Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board July Meeting
9:00 a.m. July 23rd, 2026
Hybrid Online via Zoom and in person at 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98504, Room 259

Handouts provided for meeting:

- Agenda for meeting.
- Draft minutes of May meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Class A and B grant proposals and summary of proposals.
- Draft Interagency Agreement
- Draft WSDA WSNWCB Memorandum of Understanding.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Allen Evenson	Dylan Mendenhall	Marty Hall
Alison Halpern	Janet Spingath	Todd Palzer
Charles Edmonson	Marci Miller	Wes Glisson

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Burrows, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anisha Azad, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Adam Pfleeger, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Alaine Sommargren, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Ashlie Arhtur, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Beth Tanner, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Daria Etchings, Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Farren Reinbold, Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Andreas, WSU
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Josh Milnes, WSDA
- Laura Sanders, Stevens County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Scott Watson, Whitman County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Tom Erler, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

- Tricia MacLaren, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

Public Comment

- none

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the May 21st meeting.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 21st meeting.
	Marci Miller	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, Dylan and Marty abstain, motion carried.

Board Member Updates

Comments

- Marci said that it is harvest time in Eastern Washington, so they are busy with that. It is hot, dry, and smoky.
- Allen said that it is very similar for him as for Marci.
- Janet talked about the Scotchbroom Slayers, a group of volunteer retirees who are using reciprocating saws to remove scotchbroom and restoring habitat in a Pierce County Park.
- Todd summarized his season of spartina control and surveying.
- Wes talked about his collaborations, his field season, and the other work, such as surveys and control he had been working on.

Position #3 election results and County Commissioners new member

- Dylan Mendenhall won the election for Position #3, for the NW Washington Counties Weed Boards.
    - Dylan gave a brief introduction, he is a consulting ecologist, who is looking forward to serving his community.
- Marty Hall is the new representative from the Washington Association of Counties. He is a commissioner for Wahkiakum County.

Vacancies, Position #4 and Scientific Advisor

- Position #4 NE region, election process
- Any recommendations for scientific advisor, ideally from secondary education. Non voting position. Appointed by WSDA director

Office Reports

- Mary and Anne summarized the work they have been undertaking over the previous couple months, including updating SOPs, creating a draft interagency agreement, attending various meetings and webinars, giving presentations, coordinating committees, written findings, social media, and publication updates.

Financial Report

Budget Reports

- Mary summarized the end of fiscal year report and the current budget report. Some key points were:
    - Printings will be a large amount that will come out as soon as the invoice is in.
    - Class A and B grants were paid out
    - There were some attorney general fees, from the Interagency Agreement drafting.
    - There was a lot left over at the end of the fiscal year on June 30th, and it is not clear from WSDA how that happened.
        - This amount can not be spent, and will be reabsorbed into the general fund.
- The board began discussing the allotments for Class A and B grants, travel, and publication printing.
    - The general consensus was that $2000 could go from travel to publication printing
        - This travel funding is used to reimburse board members and staff for travel to meetings around the state.
    - $8000 could go from printing to Class A and B grants
        - Mary expressed optimism about being able to find other funding sources for publication printing, and Janet expressed her support for moving more towards digital publications.
    - The board agreed that they have a duty to control Class A weeds and do education, and that it is a tough balance with limited resources.

Ecology Grant Report

- Mary summarized how the grant from the Department of Ecology is going towards Ferry County for aquatic weed control work.

State Agency Updates

WSDA – Alison Halpern

- Alison summarized the work and budget issues she has recently been working on with WSDA, including funding for Japanese beetle control, spongy moth monitoring, spotted lanternfly prevention, and building a new plant pathology lab in Prosser.
    - The spartina program was having to look for other funding opportunities.

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- Emily summarized the work the Noxious Weed Committee has been doing over the past couple months, including 3 meetings in June and July, draft written findings, getting through most of the proposals, and that there are only a few more proposals to discuss in August for their final recommendations to the board for their September meeting.

