

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2023

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

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

Blaine Reeves, Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Todd Murray, Vice Chair	Washington State University
Joe Maroney, Past Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Marcie Clement	Avista Utilities
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Steve Burke	King County
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Todd Hass, Ph.D.	Puget Sound Partnership
LCDR ¹ Alex Mostrom	United States Coast Guard
Branch Chief Roy Hamblin	United States Customs and Border Protection
Yolanda Inguanzo	United States Department of Agriculture
Heidi McMaster	United States Department of the Interior
Carrie Cook-Tabor	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Ripley	United States Forest Service
Brad White, Ph.D.	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Shawn Ultican	Washington State Department of Ecology
Allen Pleus	Washington State 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

Guests & Alternates:

Regan McNatt	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Alternate)
Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture (Alternate)
Caleb Maki	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Celeste Williams	Just Language
Tova Tillinghast	Underwood Conservation District
Jesse Schultz	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Katie Buckley, Ph.D.	Washington State Department of Agriculture

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
Maria Marlin	Outreach and Education Specialist

¹ LCDR – Lieutenant Commander

Jessica La Belle Invasive Species Program Specialist
Megan Montgomery Board and Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Blain Reeves called the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. before inviting **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, to provide an overview of the meeting ground rules. Ms. McNamara introduced **Megan Montgomery**, the new Board and Policy Administrative Assistant at the Recreation and Conservation Office and then performed a roll call, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of March 23, 2023, Agenda

Moved by: Member Allen Pleus

Seconded by: Member Karen Ripley

Decision: Approved

Motion: Approval of December 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Ray Willard

Seconded by: Member Mary Fee

Decision: Approved **as amended**

Member Pleus noted that on page 6 where it reads "overall departmental allocation of \$88 million" an amendment needs to be made so that it reads "\$8.6 million" instead.

Member Fee seconded this amendment.

Item 1: Council Staff Report and New Staff Introductions

Justin Bush, WISC Executive Coordinator, reported that during invasive species awareness week council planned and held a series of six educational, news, and social media events. Mr. Bush highlighted three webinars: Safeguard our Shellfish, African Clawed Frog, and an introduction to the new Aquatic Invasive Species detection dog.

Member Pleus pointed out that Puddles, Fin's predecessor, and his handler, Sargent Pam Taylor, both retired at the end of last year. The council discussed these retirements and directed staff to honor Puddles' and Sargent Taylor's contribution and dedication to invasive species management.

There were six other events hosted by council staff in the last quarter, including a Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose (CD3) unit displayed at the Seattle Boat Show and a teacher workshop on March 7th in partnership with the Pacific Education Institute, which taught

middle school teachers to use the council's lesson plans on impacts and prevention of invasive species.

Mr. Bush shared that the council staff developed a communications network to share invasive species messaging across departments. The council sponsored a National Invasive Species Awareness Week collaborative national webinar addressing feral swine/wild pigs. Additionally, the council is working with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Feral Swine Damage Management Program and a graphic designer, to create new graphics for the Squeal on Pigs! campaign in multiple languages.

Mr. Bush shared upcoming events including a 2023 Invasive Species Workshop and Webinars for Tribal Audiences on March 28th and 30th with follow up weekly webinars beginning in April, a Coastal Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop on April 6th, and a virtual Invasive Snail and Slug workshop on April 27th where Member Inguanzo will present.

Overall social media engagement is up, and Mr. Bush credited Maria Marlin for her work creating posts, and increasing reach by 12.4 percent on Facebook. The two most popular posts were about the 12th Annual Invasive Species and Exotic Pest workshop and Safeguard our Shellfish workshop. He noted that during Invasive Species Awareness Week alone, they were able to reach over 40,000 people through Facebook. Mr. Bush highlighted a Twitter post of Past Chair Maroney and new Chair Reeves together before moving onto his Instagram update that indicates engagement is up there, and the council page has almost 3,000 followers.

