

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** September 12, 2024

**Place:** Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Washington, 98501 and online via Zoom

### Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blain Reeves	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Murray	Washington State University
<input 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
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<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wes Glisson	Washington Department of Ecology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Bush	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Thorpe	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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<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"/> Marissa Dallaire	Intern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Montgomery	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

### Guests & Alternates:

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Skye Pelliccia	King County
Regan McNatt	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Roy Hamblin	Washington State Department of Agriculture

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Christopher Eardley	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kristin Mansfield	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Zeima Kassahun	Washington State Department of Natural Resources

**The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting. Timestamps have been provided that correspond with a video of this recorded session, available at [www.youtube.com/@WashingtonRCO](https://www.youtube.com/@WashingtonRCO). Please note, each link will open a new video tab in your browser. Timestamps can also be found in the video description.**

### **Welcome and Call to Order** ([0:00](#))

**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, determining quorum. Member Joe Maroney was absent.

**Motion:** Approval of **September 12, 2024, Agenda** ([5:58](#))

**Moved by:** Member **Carrie Cook-Tabor**

**Seconded by:** Member **Ray Willard**

**Decision:** **Approved**

**Motion:** Approval of **June 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes** ([6:44](#))

**Moved by:** Member **Steve Burke**

**Seconded by:** Member **Ray Willard**

**Decision:** **Approved**

Member Ripley provided minor clerical edits prior to the meeting, which will be updated.

**Motion:** Approval of **Standing Calendar Dates** ([8:18](#))

**Moved by:** Member **Mary Fee**

**Seconded by:** Member **Stacy Horton**

**Decision:** **Approved**

**Motion:** Approval of **2025 Meetings**

**Moved by:** Member

**Seconded by:** Member

**Decision:** **Approved**

### **Item 1: Recognition of New Members** ([13:45](#))

**Stephanie Helms** introduced two new council appointments: Wes Glisson from Washington State Department of Ecology and Heidi McMaster's replacement, Cory

Sandow from the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Heidi McMaster will remain as an alternate.

Member Adam Fyall joined at 9:19 a.m.

## **Item 2: Council Staff Report** ([17:23](#))

**Stephanie Helms**, Council Executive Director, shared that staff attended the 2024 Pacific Northwest Economic Region Annual Conference in British Columbia and took a field trip to the Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center. **Member Justin Bush** highlighted an ongoing discussion at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Annual Conference on increasing regional readiness and funding for zebra and quagga mussels. This fall staff will present to the Washington State University Veterinary School, attend a European Green Crab open house, present at the North American Invasive Species Management Association's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference, attend the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Workshop, and attend the Noxious Weed Board Conference. In July and August, the council had two news releases covering the [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) campaign and August Tree Check Month.

Staff submitted requests under Goal Five (Education and Outreach) to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection Quarantine Plant Protection Act 7721. Staff continue to work on the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan and updated the timeline.

**Maria Marlin**, Outreach Specialist, provided updates on the council's social media and website engagement. Engagement was up on Facebook and Instagram and the website had over 20,000 users with a global reach. All boot brush stations from the [Play, Clean, Go boot brush project](#) have been delivered, with five installed. Ms. Marlin reminded council members to submit volunteer award nominations by September 15.

**Brock Milliern**, RCO Policy and Legislative Director, noted that state revenue was down around \$500 million this year and the next projection is expected in November. RCO submitted five packages to increase archaeology staff for cultural resources protection needs; provide technical assistance for applicants; conduct a fuel use study; provide a technical fix for the Adopt a Fish Passage program; and adding a staff member to the council.

Currently there are two permanent and one project staff supporting the council. The package would make the project position permanent. **Chair Reeves** noted the staffing request was initiated and supported by him, the council chair, and Vice Chair Murray.

Members discussed offering support for this package during session when the opportunity arises.

**BREAK: 9:47 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

The break occurred ahead of schedule due to technical difficulties.

