



# The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## **SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES** 200 Fulton Street, Room 203, Salmon, Idaho & Via Zoom **Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

**Chair: Dave Wenk**

**Secretary/Treasurer-Bonnie Davis**

**Region 1- Chase Youngdahl**

**Region 3- Steve Anderson**

**Region 5- No Representation**

**Vice Chair- Adam Schroeder (via Zoom)**

**Past Chair- Kali Sherrill**

**Region 2- Alan Martinson**

**Region 4- Michael Ottley**

**Region 6- Sharayh Krantz**

**Others Attending:**, Connie Jensen-Blyth-Region 2 Alternate, AJ Mondor-Region 3 Alternate, Terry Lee-Camas County, Mitch Whitmill-Region 6 Alternate, Bryce Fowler-Fremont County, Trent Brusseau-Corteva Representative.

Present via Zoom: Adam Schroeder, Vice Chair, Michael Ottley, Region 4 Representative.

Phone In-Jeremey Varley-ISDA.

*Chairman Wenk called meeting to order at 8:21 am. And welcomed everyone and our thanks to Sharayh for hosting our spring meeting.*

### **Reports**

**Regarding Minutes of the Winter Meeting-virtual-Zoom:** Motion by Chase Youngdahl to accept the minutes of the winter meeting dated January 12, 2021 as written, second by Alan Martinson. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bonnie presented the current financial report dated 4/7/2021. Expenses to date \$1,895.27, balance of budgeted funds \$14,454.73, current checkbook balance \$19,936.31. Motion by Steve Anderson to accept the expenditure report as presented, second by Chase Youngdahl. Motion carries. Bonnie shared an invoice from Leadership Idaho Agriculture billing for Adam Schroeder and Connie Jensen-Blyth for the 2020/2021 class. It was discussed they have not finished due to Covid restrictions. They will experience the Legislative Session and graduate with next year's class. They discussed the sessions that were held and experiences they were able to have since many restrictions were in place due to the pandemic. Discussion of paying this invoice since they have not yet completed their sessions. Motion by Chase Youngdahl to pay the invoice in the amount of \$4,050, second by Kali Sherrill, motion carries. Adam thanked the board for this opportunity on behalf of him and Connie.

**INWCA-Dave Wenk** reported the board will be meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 178 attended the virtual conference the attendance was only down by two. Dave explained how costs were determined for the Riverside. Alan stated the contract with them was for 5 years however they let the 5<sup>th</sup> year slide due to Covid. The dates for 2022 are January 12-13, 2022.

**State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Update-**Alan reported he thought it would be a good idea to have this on the agenda to update the group regarding the moss bells and Zebra mussels. Connie inquired as to how the group was formed. Kali explained she submitted names from regions similar to ISDA's and it is a 2 year term. It was asked this be a standing report. The group discussed the upcoming Negotiated Rulemaking for the Noxious Weed Rules and the Cost Share process for 2021. Members of this committee represent Idaho Fish & Game, Department of Lands, Department of Transportation, USFS Region 1 and

Region 4, BLM, the Shoshone Paiute Tribe, Idaho Association of Noxious Weed Control Superintendents- the 4 regions, University of Idaho Invasive Plant, University of Idaho Bio Control, Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association and the Office of Species Conservation.

**ISDA Communication-**Jeremey Varley joined the meeting by phone. He is in the Blue Heart area doing mechanical aquatic weed control. He updated the group on the varieties of milfoil they have been finding. He explained it is the upcoming zero based negotiated rulemaking that is coming up for the next legislative cycle. It is the whole Invasive Species, Noxious Weed and Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Rule that's going to be open. We are going to be presenting a Strawman on April 23, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> and final meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>. The strawman at the first meeting will have the addition of the two temporary listings of goatsrue and Turkish thistle. He suggests if this group wishes to add or delete anything you follow the rule to initiate rulemaking. The process is explained on the ISDA website under the Rulemaking tab. All meetings are slated to be virtual meetings. Those invitations will be sent out soon by Lloyd. It will go to our group and all of the superintendents should be receiving an email with that information. Cost Share is rolling along, he thanked everyone who attended the Cost Share fiscal training. They are still waiting on the agreement finalization so they can get it out to us. They hit a roadblock on the fiscal side they are fixing that and hopefully by the end of this week he will have better news. He was asked what the hold-up was. He responded it had to do with the rules cited for the bids. They wanted to make sure things are supposed to be in the rule and that things were cited properly with legal so there was no confusion going forward. Dave Wenk asked if the money for Cost Share comes directly from the legislature since it changes every year. How do they determine this funding? Jeremey replied there are multiple funding sources with the lion's portion of the state Cost Share coming from the legislature. Currently we have two and we are getting a third and fourth grant this year that are federally funded that are coming into the Cost Share. Most of the changes you are seeing are trying to become more fiscally accountable with this program. The agency as a whole has had to go through multiple audits and the CWMA program has raised a lot of red flags over the years and we have been trying to fix that so when they get audited every year they aren't having these same questions come up as far as the accountability of the state funds being utilized. Dave asked when those funds are approved do they have to be spent and what happens to the remainder of the money? Dave stated fiscal year 2020 there was \$1.4 to \$1.5 million for Cost Share but less than \$1.2 was spent so where did the rest of that money go? Jeremey stated some of those funds are still held over by the CWMA's and the way the state's fiscal year rolls over the money rolls into the next Cost Share cycle so we aren't losing those funds. We still have the ability to fully utilize those in the time frame we have. The difference would be with the federal funds those all have to be returned each year if they are unspent, there can't be any carryover with that. There is a different grant recording mechanism with those. Is there administrative fees for ISDA taken from the Cost Share funds, Jeremey stated not that he is aware of. Chase asked if Jeremey will be absorbing Dan Safford's position or is there going to be a new contact for that program? They are in the final process of getting that person hired. Matt Stanger inquired how the Cost Share education money was utilized and will it be increased or decreased. Jeremey explained this is the trial year for the Cost Share education money. Going to see how this year goes and the director will be watching this very closely. For many years this funding was removed so they will be looking at the education projects that were funded and hope to keep this type of funding going from this point forward. Numerous CWMA's did request it but not as many as he anticipated. Alan Martinson inquired if Jeremey has heard of any other potential changes to the weed list such as other groups or organizations that are going to be bringing weeds forward? Irrigation groups could possibly bring Russian olive forward and Montana could possibly bring medusahead and ventenata up, but no word yet. Jeremey thanked the group for the opportunity to call in today.

