

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 27, 2024

Place: Hybrid – 1206 G Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362 and online via Zoom

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blain Reeves	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Murray	Washington State University
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious

<input type="checkbox"/> Marcie Clement	Avista
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Fyall	Benton County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven Burke	King County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexei Calambokidis	Trout Unlimited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cory Sandow	United States Bureau of Reclamation
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	United States Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Luca Furnare	United States Customs and Border Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolanda Inguanzo	United States Department of Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Cook-Tabor	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Ripley	United States Forest Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Wes Glisson	Washington Department of Ecology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Bush	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
<input type="checkbox"/> Andrea Thorpe	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Helms	Executive Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica La Belle	Invasive Species Program Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Marlin	Outreach and Education Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Montgomery	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

Guests & Alternates:

Sara Mounts	Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Alternate)
Heidi McMaster	United States Bureau of Reclamation (Alternate)
Anne Schuster	Washington State Department of Agriculture (Alternate)
Shawn Ultican	Washington State Department of Ecology (Alternate)

Captain Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (Alternate)
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Alternate)

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Blain Reeves called the Washington Invasive Species Council (council) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison performed roll call and determined quorum. Please note, the start of this meeting was in-person only and roll call took place before embarking on a tour. The following members were in attendance: Chair Reeves, Vice Chair Murray, Members Anderson, Burke, Bush, Horton, Maroney, Ripley, Spichiger, and Willard.

Motion: Approval of June 27, 2024, Agenda

Moved by: Member **Karen Ripley**

Seconded by: Member **Steven Burke**

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member **Jason Anderson**

Seconded by: Member **Ray Willard**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Field Trip

Council members traveled to a roadside location on Highway United States (US) Twelve between west bound mile 324.5 and east bound mile 330.7 for an overview of roadside maintenance and its challenges concerning invasive plants by **Member Willard**.

BREAK: 11:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.

Item 2: Online Roll Call and Welcome

Chair Reeves called the in-person meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. **Julia McNamara** performed a second roll call for online members and reestablished quorum. Members Clement, Fyall, and Glisson were absent.

Item 3: Field Trip Debrief

Member Ray Willard, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), provided an overview of the field trip, highlighting that roadsides are some of the most vulnerable public lands that serve as vectors for invasive species and wildfire, particularly in Eastern Washington. Reconstruction of United States (US) Highway Twelve near Walla Walla exemplifies challenges WSDOT faces in creating and maintaining climate resilient roadside vegetation. Currently, WSDOT receives insufficient dedicated funding for maintaining the transitional buffer of the road right-of-way. WSDOT needs council and legislative support to amplify the funding and personnel needed to address the critical gap between the road construction and road maintenance phases for invasive species and wildfire prevention and control.

Member Adam Fyall arrived at the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Member Bush noted that the Western Governors Association and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) entered a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and published a toolkit in July 2020 for invasive annual grass management in the United States (US). Work is underway to update the toolkit and Member Bush offered to connect the council with these efforts.

Member Willard explained he is waiting to hear the best way to advocate for the project with the ultimate goal of funding land preservation without impacting the rest of WSDOT's system.

Item 4: Staff Report

Stephanie Helms highlighted previous quarter events the council staff participated in, from the March 26 through 28 Invasive Species Workshop and Webinars for Tribal Audiences to the May 28 WSDOT ESMART Spring Meeting.

Upcoming events include the July 21 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWR) Conference and an Urban Forest Pest Readiness Workshop in August.

Maria Marlin provided updates on the council's social media sites which saw an increase of almost 100 likes on Facebook compared to the previous quarter, Instagram gained just over 100 followers. Of note, invasive species job announcements were among the most popular Instagram posts; agencies and organizations can reach out to Ms. Marlin to help advertise their hiring efforts. The council website had 24,429 users with users across the US.

Ms. Marlin shared the Student Art Contest outcomes, which had ninety-four entries from kindergarten through twelfth grade. First place winners were selected from three age groups: elementary, middle, and high school.

Ms. Marlin and **Jessica La Belle** shared their quarter highlights, which included Bring Your Kids to Work Day and presenting on the impacts of invasive species on cultural resources at the WISC and Washington State University (WSU) Tribal Workshops, respectively. Ms. La Belle will present again at the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) in the fall.

Member Bush offered to provide a future council briefing on WSU and University of Washington (UW) molt searches that get the public involved in early detection of European green crab (EGC).

