

DRAFT
INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

November 28, 2006

Hearing Room B, John O'Brien Building
Olympia, Washington

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Mankowski, Chair	Office of the Governor
Gene Little	Washington Noxious Weed Control Board
Jeff Dickison	Squaxin Island Tribe
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Doug Sutherland	Department of Natural Resources
Melodie Selby	Department of Ecology
Kate Benkert	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Bridget Moran	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mary Toohey	Department of Agriculture
Wendy Brown	Department of natural Resources
Joan Cabreza	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tom Root	Department of Transportation

PRESENTERS:

Tom Fitzsimmons	Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Doug Sutherland	Commissioner of Public Lands
Laura Johnson	Director, IAC
Kaleen Cottingham	Consultant

STAFF:

Clover Lockard
Jen Dial

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Office of the Governor was represented by John Mankowski who serves as Council chair until the Council selects a chair or co-chairs. Chair Mankowski opened the first meeting of the Washington Invasive Species Council, welcomed the Council and made announcements.

KICK-OFF WITH POLICY AND GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVE

Chair Mankowski introduced this agenda item and the state policy leaders. He invited them to share their thoughts and expectations.

Tom Fitzsimmons, Governor's Gregoire's Chief of Staff, welcomed the Council to the adventure and exploration of the challenge they have accepted. He noted that Governor Gregoire recognizes the importance of this work. Many in the cabinet have had exposure to the invasive species issues over the years, especially noting the concerns raised in salmon recovery. The agency directors recognize a strategy to overcome the impacts of invasive species has been a long time coming. Powerful minds are important to developing a successful strategy for Washington State. He thanked Senator Swecker and Senator Jacobson for their insight and sponsorship of this legislation. He noted that the expectations of the governor are:

- To be collaborative across agencies and disciplines
- To be creative and bold
- To consider both economic and environmental ideas
- To think outside of your agency missions.
- To be action oriented.

The outcome should be bold and comprehensive

Tom thanked the Council for the honor of being with them and emphasized the importance of the Council. He believes all of the members will do a marvelous job.

Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands, is happy that there is an opportunity to bring all of the agencies together. He hopes that the counties are also included. He noted that invasive species go beyond borders. The Commissioner's office is trying to determine where to draw the borders for invasive species work and also to determine appropriate responsibilities inside the DNR. They want to use the dollars they spend more efficiently. This issue is important to farming in the state as well as private industry. He suggested that other agency heads, in addition to Laura Johnson, should be involved at some point including federal agencies.

Director Johnson, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) welcomed the Council to the IAC family and noted that the IAC looks forward to sharing the work of this Council with its other four boards and councils. The information will be shared so that they may be more strategic and integrated in their planning. She also thinks that the other agency directors should get together to keep the big picture in mind and to have consensus on what the State of Washington needs. She is willing to assist in this process as much as she can.

Chair Mankowski then shared an email from Congressman Norm Dicks. The correspondence stated that Congressman Dicks is well aware of the problem and is committed to working on this issue and to finding dollars to help with the process. He requested that we keep his office informed.

Chair Mankowski discussed the rest of the day's agenda and the special break following the introduction of Council members to recognize individuals and groups who helped to create the Council. Weather conditions prevented many of these people from attending

the meeting so it was agreed that at the next meeting of the Council there will be time set aside to recognize these individuals.

Chair Mankowski indicated that Governor Gregoire felt it was very important to have representation from the tribal and environmental communities. He asked Nina Carter from Washington Audubon to come to the table to be part of the discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Chair Mankowski asked that the Council go around the table and share their special interest and perspective on non-native species in Washington State.

Chair Mankowski started this discussion by stating that he used to work for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and is very supportive of this Council.

Clover Lockard, Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council stated that she is very excited to work with this Council as there is great expertise at the table. Her primary job is to help the Council members to do their work and to assist with communication. She is looking forward to getting to know all of the Council members and will be readily available to them.

Mary Toohey, Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture, works with pest species and noxious weeds. She is very interested in the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species as they could affect trade. She is looking forward to working with this group. Mary wants to form better communications with the environmental community.

Clinton Campbell, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has worked with the Washington Department of Agriculture and he would like to expand that working relationship to everyone on the Council. He is an alternate member for Barbara Chambers.

Bridget Moran, Department of Fish and Wildlife, looks forward to the opportunities of this cross-agency work because she is familiar with both the aquatic and noxious issues.

Gene Little, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), is a volunteer and has been on the Board for 15 years. One of the roles of the WSNWCB is to set up and identify a noxious weed list, which counties are supposed to help eradicate.

Nina Carter, Washington Audubon, wants to represent the chapter's conservation efforts and the Invasive Species Coalition's efforts. The state Audubon office worked to get this bill passed. She also works at the grass-roots level. The coalition will be represented at the table by Brid Nowlan. Nina will be her alternate.

Tom Root, Department of Transportation (DOT), is working on controlling invasive species that creep across boundaries. He wants to see what the DOT can do cooperatively with other organizations.

Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe, thanked the group for the opportunity to participate. He will also be working with Pat Stevenson from the Stillaguamish Tribe. He has worked for Squaxin Island Tribe for 20 years and has experience with aquaculture and invasive species. He will do his best to funnel the information to the other tribes; however, he and Pat can only represent their own tribes as there are 28 federally recognized tribes. The tribes have a broad interest and they will do their best to be good communicators.

Joan Cabreza, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), appreciates the chance for federal involvement. She works with other invasive species groups in the Region 10 states of OR, ID and AK as well. She is especially interested in the aquatic element. Since she is co-chair of the WA Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee, she will also bring forward issues from the Committee to the Council.

Wendy Brown, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated that this is a big issue for DNR, since they have so many acres of land that are impacted by invasive species. They have used this Council as a way to give them a push as an agency to work more collaboratively internally on the issue.

Melodie Selby, Department of Ecology (DOE), stated that her interests are in water quality. The DOE funds some projects that work on invasive species, but there is difficulty in that the rules they work within are in constant flux.

Kate Benkert, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stated that invasive species have been a problem nationally and locally for a long time. This issue coincides with endangered species and restoration efforts. Many of their restoration projects include how they are going to work with invasive species. This is a big factor for them. They are pleased to be here with a federal perspective and to work collectively.

Chair Mankowski noted that he thinks they have been successful in putting together the right group of people for this Council. The bill calls on the Council to appoint the county members. They can also grant membership to others as they see fit.

Chair Mankowski asked the question and the Council unanimously **Approved** the addition of a tribal representative, a representative from an environmental coalition that made Audubon the point organization, and two county representatives as voting members of the Council.

ROLE OF THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL- *Summary of Legislation*

Kaleen Cottingham presented this agenda item.

Kaleen noted that the Council exists until December 31, 2011. The scope of the Council is to be the mechanism for cooperation, communication, collaboration, and development of a strategic plan. The Council is composed of six state agencies, two counties, four federal agencies, and other members as deemed appropriate. The Council may establish advisory committees. She listed what needs to be in the strategic plan. Annual reports must be done. The strategic plan must incorporate the Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee, the State Noxious Weed Control Board and the Biodiversity Council. Kaleen also highlighted requirements of the strategic plan including recommendations for legislation. The initial plan must be done by July 7, 2008. The plan must be updated every three years. She discussed funding details for the Council. The funding is currently through the end of this fiscal year.

Chair Mankowski discussed the idea of adding new members to the Council, but would like to see how that goes in the future.

Nina Carter stated the Council should start by looking at the mission, vision and the strengths and weaknesses to create a strategic plan. She wants to hear other member's thoughts on this issue.

Chair Mankowski noted there is a role for staff to help with the strategic plan, but mainly it is the job of the council to do this. The Council can also rely on experts and advisory groups to help.

Melodie Selby was happy to see the proposed second agenda. She does not want to lose sight of the other goals of the Council just because the strategic plan is so prominent.

Jeff Dickison wants to ensure that the Council continues to seek resources and does not limit itself to one project, per year as that could cause competitiveness.

Chair Mankowski stated that it would be good to think about Jeff's idea as it could be an indicator for the Council's success. He encouraged that it be included in the agenda for subsequent meetings.

Ground Rules and Procedural Framework

Chair Mankowski presented this agenda item with a written draft proposed framework.

The Council went through the ground rules and discussed the details of the procedural framework. Changes were made and discussed.

Chair Mankowski suggested the next agenda allow time for selecting a new chair or co-chair, which will give the members the opportunity to get to know each other better.

Melodie Selby is concerned with the small size of the quorum if non-voting members are not included. The Council discussed the challenges they could face with the open public meetings limitations since many of them work together in other settings outside of the Council.

The Council discussed whether to use a facilitator for meetings when it is needed. Chair Mankowski suggested having a broader discussion about the topic of a facilitator.

It was also suggested that each Council member identify an alternate that can attend in their absence, so that all agencies are present at the meetings.

Melodie Selby suggested rewording the ground rules on the consensus topic to include language that doesn't imply that all council members agree with enthusiasm when they arrive at consensus.

The Council discussed the ground rules to reflect that any discussions which take place before voting should be reflected in the minutes, rather than only stating which members did not agree with the motion.

Melodie Selby raised the question of the annual report deadline that is needed by the end of this year.

Since the Council does not meet again before the end of the year, they decided to discuss the details of the annual report. The document will be sent out electronically to the council before final submittal.

The Council discussed adding language from the statute to their mission statement.

Chair Mankowski moved that the Council support the ground rules as amended today. The Council unanimously **APPROVED**.

Overview of Laws Affecting Boards and Commissions

Director Laura Johnson presented this agenda item.

Director Johnson discussed details regarding open public meetings, which can inadvertently take place electronically. Any discussion regarding Council topics must happen in a Council meeting. This is important so that the public can see the decisions that the Council is making. She also discussed the ethics rules with the Council. Director Johnson noted that any legislative contact should be coordinated through the chair of the Council. Any of these contacts need to be reported to Clover Lockard so that it can be recorded on the annual lobbying document. She further described the issue of public disclosure in reference to all Council correspondence.

Introduction of Staff and Discussion of Roles

Director Laura Johnson presented this agenda item.

Director Johnson noted that the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) staff is blessed to have Clover on staff to help with this effort. Kaleen Cottingham will continue to work with the Council in the formative stages. Jen Dial will also be there to support any members with logistics. Director Johnson will be there to provide overall direction to Clover and the Council. The IAC is will also manage any financial aspects of the Council.

The Council continued to discuss the annual report. It was suggested that the annual report include:

- A work plan
- Introduction paragraph about the Council
- Highlights from Kaleen's PowerPoint
- Description of efforts to work on projects
- Description of efforts to work on the strategic plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO AGENDA

Bill Brookreson, Washington Native Plant Society, stated that plant appreciation week is coming up in April and May of 2007. This event is very positive and would be a great opportunity for the Council to get their name out. The Council agrees to support this request.

Julia Walker, Association for the Protection of Hamersley, Eld and Totten Inlets (APHETI), is concerned that the Council is heavy with governmental agencies and does not have as many non-governmental groups. APHETI would like to be apart of the Council.

Dave Heimer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, would like to invite Clover out to some of the project sites to see what the Council is really facing. He stated that face to face meetings would enhance the credibility of the Council.

John recommended that at the next meeting the Council discuss additional representation on the Council.

NEXT STEPS

Chair Mankowski presented this agenda item.

Chair Mankowski asked the Council to decide their meeting dates for 2007.

The Board unanimously **APPROVED** the following 2007 meeting schedule:

- January 29th
- March 20th
- May 17th
- August 20th
- Nov 15th

Nina Carter noted that she would like APHETI and the Conservation Commission to present at the next meeting.

The Council agreed that it is important to see learn about the activities and work of these groups before they begin development of a strategic plan.

Chair Mankowski suggested removing some of the other items from the January 29, 2007 meeting agenda to allow for a more retreat style meeting.

Nina Carter suggested choosing key points for each group to cover in their presentation, with a cap of 15 minutes.

Jeff noted that since the Council has to integrate their strategic plan with the Biodiversity Council, which has a more pressing deadline, the Council should hear from them as soon as possible.

Chair Mankowski suggested hearing from the groups that are mandated by the legislation, such as the Biodiversity Council, and to then follow up with the other groups as time allows or at subsequent meetings.

A number of presenters were suggested for the next meeting, including the Biodiversity Council, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee, the Ballast Water Work Group, the Noxious Weed Control Board, the Conservation Commission, Invasive Species Coalition, the 100th Meridian, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and the national and regional plant boards.

Joan Cabreza indicated that the list was a mix of state groups, regional groups and interest groups, and that it made more sense to try and limit the presentations and group like presenters together, maybe holding the regional groups for a future time.

Nina Carter wants to know what criteria the larger organizations use in the work they select. She would like these groups to come to the meeting with a current list of their invasive species work.

Chair Mankowski suggested creating a master list that Clover can keep track of so that all of the organizations can be included in the council's discussion. It was decided giving each group 15 minutes to present a brief overview and leave 15 minutes for questions made sense.

Melodie Selby would like to debrief after the presentations rather than jumping right into the strategic plan.

Nina Carter noted that she would like to have a model presented to the council to make the process for the development of the strategic plan easier. She would like to at least have some pre-work done before the January meeting.

Melodie Selby suggested forming a committee to find the subcomponents to include in the strategic plan. It was decided to wait until hearing some of the presentations before outlining the plan.

Bridget Moran stated that there may be a need for an additional meeting after the January 29th meeting to look more closely at the strategic plan and to create a sub-group.

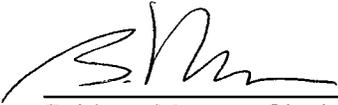
The Board unanimously **APPROVED** the agenda items for the January and March meetings. Clover will work to line up the selected presenters and will draft a template for the presenters to use so that all presenters address the same key points. This template will also be useful for creating the master list of all invasive species groups and projects.

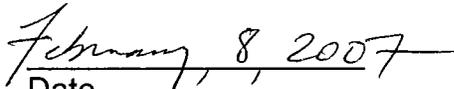
Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Next meeting:
January 29, 2007
Natural Resources Building
Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:


Bridget Moran, Chair


Date