**Item 3: Meet the Invasive Species Council Intern! Washington Invasives App and Council Website Updates** ([43:27](#))

**Marissa Dallaire**, Council Intern, introduced herself and provided an overview of the council's strategic plan and public critical role in reporting invasive species. Ms. Dallaire is focused on improving the Washington Invasives Application and the [council's website](#) to increase public involvement by improving the [Clean, Drain, Dry](#); [Buy it Where you Burn it](#); and [Don't Let it Loose](#) campaigns; making grammatical edits to the website; updating fact sheets and photos, and making the application more user friendly. Additionally, Ms. Dallaire is working to spread awareness and information through social media in a catchy way to reach various audiences.

**Item 4: Washington's Upcoming European Green Crab Long-Term Management Plan** ([1:07:30](#))

**Dr. Brian Turner** provided a brief overview and background on the European Green Crab emergency in Washington State and an overview and update on the European Green Crab long-term management plan (plan). Development of the plan began in September 2023. The final draft is under an internal review by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Following this review and review from the European green crab multi-agency coordination group, the plan will be submitted to Legislature on October 1.

The plan provides background information on the emergency and guidance and information to aid the planning and execution of European green crab management actions, as well as documents actions and needs for co-managers, Tribes, and partners.

**Member Justin Bush** provided an overview of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's state and federal recommendations for supporting the European green crab emergency in Washington State.

**Member Horton** asked if an independent scientific review was considered for the plan. Dr. Turner noted that due to the tight timeline, an independent review had not considered it but is open to exploring a review following the submission.

## **Item 5: Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Efforts** ([1:35:39](#))

Member Fyall left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**Member Karen Ripley**, United States Forest Service, provided an update on emerald ash borer detections in Oregon as reported by the Oregon Emerald Ash Borer Task Force by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Since the detection of emerald ash borer in Forest Grove, Oregon, three new counties had verified detections. Washington, Marion, Yamhill, and Clackamas counties are under emerald ash borer quarantine, prohibiting the movement of ash, olive, and white fringe tree materials from those counties. Contact Member Ripley at [karen.ripley@usda.gov](mailto:karen.ripley@usda.gov) for information on how to participate in the Oregon Emerald Ash Borer Task Force, and contact Jim Gersbach at [jim.getrsbach@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:jim.getrsbach@odf.oregon.gov) to receive the monthly [Oregon Tree Health Bulletin](#).

Due to technical difficulties the online portion of the meeting was restarted.

**Member Sven-Erik Spichiger**, Washington State Department of Agriculture, provided an update on the agency's efforts to address the emerald ash borer. Due to detections in Oregon and British Columbia, Washington State Department of Agriculture placed a quarantine on all out of state firewood that has not been kiln dried and heat treated. This action is supported by the federal government at the border with Canada. To learn more or get involved with the rulemaking process on the firewood quarantine please visit [Washington State Department of Agriculture's website](#).

**Zeima Kassahun**, Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Specialist, provided an overview of Washington's Urban and Community Forestry Program and a status update of emerald ash borer in Washington State. Department of Natural Resources has attended meetings and workshops related to emerald ash borer, including the council's Emerald Ash Borer Interagency Task Force meetings.

Due to the proximity to Forest Grove, Oregon, the City of Vancouver, Washington has entered an agreement with Department of Natural Resources to increase emerald ash borer preparedness, act as a model to other municipalities in the state, and to troubleshoot methods of preservation and eradication. Additionally, Washington Department of Natural Resources is conducting trap tree creation workshops in the city.

Throughout the state, Washington Department of Natural Resources provides educational assistance, regional pest readiness workshops, technical assistance, and is coordinating with Urban Ashes to utilize wood waste.

Members discussed girdling trees over using traps as a more effective but labor-intensive effort to attracting emerald ash borers, and that all ash trees are susceptible to emerald ash borers, although some varieties can take longer to show signs of infestation.