### **General Business**

**Annual Meeting Business-**Some housekeeping items needed dealt with since winter meeting was virtual. There were no other questions or concerns.

**Summer Meeting-**Chase Youngdahl reported Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> he has Garfield Bay Campground (county owned) located south of Sandpoint on Lake Pend Oreille. He has requested the recreation manager close off an entire loop of the campground for our group. You do not have to make reservations just show up with \$15 per night, there are 8 spots but can fit more people than that. There is a nice area in the middle to meet Saturday morning. Come prepared with beach stuff, there is only potable water available, no hookups, pit toilets and regular bathrooms down at the boat launch area. If you don't camp there is a small hotel in Sagle, a few hotels in Sandpoint but he did caution that is in the heart of tourist season so may or may not find a hotel that will honor the government rate. The meeting will held the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The loop is reserved Friday through Sunday with a Sunday morning checkout.

**Cost Share Update-**Dave explained why he questioned Jeremy about the Cost Share funds he was curious where the leftover funds go. The Gem County Weed Superintendent is no longer there, Adam heard that he had resigned on 3/19 to pursue other career opportunities. Jason McCloud is the Interim Weed Superintendent at this time. Cost Share audits were discussed. All the supporting documentation for the quarterly reports was overwhelming. Dave stated his county clerk was really upset because they did not receive their funding until December, the third quarter funding showed up. They had an entire room of auditors going through everyone's stuff. All audits were conducted electronically via email. Quarterly reports were sent to Jeremy who passed them on to Kathy Snyder, grants manager at ISDA, she would then send back to Jeremy and then it was sent to Lloyd to check out and then the Division Administrator at Fiscal and then circles back down to Jeremy. It was discussed it took 2-3 months to get through that process. Discussion of how the fiscal audits worked pre-Covid when they made in person visits. ISDA would ask questions about landowner reimbursement programs, how do the people on the receipts tie in together and how does the name on the HOA paperwork tie into the people participating. Those details would have to be resubmitted and it would go through the process all over again. They would continue to need more explanation. December 1<sup>st</sup> Chase's CWMA got the approval from Kathy Snyder no idea where it got hung up next but it was December 28<sup>th</sup> when they received their disbursement. Discussion of the last year many of the ISDA staff were working from home and ISDA's doors are still not open to the public, if you call them they will meet you outside. They would hardly accept some county receipts, guess the county is not a legitimate business. Mitch stated that the county weed department would bill the CWMA for herbicide and ISDA did not accept it as a viable entity, they would not accept it. It was discussed counties have a DUNS number and that county accounting offices are as legitimate as you can get. Once the grants manager at ISDA signs off it is still taking a month after to hear back. It is getting bogged down in the upper level management (ISDA) system. It seems as though ISDA (no reflection on Jeremy) would just like us to go away. It has been discussed that ISDA continues to demand more and more and none of us are full time grant people. At this rate we will need someone sitting at a desk every day to facilitate this grant in order to meet their requirements. A year down the road they still may come back and ask for something else. It was pointed out this has never been a reflection on the state Noxious Weed person's position. It was agreed CWMA's that have smaller requests will more than likely drop out due to the amount red tape involved. Those with larger requests will need to stick it out. Kali explained every county could run their own cost share program. Even if you donate equipment and personnel and the landowner purchases the herbicide that is still a program and a benefit to the tax payers. It is not about boots on the ground anymore that has gone away. They used to blame it all on the legislators-stating the legislators wanted to see these things but some have talked to legislators and they don't know anything about that. The legislators are not the ones setting the requirements. Boat Check Stations were questioned. It was asked if it was this difficult to get paid for those services. All in agreement it is much worse. They question county employee's hourly pay and must get written confirmation from county clerk that is true and correct. They now require you break down the amount of workman's comp and other costs associated with said wages. One county clerk said no she would not break it all down, this is the hourly wage period. If there is a lack of confidence in the transparency of the Cost Share program perhaps it is appropriate to have a public records request for a complete accounting of the Cost Share and the

audit results they are talking about from ISDA. If they went through an extensive audit there has to be report somewhere in order to better understand what they are looking for with both of those programs noxious weeds and invasive species maybe it is within our interest to take a look at what the auditors are requesting by ISDA as well. Dave stated they are going to talk about some other funding ideas.