Douglas County and Education Committee

- Janet summarized the project she has in mind to educate Douglas County citizens on noxious weeds.

Executive Committee

- Mary told the board about the work the Executive Committee has done to create an interagency agreement between the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and WSDA, including staff guidance and oversight responsibilities.

Discussion Topics

Class A and B grant proposals

- The board began hearing about the funding available for grants, and the proposals from the counties for that funding.
    - No funding was allocated in the budget for.
    - $22,500 in funding was requested.
    - All projects that were proposed have been funded before and are making good progress.
- Chelan's proposal summary:
    - Wild four o'clock
        - $2500
    - Adam discussed the ongoing, low acreage work they are doing, and how it spreads from neighbor's properties that are not being controlled.
        - The funding has been very beneficial, they are making good progress, and any amount of funding would be helpful
- Cowlitz's proposal summary:
    - Turkish (could be Italian) thistle, slenderflower thistle, milk thistle, false brome
        - $5000
    - Jennifer summarized her county's work, that they are making great progress, but new sites come up with continued monitoring needs.
        - The funding goes towards private landowners who otherwise would have difficulty controlling species on their own.
        - Without $3000-$4000 for false brome, eradicating it will not be possible.
        - She could take a reduction in thistle control funding, but any amount would be helpful.
- Island's proposal summary:
    - Garlic mustard

        - $5000
    - No representative attended, and the proposal was dropped by the board, as per their policies over the past few years.
- Mason's proposal summary:
    - Giant hogweed ($4000), perennial pepperweed ($1000)
        - $5000
    - Heidi described her project, including what active partners she has, that all sites have control plans in place, that eradication is possible for perennial pepperweed by 2031, and that hogweed could be eradicated by 2041.
        - Due to the hazard of giant hogweed and resources of residents, they want to do control for citizens, and that any amount would be helpful.
- Skamania's proposal summary:
    - Garlic mustard ($2500-$3000), false brome ($200 if state parks can help), shiny geranium (more than $5000, but $2000 is ok)
        - $5000
    - Emily summarized her county's situation. They are a general fund program, with no assessment, and rely heavily on grants, primarily uncertain ones from the federal government. Their work with state agencies has been reduced due to state budget cuts.
        - Garlic mustard has been ongoing and is difficult, but they are making progress.
        - There are new false brome sites
        - They can not keep up with shiny geranium, which spreads along roads, though they are having success in some locations.
        - They could use every bit of funding they are given.
- The board discussed how to fund these proposals, primarily focused on the idea from the budget report discussion.
    - Vote on how much funding will be available to use
        - Discussion:
            - Janet questioned what can be eradicated and expressed her feeling that false brome is hopeless.
            - Allen put forward that every proposal could be cut by a percentage, because everyone has need.
            - Charles added that Class As could be prioritized.

VOTE	Dylan Mendenhall	Moved to move $10,000 from publication printing to Class A and B Grants, and to move $2000 from travel to publication printing
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

    - Vote on how to allocate the funds specifically
        - Discussion:
            - Island county would be eliminated, as they did not attend the meeting.

    - Shiny geranium and perennial pepperweed would also be eliminated, due to being Class Bs
- Dylan put forward an idea to prioritize high match proposals (Skamania), counties with no assessment (Skamania), and proposals with small acerage (Chelan)
    - Dylan also proposed to fund $2,500 each, rather than at a percentage.
    - Janet disagreed and felt that percentage is more equitable.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to prioritize Class As, not fund those who are not present for the meeting, and to fund at a percentage of the amount allocated in the funding vote. There was a friendly amendment to specify the percentage to be 68.9%.
	Dylan Mendenhall	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	Most in favor, Dylan voted against, motion carried.