Mr. Bush summarized the invasive species sighting reports made using the council's website and app. There was a total of 265 reports made last quarter, the majority of which were for insects and terrestrial plants. Mr. Bush anticipates amphibian reports to increase over the next quarter. He noted that the public is continuing to report Tree-of-Heaven locations and that the Washington State Department of Agriculture is compiling data across all platforms that will inform the Spotted Lantern Fly Action Plan that will likely be discussed at the next meeting.

As a final note in his report, Mr. Bush spoke about the last remaining member of the original council that was developed in 2006, Dr. Clinton Campbell, stepping down from his role on the council and **Member Yolanda Inguanzo** will fill his seat representing the United States Department of Agriculture.

Item 2: Washington Department of Natural Resources Committee on Geographic Names

Caleb Maki, Executive Secretary, for the Washington Committee on Geographic Names at the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), described the state and federal process of naming and renaming geographic places as an example process of what the council could use when naming species in an equitable way. The United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) standardizes names throughout the country, is responsible for keeping these names in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database. Names must not be derogatory, cannot be commercial enterprises, and commemorate the deceased before five years after departure. Additionally, names are encouraged to be short and not include a possessive apostrophe.

The first step in Washington's renaming process is initial consideration which allows the Committee on Geographical Names (CGN) to decide which of the proposed names will move forward for staff to do follow-up research and outreach on. Outreach includes collecting comments from local communities, tribal nations, and other groups. If the name is approved by CGN, it moves to the second phase and the Washington State Board on Geographic Names as part of the Washington State Natural Resources Board. If the board approves of the name, then it is official in the state of Washington. The committee then sends the changed names onto the US BGN names for a similar approval process.

Member Pleus asked how the DNR assesses name changes when the interest is to a tribal nation. Mr. Maki clarified that if a feature is entirely on a federally recognized reservation, then choosing the name is deferred to that tribe. If the feature is in their usual and accustomed areas outside of the reservation, then they are consulted. Tribes are welcome to bring changes to the committee.

Chair Reeves asked where the effort behind renaming "sq_" and other offensive names originated. Mr. Maki shared that was part of the US BGN Order Number 3404 which declared "sq_" a derogatory word and implemented procedures to remove the term from federal use. In Washington, these places were primarily renamed by the tribes.

The council discussed names and name changes, including administrative feature name changes such as the renaming of Priest Point Park to Squaxin Park and the intentionally named "No Name" creek, which is not a place holder for a geographic feature without a name. The council also discussed what constitutes a derogatory name, and Mr. Maki explained that the US BGN is the standard, where intent to cause harm is considered derogatory.

Member Ripley asked if an archive is kept of the history of a geographic feature's names and the reasoning of name changes. Mr. Maki shared that there is an archive kept, and part of the form requests to know why the name is being changed. He noted that if a name is changed because it was derogatory that original name is kept as a variant for historical purposes but is not the "primary" name on that feature. Commemorative feature names can be changed if it is determined the person it is named after has engaged in derogatory behavior.

Item 3: Reexamining the Language of Invasive Species through the Intersection of Science, History, Social Justice, and Theater

Celeste Mari Williams, playwright, and television animation professional with a Master of Science degree in Biology, discussed the Just Language Project, a grass-roots organization that strives to create language that is holistic, non-polarizing, and culturally sensitive to historically underrepresented and excluded communities. She uses theater as a tool of inquiring and engagement to foster empathy and emotional connection for all species: human, plant, and animal. Words have the power to incite xenophobia, racism, and negative perceptions, and through entertaining arts, people of all backgrounds can witness underrepresented perspectives of demonizing language. Additionally, militaristic language to address invasive animals, plants, and pathogens with names that include the country of origin can have negative implications, for example pairing Asian, Chinese, Japanese, African, or Mexican with enemy, evil, menace, or foreign.