#### **Item 6: 2024 Chronic Wasting Disease Detection Overview (2:08:37)**

**Kristin Mansfield**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided an overview of Washington's first confirmed chronic wasting disease detection that occurred in game management unit 124 in Spokane County. After providing an overview of the prion disease, Ms. Mansfield explained how Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife deployed an incident management team and initiated mandatory testing of cervids in game management units 124, 130, and 127, or the initial response area. Surrounding target restriction zones have restrictions on moving cervid carcasses from those game management units. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have designated disposal sites, head deposit kiosks, and check stations with additional sampling opportunities through mail-in samples and appointments with staff.

For more information on chronic wasting disease see [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's website](#).

**Member Andrea Thorpe** noted that Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has staff in the area that could be trained to assist with collecting samples. Ms. Mansfield will connect with Member Thorpe on potential sample collection training.

Responding to a question from **Member Mary Fee**, Ms. Mansfield emphasized the cervid organ disposal options for hunters, available at designated landfills and some municipalities allow for disposal in personal waste bins. Prions are not susceptible to heat, so burning waste materials is not a viable option.

**Member Justin Bush** offered to connect with Ms. Mansfield to collaborate on using existing aquatic check stations in Eastern Washington.

Hunters can find the results of mandatory and voluntary testing on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's [test results lookup webpage](#).

#### **LUNCH: 11:55 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.**

Member Fyall returned to the meeting during the lunch break.

### **Item 7: Poison Hemlock Control in King County** [\(2:41:11\)](#)

**Member Steven Burke**, King County Noxious Weed Control Program, covered King County's issue with poison hemlock, a highly toxic weed.

Member Calambokidis returned to the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

**Skye Pellicia**, King County Noxious Weed Outreach Specialist, provided an overview of poison hemlock, a highly toxic Class B Noxious Weed. Poison hemlock is most dangerous if eaten but can cause skin and respiratory irritation just by touching or breathing in small particles. The plant grows in a two-year cycle, the first year as a rosette of leaves, and the second year with a flowing head. It is important to note that first- and second-year growth stages can co-exist at one site. King County prioritizes treating second-year growth by preventing the spread of seeds from one site to another, manually removing the plants, and applying chemical treatment.

Poison hemlock is a regulatory anomaly as it is too widespread to be fully regulated but is a public health hazard. King County is utilizing a two-part strategy, first by requiring control on public lands and railroads and second by educating and empowering residents on how to properly identify poison hemlock and conduct control measures on private and residential lands.

For more information on poison hemlock see [King County's website](#).

### **Item 8: Safeguard Our Shellfish Campaign and Shellfish Unit Priorities** [\(3:08:42\)](#)

**Christopher Eardley**, Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided an overview of shellfish health in Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Puget Sound Shellfish program manages commercial and recreational fisheries, restoration, and disease control. Within the program, the Shellfish and Seaweed Health and Biosecurity Unit protects wild and cultivated shellfish resources from harmful disease-causing pathogens and non-native pests through a permitting program, active surveillance and testing of imports, compliance inspections, collaborating with researchers and the aquaculture industry, and through public outreach and education.

In recent years several issues have emerged in Washington, including ostreid herpesvirus type one (OsHV-1), increasing international trade, European green crab, a growing population, and a variety of aquatic invasive species. Since 2016, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has taken numerous steps towards protecting

Washington's shellfish which led to the development of the [Safeguard Our Shellfish Campaign](#).

**Member Fee** requested a deeper look at lesser known invasive species at a future meeting.

For more information visit the [council's website](#).

### **Item 9: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Decision Package Overview (3:45:30)**

**Member Justin Bush** provided a reminder of the economic and environmental risks that zebra and quagga mussels pose to Washington State, as discussed at previous meetings this year.

In August, a zebra mussel in a Marimo moss ball was reported by a Renton-based fish wholesaler. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife initiated a response and confirmed the report through visual and genetic analysis. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working with Washington Department of Agriculture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United States Department of Agriculture and a federal investigation of the initial importer in Florida is underway.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife received a one-year Legislative proviso to increase zebra and quagga mussel preparedness and response readiness based on the 2023 quagga mussel detection in Idaho. Response efforts, monitoring, and mandatory watercraft inspections continue in Washington, downstream of this detection.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife developed a 2025-2027 biennium decision package, seeking \$1.81 million state and leverages \$1.8 million in federal funds to expand mussel activities and increase prevention activities, response readiness, public awareness, regulatory compliance, and preparation for extended management and mitigation.