Holly Working Group

- Alison discussed why she stopped convening her Holly Working Group. She felt that there was not enough momentum and some of the tasks that were agreed upon were not done.
    - One project that was decided by the working group was a page about holly being a legacy crop in Washington, on the NWCB website.
        - The board reminded Alison that the education committee felt that the mission of the board was not to promote agriculture, and that would be best done by WSDA or another group, and that the board had voted agreeing with that opinion at the July 2025 meeting.
        - However, the holly ID page on the NWCB and the holly page in the Western Garden Wise were both updated to include information on the history of holly in Washington.
    - Another project was controlling holly on an abandoned holly farm, and to have a mini documentary series made about the control.
- Alison reported that Mary had reached out to growers to see if they have had any hardship from the holly listing.
    - Mary summarized that John Rummel was interested in continuing with the holly working group, and that he did see a sales dive after the listing, but that there were many variables, such as plastic holly and the economy that also impacted it.
    - Allen reported that Ken Bajema is still interested in working with he working group and says that some other growers are also keen.
    - Janet said that the growers were not sure what was happening or what they should be working on.

WSNWCB and WSDA Interagency Agreement

- Mary presented the outline of the draft interagency agreement between the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and WSDA. She asked if members have anything they would like to change or add.
- Dylan, being a new board member, asked what the purpose of this agreement is.
    - The board summarized that the agreement will help clarify that the weed board is a stand alone entity which is administered by WSDA.
        - Board staff are WSDA and state empolyees, but the appointing authority over them is the board, and thus they give oversight, such as following policy and meeting goals.
        - WSDA is still a stakeholder of the board, and has a voting seat on the board.
- The board would like to have these sections added:
    - IT
    - Public records
- Dylan expressed concern about the legality of Alison being a voting member of the board, due to some language in the weed law.
    - He argued that the director of WSDA is a member, but can not delegate to someone else.
    - The board clarified that there is other language which states that the director can delegate.
    - Dylan read the relevant portions, and agreed that Alison is a legitimate member of the board.

Coordinators Forum

- Loretta Nichols, Pend Oreille – They have a flowering rush removal project coordinator, attended an invasive mussel species meeting, finished an aquatics workshop, and are looking for flowering rush biocontrol release sites.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania – They had a hard time hiring and keeping seasonals, so they have a smaller crew with Emily spending a lot of time in the field. They found more false brome.
- Heidi Steinbach, Mason – They were busy with peak field season and had some extra funding for some part time and seasonals. They were busy with tansy inspections and control.
- Adam Pfleeger, Chelan – Their crew are staring early due to heat, and working on garden loosestrife in fish lake with Department of Ecology funding.
- Alaine Sommargren, King – She has been in her position for 5 months. They are switching from early to late season weeds, it is now tansy and knotweed season. They have controlled 91% of their 1200 Class A infestation sites so far this year. Anisha Azad has been working on a poison hemlock prioritization and public health research project. The seasonals were doing well, and their aquatic specialist put on their water weeds workshop.
    - She gave kudos to the Noxious Weed Committee for getting though an unprecedented amount of proposals this year.
- Scott Watson, Whitman – He was working on his budget and moved to a new office. They had their first Class A of the year, which was garlic mustard near the border with Spokane county.

Knapweeds and bugloss were going to seed and hemlock and scotch thistle had already seeded. They are trying to avoid enforcements with more funding.

- Laura Sanders, Stevens – She was working on cost share projects, controlling late season weeds, and having a new field manager. It was hard to get seasonals this year. Hoary alyssum is a particularly bad problem this year, 33 horses had died already, 13 of which were foals. Landowners only mow it, which causes more spead.
- Charles Edmonson, Lewis – He just reached 5 years in his position. It was the height of their season, with hitting tansy hard, good technicians, a successful treatment of Brazilian elodea in Plummer lake, starting Mineral lake Eurasian watermilfoil treatment, poison hemlock is still flowering, they are inspecting forest service gravel pits for weed free certification, and are scaling back their knotweed work to focus on the Tilton and Chehalis rivers.

The next board meeting will be on September 10th, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

VOTE	NAME	Moved to adjourn the meeting.
	NAME	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:31

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Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Carey Caruso, Secretary
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB