC's 2023 first quarter, which included National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Chair Maroney asked if anyone had questions. There were none.

9:38 AM **Member Todd Hass** left and **April Gassman** joined as acting member representing Puget Sound Partnership.

9:40 AM: Unscheduled break due to technical difficulties.

9:45: The meeting continued.

Item 2: Comprehensive Agricultural and Natural Resources Emergency Response Framework: Integrating Invasive Species Response Planning

Erin Coyle, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), and **Mr. Bush** presented on intent of the council and WSDA to integrate of invasive species emergency authorities into the documentation associated with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Ms. Coyle noted that the Emergency Management Division's CEMP has many associated response plans, and that Emergency Support Functions (ESF) are the structure within the CEMP that identifies different agencies authorized to deal with emergencies. The Washington State Department of Agriculture is the coordinating agency for ESF number 11, which relates to agriculture and natural resource emergencies. However, there are other 'primary' or 'support' agencies, making response a collaborative effort.

While there are several areas of responsibility, Ms. Coyle highlighted animal health emergencies and plant diseases and pest response, which, like the rest of the plan, are updated every five years.

Thanks to collaboration with Mr. Bush, Ms. Coyle has identified a gap within ESF 11 appendices as they relate to forest health and aquatic invasive species such as northern pike and quagga/zebra mussels. The council will also be referenced as a support agency. If these improvements meet the intent of what the council is seeking, the updates should be completed by June 2023.

Mr. Bush summarized the council discussion on this topic over 2022 including the concept of a state invasive species Incident Management Team (IMT). However, disconnects between current authorities and the emergency management plan and incident management process must be reconciled as an initial step. Mr. Bush also suggested that an invasive species response framework for all invasive species should be developed concurrently. This vision will involve engaging primary agencies, proposing new content with respective experts, and then reviewing and validating. Mr. Bush asked the council if this was what the council had in mind. **Member Ripley** mentioned the state has recently experienced both short-term (e.g. Marimo moss balls) and long-term (e.g. green crab) response needs for invasive pest problems. She asked if having a management team and invasive species response framework in place would have assisted in responding to these state emergencies. **Member Pleus**, who is currently managing the European green crab response, speculated that having a IMT would be highly beneficial, as they would organize response/support. **Member Burke** asked whether these improvements could benefit budget and resource allocations. Ms. Coyle explained that planning does not equate to instant funding. However, it lays the foundation and creates the roadmap for justifying requesting resources. **Member Willard** suggested the inclusion of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and federal agencies.

Mr. Bush and Ms. Coyle sought council direction on the approach they had developed in response to needs of the council. The council discussed direction, deciding that a formal decision of support would be most appropriate.

Motion: Move to direct staff to create a working group in partnership with WSDA Emergency Management Program and any willing state agencies that voice interest in participating

Moved By: Member Reeves

Seconded By: Member Pleus

Decision: **Approved**

Item 3: Washington State Agency Budget and Legislative Request Updates

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP):

April Gassman gave report as stand-in for Member Todd Hass. PSP seeks to build staffing in two categories. The first category is environmental justice, in which the Partnership seeks to make their current environmental justice position permanent and add a community engagement coordinator. In the second category, the Partnership is seeking to establish a social science staff position and funding to support revisions related to Vital Signs and social science investigations.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO):

Brock Milliern explained that that RCO is requesting \$50,000 per biennium for administering a flowering rush cost-share program. Within the Governor's Budget, RCO was listed for \$4.5 million for operating costs and budget was included for the following positions: tribal liaison, diversity equity and inclusion coordinator, and riparian coordinator.

Department of Agriculture (WSDA):

Member White did not provide specifics but noted that there are many requests for federal funding.

Department of Ecology (ECY):

Member Seebacher explained that the Aquatic Weed Management Fund is funded by a percentage of the licensing fees for boats. Part of these funds assist with a full-time position for the new aquatic plant specialist, and it funds 60 percent of Member Seebacher's positions, 70 percent of the permit specialist, and a portion of the Cyanobacteria team. Member Seebacher explained that were ten aquatic weed management fund grant applications submitted this round that are being reviewed and are awaiting funding from legislature, which will not be known until Spring 2023.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW):

Member Pleus noted there was no change in the Governor's budget to aquatic invasive species funding. In the operating budget, there was an overall departmental allocation of \$8.6 million. Unfortunately, the request for a biodiversity package was not funded. The agency will seek other means of funding for the package. He closed, highlighting that \$190 million was added in the capital budget for hatchery restoration.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

Vice Chair Reeves noted that for DNR, the Governor's Budget included funding for the forest riparian easement program, LiDAR, and a salmon recovery initiative. This will keep funding rolling, build community stewardship, and continue restoration efforts.

Department of Transportation (DOT):

Past Chair Willard said that there were no new developments within DOT. He noted that Move Ahead Washington helped with maintenance and preservation. He explained that the agency is attempting to hire additional employees, but it has been challenging. Other challenges include the ongoing decline of roadside weed control service levels.

Noxious Weed Control Board (Weed Board):

Member Fee explained that the Weed Board had no legislative requests.

She noted current projects which include funding requests to treat flowering rush at Lake Roosevelt, a new identification resource for aquatic weeds, tree-of-heaven outreach materials, and new noxious weed curriculum.

Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks):

Member Thorpe explained that State Parks had requested funding for forest health work that treats noxious weeds, an increase of 11 FTE for general maintenance needs, park maintenance, studying the impact of recreation on state lands, and a diversity equity and inclusion program.

University (WSU):

Member Murray noted that WSU had no specific legislative request. The university has diverted state funds to address industry needs and funded programs such as the Integrated Weed Management Project which historically relied on grants.

Mr. Bush spoke about the council advocating for and supporting the Governor's proposed budget. The council discussed whether a decision is required, noting that in the past, the council chair and executive coordinator has spoken on the behalf of the council to legislators and testified in hearings.

Break: Break skipped at the discretion of the Chair.

Item 4: Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Maroney explained that this was his final meeting as the chair, which moved Vice Chair Blain Reeves into the position. Chair Maroney intends to stay on the council as a member.

Motion: Move that Vice Chair be put in the role of Chair
Moved By: Member Willard
Seconded By: Member Pleus
Decision: **Approved**

Moving forward, the council sought nominations for a new vice chair. Member Horton nominated Todd Murray.

Motion: Move that Todd Murray be nominated as Vice Chair
Moved By: Member White
Seconded By: Member Pleus
Decision: **Approved as amended to change language from nominated to elected**

Lunch: 12 minutes early. 11:08. Came back at 12:20.

Item 5: Passing of Gavel and Recognition of Joe Maroney

Chair Blain Reeves recognized Past Chair Maroney for his leadership and many contributions. Member Maroney joined the council in 2016 and became the chair in 2020, guiding staff and the council through the pandemic. Member Maroney is notable as the first council chair appointed to represent a tribal government since the council was created in 2006.

Item 6: European Green Crab Biennial Quarterly Report Overview and 2023 Forecast.

Member Pleus provided overview of the European green crab (EGC) emergency, which was proclaimed in January 2022 by Governor Inslee after seeing a continuous rise in the population since 2019. As of November 30th, 269,579 EGC had been captured statewide.

In 2022, the state legislature provided Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) \$8.6 million in ongoing funding with \$3.2 million passing through the Lummi Nation, the Makah Tribe, and Washington Sea Grant.

Due to the complex jurisdictions and many organizations involved, a cooperative management grant and a statewide emergency measures interagency agreement program have been created.

Mr. Pleus noted that there is a Multi-Agency Coordination Group which includes local, state, and federal agencies, industry, and tribal nations to coordinate activities and allocate resources. The group is tasked with reviewing and recommending interagency agreement proposals for funding, development and implementation of annual actions plans, and determining when the emergency has ended. This group meets every two weeks coinciding with the release of a new incident situation report, excluding the last two months of the year.

Member Pleus reminded the council that the state is divided into two branches for EGC management (Salish Sea and Coastal), 13 management areas within the branches, and separate coordination sites within each management area. The current hotspots include North Puget Sound, North Coast, Grays Harbor, and Willapa Bay.

Addressing the data management and communication strategy, Member Pleus explained that there are two different data sheets; one provides a plan for a two-week operational period and the other provides data of the completed operational period. From these data they can provide situation reports internally and externally to the public.

Closing, he noted that the first quarterly report to legislature concerning EGC was delivered on Dec. 1, 2022. It included program successes and challenges.

Moving forward, WDFW intends to complete the Fiscal Year 2023 EGC Emergency Measures Strategic Action Plan and to continue trapping, hold MAC Group meetings, complete reporting, and advocate for federal funds.

During discussion, members inquired about native crab impact, water temperature's role in reproduction, mobilizing assistance from Canada, and economic impacts. Member Pleus explained that by-catch is tracked, reproduction seems to occur in the late winter/early spring, Canada does not have the same resources, and that economic impacts are unknown, but on the east coast the crab and shellfish industry are being significantly impacted by the EGC.

Member Horton recommended a five-year strategic action plan with annual goals. Member Pleus indicated that while the long-term goal is to create a five-year plan, there are current challenges in completing a one-year plan.

Break 1:20 PM to 1:40 PM

Item 7: Recognition of Doug Adams, Green Seattle Partnership Forest Steward

Past Chair Maroney recognized Doug Adams, a Green Seattle Partnership Forest Steward, who individually saved 2,000 trees in Seattle's greenbelt forests.

Doug Adams spoke to his love for the outdoors and how he removed invasive ivy. This sparked appreciation of Mr. Adams and conversation on the prohibition of ivy or outreach to nurseries and the public to raise awareness of invasive ivy.

Item 8: Washington Invasive Species Council Volunteer of the Year and Council Award Process and Categories

Past Chair Maroney proposed creating a council workgroup for annual recognition of individuals, organizations or projects that protect Washington from invasive species.

The council was supportive of the idea and Mr. Bush will send an email to the council to gauge individual's interest in joining the workgroup.

Item 9: Review and Discussion of Council By-Laws

Mr. Bush an opened review and discussion concerning draft council bylaws.

He presented the statutory language as presented in RCW 79A.25.310 to 360 and asked the council if they would like to revise the language to provide clarity. The council believed revision for the sake of clarity would be beneficial.

Mr. Bush provided the opportunity to review council membership. Council members discussed adding member positions from additional tribal organizations, municipalities, and other entities, such as the military. In terms of voting capacity for members, it was clarified that federal members are non-voting, but the council invites federal members

to share their opinions with the goal of consensus. He added that additional clarification on voting would be added into the bylaws.

While a maximum number of council members has not been established, most members agreed that the council should only offer a certain number of seats. However, if someone presents interest in the council, members will review this on a case-by-case basis.

Moving forward, Mr. Bush reviewed the positions of chair, vice chair, and past chair, along with standing committees such as the executive committee member, and industry advisor panel. There was agreement that the chair and vice chair terms should be two years, however the vice chair should not automatically become chair, with the council preferring to have an election. For both standing committees, staff recommend terms be up to four years prior to reappointment.

Mr. Bush thanked the council for productive discussion and guidance. He explained that a draft of the by-laws would be available to the council in January 2023, and he will be seeking council approval at the March 2023 meeting.

Item 10: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Chair Reeves and council staff closed the meeting reminding the board of the 2023 meeting dates and inquired where and when members would like to host a travel meeting. The members agreed that June would be a good time to travel, and they suggested several cities, including Leavenworth, Wenatchee, Walla Walla, and Winthrop.

General Public Comment

Closing, **Ms. McNamara** read a public comment, which was included in the meeting materials.

Adjourn 3:00 PM.

Blain Reeves

March 23, 2023