**Member Ripley** noted the collaboration between United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Marimo moss ball incident. Member Bush added that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates the animal part of the incident and United States Department of Agriculture regulates the plant part. It is a great example of how invasive species managers can improve relationships with federal agencies through cooperation.



## **Item 10: State Agency Roundtable: Upcoming Session Updates** ([4:22:37](#))

### **Recreation and Conservation Office**

**Brock Milliern** provided RCO's update during Item 2.

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** ([4:23:13](#))

**Chair Blain Reeves** shared that Department of Natural Resources is seeking \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2025 and \$1.1 million in carry forward funding each year thereafter for a European green crab decision package. The package funds seven full time employees. Additionally, Department of Natural Resources is seeking Washington Conservation Corps resources to control noxious weed on state lands.

### **Washington Department of Ecology** ([4:25:28](#))

**Member Wes Glisson** shared that Washington Department of Ecology is requesting \$540,000 biennial funds to expand and continue work to address European green crab in Padilla Bay. Questions about this request can be directed to Jude Apple at [japple@padillabay.gov](mailto:japple@padillabay.gov).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** ([4:28:09](#))

**Member Justin Bush** provided zebra and quagga mussel decision package details during Item 9.

### **Puget Sound Partnership** ([4:29:16](#))

**Member Todd Hass** had no decision package proposals related to invasive species to share; however, over the next month, Puget Sound Partnership will be conducting its annual ranking of agency budget proposals related to Puget Sound recovery.

### **Washington State Department of Agriculture** ([4:31:36](#))

**Member Sven-Erik Spichiger**, as a state plant regulatory official, is a member of the National Plant Board which receives updates from federal counterparts. There have been significant funding reductions to numerous projects that impact invasive species work in Washington and across the country. Washington State Department of Agriculture relies on several of these projects to fund personnel, including spongy moth. CAPs has also had a delay in receiving funding. Washington State Department of Agriculture is submitting decision packages for Japanese beetle, spongy moth, spotted lanternfly, a maintenance package to support positions that are traditionally federally funded. Additionally, Washington State Department of Agriculture is ready to withdraw the northern giant hornet package.

### **Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board** (3:35:15)

**Member Mary Fee** shared that the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board requested a decision package for the 2025-2027 biennium for \$200,000 to support publications and outreach materials. Additionally, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board went through a strategic planning exercise for fiscal year 2025-2027 that focuses on education and coordination with other agencies. Class A Eradication projects were voted on in July. Next week, the 2025 Noxious Weed List proposals will be voted on and selected weeds will be moved forward to a hearing in November to decide whether they will be added to the noxious weed list.

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission** (4:40:29)

**Member Andrea Thorpe** shared Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's two main budget requests related to invasive species: an ongoing capital request for forest health work and an operations request to strengthen natural and cultural resources management.

### **Washington State Department of Transportation** (4:42:37)

**Member Ray Willard** noted roadside maintenance for invasive species control gets lumped in with all maintenance funding for Washington State Department of Transportation, and surveys show more weeds in rights-of-way each year. Typically, vegetation management receives around \$15 million from the total maintenance budget. Member Willard requested support from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and the council during the upcoming legislative session and highlight this gap in funding to protect roadsides from terrestrial weeds and wildfire.

**Chair Reeves** will work with council staff on promoting this message.

**Member Fee** asked Member Willard to provide a template for a letter of support, and **Member Bush** suggested the council emphasize economic studies as a state.

### **Item 11: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion** (4:46:19)

**Chair Blain Reeves** requested members send their ideas for future meeting topics to Stephanie Helms.

### *General Public Comment*

None.

### **ADJOURNED: 3:02 P.M.** (4:48:43)

The next council meeting will be held on December 5, Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501