Ms. Williams provided historical context of "Asian invasion" rhetoric, using historical examples from Chinese and Japanese immigrants. Chinese immigrants arrived during the Gold Rush in the mid-nineteenth century, often being imported as low-paid laborers to build the Transcontinental Railroad. They were scapegoated as carriers of disease, blamed for stealing jobs, and lived in subhuman conditions for low wages. Congress and the Supreme Court used invasion rhetoric and fearmongering to justify the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The act was the first to target a specific nationality, suspended all Chinese immigration for ten years and barred any Chinese person from becoming a citizen. Immigrants from Japan faced similar prejudices. She explained that the Japanese Beetle was used to demonize Japanese immigrants as public health threats, particularly with the rise of Japanese agriculturalists in America. This fueled anti-immigration laws such as the 1924 Immigration Act, which banned immigration from all Asian countries. In 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which forced

Americans of Japanese ancestry into concentration camps where members of Ms. Williams' family were interned across the country during this time.

Ms. Williams noted that perceptions of unwelcome insects from Asia parallel historical dehumanization of undesirable human communities referred to as pests and vermin, and spurred fear. As part of a graduate school thesis, Ms. Williams wrote a play called *Queens of Insect Purgatory* which gives voice and perspective to the Northern giant hornets and other invasive insects. This was intended as a creative tool to foster engagement in critical thinking and create awareness, empathy, and connection to the impacts of demonizing language in a broader social justice context. Ms. Williams believes that outdated names should be changed while critically examining the historical language and social contexts to create alternative language to describe invasive species that is holistic, non-polarizing, culturally sensitive, and inclusive.

The council discussed the importance of addressing non-inclusive language to be successful in its mission and agreed that names should be used for educational purposes to engage the public with the organism rather than the country of origin or a derogatory word (e.g.: using physical descriptions in the name). It was clarified that the country of origin can be seen positively or negatively depending on the context. For example, Japanese cherry blossoms are beautiful and welcomed in the spring, while Asian giant hornet or murder hornet aligns with a negative connotation. The council further discussed the importance of process and statewide harmony when a new name is adopted on a local level. For noxious weeds, anyone can propose a name change which goes to the State Noxious Weed Control Board for evaluation to be adopted in a public hearing. **Alternate Member Sven-Erik Spichiger**, State Entomologist for the Washington State Department of Agriculture, commented that the process of renaming needs to be streamlined to reduce confusion, citing months of delay between removing "Gy____" moth and announcing spongy moth.

Item 4: Discussion on the Role of the Washington Invasive Species Council and the Language and Ideas of Invasive Species

Justin Bush discussed the council's role in name changes before facilitating questions and conversation among members. He began by asking if a leadership role on invasive species language should be filled by the council.

During discussion, there was overall agreement that this role could be filled by the council. What that role specifically looks like varied from being responsible for developing parameters and guidance for naming/renaming species, deciding what

should be renamed and renaming them, providing the public with information on how to name species to eliminate use of derogatory names and a place for them to suggest name changes. It was noted that there are many biological societies, such as the Entomological Society of America, that have a formal naming process, in which this discussion is currently happening.

At the request of **Chair Reeves**, Mr. Bush moved on to the next question, acknowledging that some naming conventions already exist in state statutes. What organizations have authority of common names at the state scale?

Member Fee stated that the Washington Noxious Weed Board has common names in their Noxious Weed list, however it is her understanding that the board has authority over scientific names, but she does not believe that extends to common names, which are easier to change. **Member Cook-Tabor** suggested a subcommittee of council members to create a list of existing organizations and societies to help inform an action plan to address language so that naming issues do not continue to repeat.

The council discussed the instance of some people thinking a name is acceptable, and others think it is not, how would the council address that? How do we consult others to determine what is and is not acceptable? The council discussed options, including a survey of community organizations.

Continuing the discussion, members noted the impacts of time and historical perspective has on naming, phasing out militaristic language, the need to raise awareness of negative connotations surround place of origin, and suggested that the council advise on the best practices.

Vice Chair Murray pointed out that the council is in a unique position with diverse membership to help inform other organizations consistently.

Member Thorpe left the room at 10:58, Member Pleus and Member Ultican left at 11:00, Member Horton left at 11:03 – all returned at 11:05.

