Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board May Meeting
9:00 a.m. May 21st, 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 March meeting and April special meeting.
- Office report.
- Financial report.
- Request for Proposals for Class A and B Grants
- WSNWCB and WSDA Interagency Agreement

Meeting called to order at 9:23 a.m. by Allen Evenson

Roll Call

Board members present via Zoom and in person:

Alison Halpern	Janet Spingath	Randy Johnson
Allen Evenson	Marci Miller	Todd Palzer

Others present via Zoom and in person:

- Mary Burrows, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Anne Schuster, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Avery Bowron, King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Dylan Mendenhall, Kitsap County Board Member
- Elizabeth Brown, Washington State Attorney General's office
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jan Fore, Washington Invasive Species Council
- Jason Ontjes, San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Larry Hudson, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Scott Watson, Whitman County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Sophie DeGroot, Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
- Steve Scheele, Washington State Attorney General's office

Agenda changes

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to add ballot extension discussion, publication printing action item, and Jan Fore to give a WISC update, to the agenda
	Alison halpern	Seconded the motion.

	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Public Comment

- Dylan Mendenhall expressed his concern with how the board member voting occurred. He was worried that there wasn't enough time for voting to occur, and that this can suppress the vote. He did not get his ballot until after the election closing date. He would like to know if the election can be extended, and what the results were.
    - Allen responded that these topics were going to be covered in the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes for the March 11th and special April 30th meeting.

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to accept the minutes for the May 11th and April 30th meeting.
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried. Alison abstained from approving April 30th because she was unable to attend.

Board Member Comments

- Janet Spingath – There is a volunteer group called Broom Busters who have been using reciprocating saws to kill scotchbroom, and are having good success after 4 years of use. Janet would like to recognize them as weed warriors.

Position #3 election results

- Mary explained the expected timeline for mailing and voting on ballots, and how that differed from what occurred.
    - The board can send out new ballots, extend the cut off date by 2 weeks, or both.
- Allen and Mary reached out to the Attorney General office, and they responded that the board can vote to extend return time.
    - Allen must reappoint the ballot committee
        - The ballot committee will be Janet Spingath, Mary Burrows, and Anne Schuster. They will meet to tabulate the returned ballots.
    - A month for voting should suffice, rather than 2 weeks.
    - Mary can send out a second round of ballots, which will clearly state this is the second round of voting for the same 2 candidates.

VOTE	Randy Johnson	Moved to send out new ballots and give 1 month for a return of the marked ballots
	Janet Spingath	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

County Commissioners position

- Randy Johnson is retiring, and this was his last meeting. The Washington State Association of Counties has appointed County Commissioner Marty Hall to the board in Randy's place.

Commissioners Association position

- Eric Bell is retiring, and the Coordinator's Association has appointed Charles Edmonson to be Eric's replacement on the board.

Office Reports

- Anne and Mary summarized the work they have been doing, including meetings, trainings, presentations, support, request for proposals for Class A grants, standard operating procedure creations, publication updates and printing, and other tasks and projects.

Financial Report

- Mary summarized the financial and budget report.
- The primary item that will come out from the budget before the end of the fiscal year is around $10,000 to spend on printing.
    - Anne summarized the topics discussed at the April special meeting, including publication needs, prices and timing issues that are in the printing project.
- Vote:
    - Janet moves to purchase eastern field guide with all of the funds
    - 2nd Randy
    - Vote: aye

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to purchase $10,000 worth of Eastern Field Guide
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

State Agency Updates

WSDA, Alison Halpern

- Alison summarized some of the projects she has been working on recently, including the sunflower broomrape quarantine paperwork, controlling noxious weeds in North Puget Sound, spongy moth treatment, and the finding of a yellow legged hornet at the Port of Vancouver.

WISC, Jan Fore

- Jan described the weed work and outreach she has been doing, and what she needs assistance with.
- Their education staff position description was being posted that day, and would be open for applications. Until it is filled, she is using some of her time to do education and outreach on invasive species, but she is unfamiliar with Washington weed species.
- She asked coordinators for information on weeds they would like to go out over social media.
- The Washington Invasives (which works with Eddmaps) needs more weed verifiers.
    - Jennifer Mendoza can help coordinators, volunteers, and partners get set up to be verifiers on Eddmaps (which can get their data from the Washington Invasives app)

Committee Updates

Noxious Weed Committee

- Emily summarized the proposals and discussions the committee had. This is the most proposals the committee has ever received in one year, at 45.
    - When the committee is done reviewing the proposals, they will discuss creating a non-regulatory list of weeds of concern, which would be made up of invasive plants that mitigation and education should or can occur, but are not regulated in the noxious weed law for control or eradication. Several monitor list and Class C weeds could be added to this future list, depending on what the board decides in the future.

Joint Education and Douglas County Committee

- Anne and Janet summarized the weed education and outreach that were being planned for Douglas County.

Joint Executive Committee (WSNWCB and Coordinators Association)

- Mary summarized what the executive committees of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and Coordinators Association discussed. This included: there will be quarterly meetings, regional weed board meetings will start again, the state weed board will be the first point of contact for new coordinators, and there will be a nearby coordinator to be a mentor for new coordinators.

Discussion Topics

Action Item: Request for Proposals for Class A and B Grants: Review and Vote

- Mary summarized the RFP she sent out, and brought attention to the amounts of funds available, what can be applied for, and who can apply for a grant.

VOTE	Janet Spingath	Moved to send out the RFP to fund Class A and Class B grants as the board has done in the past/
	Randy Johnson	Seconded the motion.
	The Board	All in favor, no opposition, motion carried.

Action Item: WSNWCB and WSDA Interagency Agreement: Review and Vote

- Steve Scheele and Elizabeth Brown, from the state Attorney General's office, summarized the roles currently in place between the state weed board and WSDA, what can change, what an Interagency Agreement is, how to make one, and what the benefits of one would be. Some covered topics were:
    - Currently the NWCB uses WSDA's IT, HR, and facilities.
    - The board does not have to use WSDA for any of these, but can continue to do so
    - Negotiation and discussion is needed to make an IAA
    - An IAA would be a benefit in cases of public records requests and with the increased scrutiny and attention on state boards and commissions from the public and public auditors.
- The executive committee will meet to discuss creating an IAA with WSDA

Coordinators Forum

- Jennifer Mendoza, Cowlitz County – False brome control has been working, and they are down to mostly seedlings at infested sites. Their summer seasonal would be starting soon. They updated their rules and regulations at their previous board meeting. They created a hazard communication plan.
- Larry Hudson, Okanogan County – Field season was in full swing. They started some new Land Owner Programs, like a cost share for herbicide program and a drone survey program.
- Avery Bowron, King County – Field season had started about a month earlier. They have a lot of ongoing Class A weeds and other species to control, including a new false brome site along the Cedar River. They were going through staff transitions and hiring new folks, and were fully staffed for seasonals. They would be having a vote at the next meeting to replace Alaine on the county board. He thanked Jennifer Mendoza for her excellent presentation on false brome, which helped them ID and start control on their new site.
- Emily Stevenson, Skamania County – They have a full board for the first time in 3 years, and also have almost all staff onboarded. Weeds were 2 to 4 weeks ahead of schedule, due to the mild winter. They have been seeing shiny geranium spreading via vehicles along motorways, and would like to work with WSDOT more to spray more on roadsides.

The next board meeting will be on July 23rd, at 9 a.m., via webinar and in person.

The board meeting adjourned at 11:12

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Allen Evenson, Chair
WSNWCB

Carey Caruso, Secretary
WSNWCB

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Mary Fee, Executive Secretary WSNWCB