Member Ripley wondered if there was a summary of the number of reports made through the council's Washington Invasives application. Ms. Helms explained that the information is difficult to track as it must be verified by the lead agency for the species but would like to investigate data management of the application to make the data more useful across agencies.

Council staff was in the news covering the "[Buy It Where You Burn It](#)" campaign and featured on Television Washington's "[The Impact](#)". Future news releases will cover the [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) campaign, EGC genomic sequencing, and August Tree Check Month.

Ms. Helms provided funding updates, shared that council staff will hire an intern, and gave a brief update on the Play Clean Go boot brushes. Throughout the summer, council working groups will plan the 2025 Washington Aquatic Invasive Species Short Course and host the July Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Working Group Meeting. Lastly, Ms. Helms reminded members to nominate people for the [volunteer awards](#) by September 15.

LUNCH: 12:11 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Item 5: Update on Washington State Department of Agriculture Japanese Beetle Education Efforts

Member Sven-Erik Spichiger, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), provided an update on the 2023 Statewide Japanese beetle (beetle) survey, which trapped 19,333 beetles using 4,905 traps. Primarily, beetles were trapped at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and in Yakima and Benton Counties. Beetles were detected in traps between June 9 and September 12, 2023. WSDA treated 2,987 properties with

liquid Acelepryn (chlorantraniliprole), including 1,331 residential acres, and 183 hop fields. An additional 4,185.5 acres were self-treated.

In 2024, WSDA plans to treat 11,448 properties across 2,794 acres in Wapato, Grandview and Sunnyside, and Pasco. Treatment began in April and to-date 2,006 acres have been treated. Additional foliar treatment will be based on adult trap capture numbers. WSDA deployed 5,4000 traps statewide and has detected fourteen beetles since June 10.

WSDA has had a quarantine in place since the mid-1990's in Yakima and Benton Counties and is expected to expand in mid-September, following a public hearing. WSDA is delaying regulation action around the Pasco infestation until green waste logistical issues are resolved. Of note, state does not have authority to quarantine on Tribal lands in and around the Wapato infestation. More information can be found on WSDA's [Japanese beetle website](#).

During discussion, Member Spichiger shared that WSDA has authority to take action on private property but prefers to work with the community as a first course of action. Members discussed actions taken in Oregon, which is unfortunately limited by funding, noting there is hope that the Nursery Association will bring pressure to the Oregon Legislature to keep Oregon from becoming infested.

Item 6: Update on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Quagga Mussel Preparedness Efforts

Member Justin Bush, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided a brief background on quagga mussels, which are the most impactful invasive species that the council has identified out of over 700 different species. During the early life stages, quagga mussels are microscopic and free floating, allowing for easy transportation through ballast water for example, and once attached to a hard surface, the next generation can attach to them causing structural and environmental damage over time.

Quagga mussels pose an economic, environmental, and cultural risk to Washington State. The 2023 detection of quagga mussels in the Snake River, near Twin Falls, Idaho poses an imminent threat. WDFW is focused on inspection and decontamination with five mandatory check stations across the state, along with prevention and readiness measures like canine surveys, rapid response exercises, and monitoring, emphasizing proactive readiness rather than reactive. To date, all sampling at ninety-three sites across twenty-two water bodies have been negative. Notably, 35 percent of the statewide effort has been to the Snake River. Monitoring activities include visual survey,

artificial substrates, calcium samples, ponar grabs, horizontal and vertical plankton tows, and environmental deoxyribonucleic acid (eDNA) samples.

With the help of Representative Mary Dye, Washington State Legislature appropriated \$1.8 million to continue quagga mussel monitoring and response efforts. WDFW is planning short- and long-term actions, making improvements to the response plans, and future efforts including a PNWER tabletop exercise, and optimizing the organizational structure of WDFW's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) unit.

Going forward, WDFW is engaging with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the State of Oregon, and developing the 2025-2027 Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Conceptual Decision Package with actions that include prevention, enforcement, early detection and monitoring, response preparedness, mitigation, and long-term management. Additionally, WDFW plans to develop a statewide decontamination training.

Member Horton asked if WDFW is working with NOAA due to the concern of ESA listed fish. Mr. Bush answered that when the Columbia River Response plan was activated last year, NOAA was involved, but involving them with downstream concerns is a short-term action that needs to be taken.

In response to a question about ballast water as potential biological warfare, Member Bush gave a brief overview of general rules for ballast water and the arrival of international vessels and offered to provide a future council update on the upcoming Federal Legislation surrounding ballast water as quagga mussels and EGC are known to have arrived in the US through ballast water.

BREAK: 1:57 P.M. – 2:04 P.M.

Item 7: Priority Assessment Tool Revision Update and Discussion

Stephanie Helms provided an overview of the Priority Assessment Tool (PAT). At the December 2023 meeting the council supported including cultural resource impacts in the PAT and tasked staff to define, finalize, and quantify impacts and scoring. Following a preliminary review, 80 percent of current species have cultural resource impacts. Council staff worked with RCO cultural resource staff to review the 2021 draft PAT, add missing language, and compile a list of cultural resource impacts from publicly available and credible sources to help make the PAT user-friendly. During this process additional impacts emerged including access to other culturally important sites and balance to ecosystems.

Ms. Helms summarized the draft PAT, included in the meeting materials, which has updated original language in the first two sections, and an added “harmony score” for potential impacts to the biodiversity of the area that could have cascading effects to the surrounding ecosystem and future generations. Ms. Helms provided examples of foraged and hunted cultural resources which includes food and materials, and access to important sites. **Members Maroney** and **Bush** suggested broadening the language for the examples to include all fish, not just salmon and include verbiage like “such as”.

From July through September, council staff intend to survey Washington Tribes and develop an additional webpage on the council website that explains the PAT in more detail so that the council can decide on adopting the PAT at the September meeting. Member Maroney expressed concern around the timeline and **Vice Chair Todd Murray** noted that while the timeline is tight, this will get the council used to revisiting the PAT more regularly. Member Maroney emphasized the importance of communicating the intent of adding cultural resources to the PAT.

Members discussed the addition of harmony and life balance. Member Bush noted that the language was originally instructed by the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act and the council could discuss whether language should be based on the HEAL Act or council driven language. **Member Anderson** noted that summer is a busy time for many Tribes, and it may be difficult for them to participate in the survey and provide feedback. Council staff should reach out to existing tribal natural resource contacts who can then forward to appropriate cultural resource contacts within the Tribe.

Item 8: Timeline for Upcoming updates: Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Biennial Report, By-laws, and New Communications and Outreach Plan

Stephanie Helms explained the updates expected this year to the 2025-2023 Biennial Report, the Communications Plan, council by-laws, and the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Reviews and council involvement vary by plan, and working groups may be required.

The 2025-2030 Biennial report is due to the Legislature by December 15, 2024, and will include both accomplishments and works in progress. Council members will be provided with a draft outline to provide feedback from August 1 through September 1 in time for a council decision at the December meeting. Ms. Helms would confirm with RCO Policy Director, Brock Milliern whether there is an obligation for a Governor’s policy review before the report is submitted to the Legislature. **Member Bush** noted that the report needs to be submitted to the Governor’s Office and relevant policy committees.

Member Burke suggested submitting it to individual legislators as well to ensure it is

being seen and members agreed this would be a good opportunity to continue the messaging.

Updates to the Communications Plan will broaden the current Outreach Plan, increase council communication, and assess current social media trends and new opportunities. Ms. Helms will send an email in July requesting volunteers for a working group to meet twice between July and October. An update will be provided at the September meeting before a council decision to adopt at the December meeting.

Council bylaws will be updated for approval at the December meeting. Staff will conduct a review between August and September and provide an update and time for discussion at the September meeting.

The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is due September 15, 2025, and staff hope to begin work soon to revisit the current strategy at the December meeting. **Members Burke, Bush, Maroney, and Willard** volunteered to be on the working group for developing the strategic plan. Member Maroney asked how diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) would be implemented in the Strategic Plan. Ms. Helms noted that RCO hired an equity coordinator, Caroline Morin, who could be consulted on DEI.

Item 9: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion

Chair Reeves invited members to suggest future meeting topics.

Member Maroney would like an update on the northern pike incident in the San Juan Islands. **Member Bush** can provide an update and would like to provide a briefing on the EGC Management Plan and funding requests. Additionally, Member Bush would like Member Burke to provide an update on Poison Hemlock.

Member Fyall noted that hearing Legislative requests at the September meeting could provide an opportunity for members to offer support for priorities.

Chair Reeves would like to revisit flowering rush at a later meeting.

Maria Marlin would confirm whether nominations for volunteer awards are open to the public or limited to council members only and will advertise information accordingly. Chair Reeves and Member Maroney expressed support for opening nominations to the public.

General Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNED: 3:02 P.M.

The next council meeting will be held on September 12, 2024, Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501