Item 5: Bingen/White Salmon Tree-of-Heaven Control Pilot Project

Tova Tillinghast, District Director with the Underwood Conservation District, updated the council on tree-of-heaven control work being done in Bingen and White Salmon, noting that Tree-of-Heaven has a dense distribution in Klickitat and Skamania Counties. In these areas there is overlap of spotted lanternfly suitability and tree-of-heaven distribution. This is of notable geographical significance, as there is heavy traffic of cargo ships travelling upstream on the Columbia River toward agricultural lands.

Public outreach was a priority, including tree-of-heaven identification, control methods, and reporting avenues. Outreach included attending city council meetings, online workshops, YouTube videos, signage, and flyers. Local students were educated and in turn provided presentations to fellow students, city councils, the rotary club, parents and neighbors, and a website, www.ucdwa.org/current-news/tree-of-heaven-control-project.

Underwood Conservation District worked with 26 private landowners to educate them on the proper way to remove Tree of Heaven and treated 1,180 trees, plus 400 trees in public land spaces. Foliar spray and "hack and squirt" methods were used, and the group is still assessing the effectiveness of these methods. Signage was added to treatment sites for public education. Treated areas will continue to be monitored through the spring and replanted with native species once Tree of Heave has successfully been removed.

Ongoing challenges include having few licensed herbicide applicators in the area, barriers to the general public to update and report, and one unhappy landowner which highlighted the importance of thorough communication, permission, and waivers.

The enthusiasm of the community, increased understanding on why removal of Tree of Heaven matters, impressive control work, and better understanding of effective control methods were all highlighted successes.

Vice Chair Murray commented that this sort of program could help address other problem species, like the brown marmorated stink bug, which originates from the same geographic location as the spotted lanternfly.

Member Anderson asked if they encountered any concerned landowners that were opposed to herbicide treatment, and how that was handled. Ms. Tillinghast explained that through education and conversation even the most hesitant landowners came around to using the "hack and squirt" method to help control this species.

Lunch: 11:40 AM – 12:31 PM

Item 6: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Invasive Species Management Protocols

Jesse Schultz, Lead Prevention Biologist for the Aquatic Species Unit, spoke to the council about the invasive species prevention protocols of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). WDFW is the lead regulatory agency for managing invasive species of the animal kingdom statewide, with an emphasis in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). WDFW Policy and Procedure 5310 provides direction and

authority for preventing invasive species spread and created a committee to develop Invasive Species Management Protocols (ISMP) that set the standards for operating procedures and thresholds for decontamination. In September 2022 Version 4 was finalized, which is a living document that changes with the best science available.

These protocols can be broken down into two levels of contamination. Level one decontamination is intended to be simple, feasible, and automatic and is the standard practice between sites to reduce the risk of spreading AIS (clean, drain, dry). Level two decontamination is for all situations involving prohibited species to eradicate AIS (hot water treatment, chemical methods, freezing).

There are a variety of AIS in Washington, however, New Zealand mud snails are what inspired the latest reassessment as they are a significant risk with their small size, varied locations, and undetermined vectors and pathways for establishment.

ISMP implementation is done through education and training both internally and externally. Mr. Schultz noted two upcoming Washington State Department of Transportation integrated roadside vegetation management spring trainings, on April 25th in Leavenworth, and May 3rd in the Olympia/Shelton area. There will be an overview of ISMP and general information on AIS. Additionally, WDFW staff are undergoing internal training and developing an ISMP certification course, which would be an online course with in-person training for level two decontamination methods.

WDFW is also providing outreach to the public to empower boaters on how to use the Clean Drain Dry Dispose (CD3) power stations to reduce the risk of spreading AIS. The CD3s, currently unavailable at all launches, are a critical resource for boaters. There are four different types of CD3 units ranging from roadside or outpost units to stationary units to mobile trailer units. The mobile unit is available to the public on request. WDFW staff deliver them with training videos for proper use. WDFW will be installing three to six more CD3 units across the state.

The council noted that a high number of aquatic weeds are removed by the CD3 units. The council can support this work by providing information to their agencies about these protocols. **Member Pleus** thanked the Bureau of Reclamation in assisting the purchase of the original CD3s.

Item 7: Pollinator Task Force Recommendations and Update on Implementation

Dr. Katie Buckley, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), updated the council on the Recommendations of the Pollinator Health Task Force (PHTF) for

Pollinator Health in Washington report to legislature that was published and submitted to legislature in November 2020, and included around 40 recommendations. This report led to Pollinator Bill – Senate Bill (SB) 5253, which implemented around 30 of those 40 recommendations and was passed unanimously with full funding. An implementation plan for SB 5253 and a report on the risk of neonicotinoid pesticides to pollinators were due to legislature in December 2021.

SB 5253 continued the PHTF until at least 2024, made it illegal to use non-native bumble bees for open field agriculture (RCW 17.24.081), and made it so that all public works projects that include landscaping must have at least 25 percent of that landscape be pollinator habitat when feasible. This bill also established a Washington State University (WSU) pollinator extension and outreach program complete with a fully funded position that has been filled by Kelly Kulhanek in June 2022.

Dr. Buckley informed the council of the eastern bumble bee which is now invasive to the Seattle area and spreading. The western bumble bee was just listed as a candidate species in Washington as endangered, threatened, or sensitive by WDFW and a federal Endangered Species Act listing may soon follow. These non-native species compete with native bees and spread diseases.

SB 5253 mandated that the WSDA pesticide management division must continue to update pollinator protection training, include pollinator protection in drift reduction training, support WSU pesticide education programs, coordinate with Dr. Buckley and WSU on pesticide investigations and share findings, update the penalty matrix, provide credits for pesticide courses focused on pollinator protection measures, and write a report on neonicotinoid pesticides and treated seeds with recommendations to mitigate risks to pollinators by the end of 2021. Many of these items are completed and implemented. WDFW began work on updating their riparian habitat recommendations to encourage the development of pollinator habitat. The Washington State Conservation Commission's Sustainable Farm and Fields grant program implemented prioritizing grant applications that concurrently create or maintain pollinator habitat.

There are two teams from WSDA and WSU that are putting together all known bee species data from Washington state by digitizing WSU's collection and retrieving data from other digitized collections (museums, USDA, private collections). The goal of this work is to create lists of known species, areas that have been under sampled, and bee taxa that have been under sampled or under studied. This work will contribute to the Washington Bee Atlas that will be published later this year. Dr. Buckley is working with the creators of the Oregon Bee Atlas to use as a template for a Washington version.

WSDA is putting together a report on how noxious weeds and pollinators interact with each other to provide better guidelines on timing of control to support pollinators if they rely on that plant as a food source. Additionally, WSDA completed one part of their education through plant nurseries. Feedback from nurseries indicated that they are interested in a pollinator feed course.

Dr. Buckley showed examples of pollinator postcards, brochures, and handouts. She shared that the WSDA Pollinator website is being updated. She ended her presentation with examples of native plants for pollinators and hopes that this information will be more widely available through the completion of the Washington Bee Atlas.

Chair Reeves asked Dr. Buckley to elaborate on the effect of neonicotinoids. She explained that they are chronic toxins to pollinators, which may cause behavioral effects, rather than instant death. This non-acute toxicity is hard to clearly determine whether it is having an effect. **Member Burke** asked what the primary concern of neonicotinoids is, and Dr. Buckley clarified that deciding what is and is not toxic to bees is the concern. She noted that the application needs to be done before the plant flowers, or directly after flowering before it sets seed.

Break 1:15 PM to 1:30 PM

Item 8: Preventing the Introduction of International and Domestic Pests – Focused Group Discussion

The state of Oregon has created the “Don’t Move a Pest” white paper which was funded by the 2019 Plant Protection Act and summarizes, acknowledges, and strategizes the risks and pathways of invasive pests into Oregon. In her presentation, **Maria Marlin**, WISC Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist, discussed this paper that identifies four pathways of introduction into Washington: household and temporary relocation into the state, travel and events, commercial movement of goods, and commercial agriculture and nursery. Ms. Marlin further summarized the current mitigation efforts, the recommended four-step process to behavior change, and phases and strategies for outreach, which can be found in more detail in the white paper included in the materials for this meeting.

The WISC has adopted a national campaign called “Don’t Pack a Pest”, which focuses on international travel. However, it does not currently include educational material for domestic travelers. Ms. Marlin asked the council to discuss how best to shape future efforts to address this gap, applying what was learned from the Oregon white paper.

The council agreed that a gap does exist with a general unawareness by the public. Discussions with Kitsap Bangor Naval Base to educate the people transporting and operating equipment indicate notable gaps in information. The council acknowledged that the public is often unaware how normal activities impact movement of invasive species, and there is room to expand education here in Washington and that highways and household moves are some of the greatest vectors.

Member Hamblin commented that the national “Don’t Pack a Pest” campaign has been adopted by several states and municipalities and suggested manipulating the current program into a domestic side-program.

Ms. Marlin asked the council whether they should continue to explore this topic and develop interagency resources, and if not, which organization they feel should take the lead. Opinions varied from the council taking the lead, to utilizing existing efforts (like the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWR)) because neighboring states share these issues, to recognizing the responsibility each agency has and already does in addressing this issue and have the council keep track of those efforts.

Chair Reeves addressed the council’s role of thinking broadly about invasive species. He asked the council to consider whether a domestic movement campaign should remain broad in scope or provide more focused information (i.e., should the campaign include information on noxious weeds and aquatic animals, or keep it specific to invasive insects). **Member Fee** believes the role should remain broad, citing that each agency is addressing specific species and suggested information be included on the package provided by the post office when you move. This prompted discussion about a general moving checklist that anyone could use. **Member Ultican** noted the challenge there is in educating the public before they move into Washington, which needs to be addressed on a national scale.

Other recommendations for where educational information could be shared included private and commercial movers, RV parks, safety rest areas, highway signage like existing AIS regulatory signs, and targeted campaigns towards organizations that are moving people into Washington (the military, college campuses, and large companies), noting that people are willing to do the right thing when they are informed.

The council discussed the geographic scale that would be most relevant to the target audience. **Member Ripley** appreciates the shared work done by the partners in PNWR but would like to see individual information from each jurisdiction. **Member Fee** commented that the public tends to get overwhelmed when information is too broad

and supports something at the state level. **Member Pleus** supports starting local to develop a standard checklist for people coming to Washington and emphasized the importance of each agency being responsible for sharing information.

Member Fyall left the online meeting at 2:02 pm.

Item 9: Council Staffing Review and Recommendations

In response to the council's request to develop a staffing plan to build and maintain current capacity **Chair Reeves**, along with **Vice Chair Murray** met with **Justin Bush** and executive leadership from the Recreation and Conservation office. **Mr. Bush** shared that since this direction, RCO has hired two new staff members and reiterate statutory language that the council will be staffed by RCO and WISC. Initial discussions between RCO and WISC leadership indicate the need to determine gaps and resource needs, document short- and long-term actions, and develop strategies for securing short- and long-term funding. **Chair Reeves** mentioned that leadership at RCO is supportive of developing and fulfilling these recommendations, noting that additional resources will help to make staff more sustainable in the long run. The recommendations will be discussed further at future meetings.

Item 10: Washington Invasive Species Council By-Laws

Chair Reeves invited **Justin Bush** to speak to the council about the new by-laws that were drafted in the fall of 2022 and reviewed and discussed by the council between then and now. Mr. Bush emphasized the importance of council members having a firm understanding of their role and purpose of the council and reminded the council of the discussions that happened and changes that were made during the review process.

The Executive Committee will meet between council meetings and comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair along with three additional seats, which many state agencies have held over the years. **Past Chair Maroney** asked if Brock Milliern or Director Megan Duffy had input on how these bylaws are put together for other boards, and Mr. Bush shared that they are supportive of these bylaws. He then informed the council that there will need to be three nominations for the remaining seats on the Executive Committee, and **Chair Reeves** asked for nominations.

Motion: Move to approve the accepted nominations of Member Fee, Member White, and Member Willard as members of the Washington Invasive Species Council’s executive committee as of March 23, 2023. These folks will serve until March 23, 2027, before reappointment by the council, or replacement by another member, or retirement.

Moved By: Member Thorpe
Seconded By: Member Ripley
Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to adopt the by-laws as amended by Member Pleus and Seconded by Member Fee.

Moved By: Member Thorpe
Seconded By: Member Ripley
Decision: **Approved with proposed edits**

Member Pleus pointed the disconnect of language between the use of “WISC” and “council” throughout the document. Additionally, under the Staff Support, Host and Administration section, in the third paragraph, the designation in the following is unclear to him: *execute the duties and achieve the goals of the council meetings and between meeting the council delegates authority to the Executive Coordinator to speak on its behalf.* Member Pleus would like to clarify the terms of the delegation and noted that the by-laws need to be blind to personality.

Chair Reeves recommended that the Chair, through the advice of the council, directs the Executive Coordinator to act on behalf of the council, and until that occurs the executive coordinator is not empowered to act on behalf of the council.

Member Pleus recommends two amendments: the first would be to allow council staff to amend any technical wording (e.g. clarifying the use of “WISC” and “council” throughout the document), and the second is specifically under the aforementioned section that it first removes the word “host” because it is not used anywhere else in the document and change it from “the council delegates” to “the chair may delegate authority.” **Chair Reeves** asked for the amendment to be seconded. Member **Fee** seconded this amendment.

Before a final vote on the motion, **Member Pleus** asked for clarification on the voting ability of the United States Customs and Border Protection member, as the language

currently excludes federal agencies. **Mr. Bush** clarified that some federal agencies are non-voting in statute, but additional federal agencies added by the council may vote unless the organization does not allow them to be a voting. U.S. Customs and Border Protection is non-voting and the clerical error in the existing language will be changed.

Member Horton left the in-person meeting at 2:29 PM.

Item 11: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Chair Reeves invited **Justin Bush** to discuss future meeting topics. Mr. Bush recommended that the September travel meeting be moved to June. The council discussed possible locations for the meeting. **Member Willard** offered the Department of Transportation facility as a venue in Walla Walla. **Member Thorpe** suggested a facility in Chelan that she knows to be free to public agencies. **Member McMaster** suggested Lake Roosevelt and Grand Coulee where the council could take a facilitated dam tour and both northern pike and flowering rush could be topics discussed. **Chair Reeves** directed staff to explore these possibilities and report back quickly so that arrangements could be made.

Mr. Bush then reviewed potential items for the next agenda, including recognizing Puddles' retirement, and discussing **Member Seebacher's** new role advising the National Invasive Species Council. Mr. Bush asked for additional suggestions from the council. **Member Pleus** recommended discussing the European Green Crab. **Member McMaster** suggested discussing the northern pike round up that is happening this spring, as well as a flowering rush status update. **Member Maroney** would like to spend time discussing how to recognize citizens that are combatting invasive species, and have the recognition align with next year's Invasive Species Week. **Chair Maroney** asked the council to contact Mr. Bush with other suggestions.

The next meeting will be held June 15, 2023.

General Public Comment

Paul Rudnick, from growafrog.com, asked the council to request that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission reconsider allowing frogs to be observed by elementary school students through the metamorphosis from tadpole to frogs, citing a decision by the commission that currently prohibits this activity. He argued that the specific frogs they use are not an invasive species and once the frogs have fully metamorphosed, they can be kept as pets, or the school is provided with breathable bags for the frogs to be returned to growafrog.com to be rehomed.

Jill Silver, executive director of 10,000 Years Institute, shared ideas for solutions to the carbon, climate, ecosystem services, forest health, and workforce conversations that have been happening at the DNR regarding Scotch broom. Ms. Silver suggested an update to the 2017 Invasive Species Economic Impact Analysis Report to include fire hazard and forest health risk data. She recommended that an aerial photography flight take place in May when Scotch broom is in full bloom for a better understanding of where it is for developing a response and offered to provide a presentation for the council for a future meeting.

Member Burke commented that widespread invasive species like Scotch broom should be considered by the council.

Chair Reeves thanked the council and guests for participating.

Adjourn 2:59 PM.