**Website/Social Media-**Chase Youngdahl, webmaster reported he did a lot of clean up and updated the logo, contacts and those types of things, business matters including agenda's and minutes. He reorganized the home page and did some overall housekeeping. He has added pollinator protection and moved the organic to the resource page. Numerous counties are experiencing difficulty with getting their webmaster to update their department webpages. Our thanks to Chase for all his work on the website and social media.

**IAC Presentation-**Dave will be communicating with them again for the June conference in CDA. Dave asked that Alan help him with this presentation. He asked for input from the group: a county clerk that serves in on the IAC board shared she feels the commissioners do not pay attention. She thinks we need to stress that we are mandated by law, the noxious weed law and their responsibilities as the control authority, we are professional's not just sprayers, have a good noxious weed program including education. Alan stated Kali's interactive presentation was liked, and she called on different counties and asked them questions. Discussion of which county's levy. Kali reminded Dave to request at least 30 minutes of time. Please emphasize how we work with people throughout the county and our partnerships with various agencies.

**Review Policies and Officer Duties-** Dave asked region reps please know your duties. Adam has asked that we distribute the board member duties and timelines to the membership. When she receives these from Alan she will forward them out.

### New Business

**Working with Legislators-**Dave asked if anyone watched the NAISMA meeting that was held in Colorado. He and Alan watched it and they had some ideas working with legislators. They do various activities and they do a calendar. He and Alan thought this was a good idea and it was brought up at the INWCA board meeting. Patxi has found we can do a 9x11 which opens up to an 18x11 have 500 printed for \$2,380 (\$4.76 each). Send one to each of our legislators with a CWMA or other activity featured monthly. The idea would be the CWMA featured that month could send a letter to the legislators reminding them to look at their calendar. Focus on noxious weeds not invasive species. Get them distributed to various entities, county commissioners and others. Dave stated if we could partner with INWCA in our budget there is \$1,000 for membership and speaker gifts, Alan pointed out there is quite a bit of carryover money as well. Calendar would run December-December annually make sure it goes out in December. Dave and Alan will update on this matter at the summer meeting.

**Funding Venues for Counties-** Dave stated he brought up the idea a couple years ago about possible fees for ATV's through Parks and Rec. The only other funding we receive is Cost Share and what if it goes away. Some counties have a levy but his county is so small and they are poor (he clarified by explaining they do not have a lot of tax base due to federal and state lands), his commissioners are not going to want to levy more. This would be for the county program not the CWMA. Discussion of the possibility some type of fee based mechanism. Oregon does off road vehicles at \$1.50 per registration and it is distributed where those permits are sold. Idaho Association of Parks and Rec take a 15% admin fee on their stickers. Kali stated her department is going to sell non-motorized stickers because no one else in Twin Falls County sells them. They will receive \$1.50 per sticker for providing this service. Dave explained the motorized one that Parks and Rec went to is not being sold in his county any longer, their DMV is not going to sell them either. They have a grocery store that is going to do it. It was noted the Idaho Freedom Foundation fights all user fee increases.

**Negotiated Rulemaking-** Alan Martinson said we could look at fees for weed free hay since the entire rule is open. Do we ask the association as a whole or do we just move forward with it as a board? It was determined that Region Reps will poll their people and get the results to Dave Wenk. Terry Lee stated there are numerous inspectors who are not affiliated with the county. Please let them know as well. Michael Ottley

brought up that Power County is putting Russian olive on the county list. He tried to talk them out of it but no luck.

A brief lunch break was taken.

**Lunch presentation by Trent Brusseau, Corteva.** He shared some product updates as well as shortages they are experiencing. Thank you to Trent for providing lunch for our board.

**ISDA Pesticide Licensing Program Changes-**Adam reported he has been involved in those advisory meeting discussions and expected something on the negotiated rulemaking docket for pesticide licensing because there have been several proposals put forward regarding pesticide licensing changes. They were suggesting apprentice licenses which did have some support. There and was supposed to be a strawman rule put up for negotiated rulemaking but there is nothing on the docket that Lloyd sent. They are trying to revise the aerial applicator license, ISDA is trying to be consistent with other states regarding aerial licensure. The weed sups probably need to weigh in on the apprentice category.

**LIA Nominations/Considerations for 2021/2022-**Chase Youngdahl, Bonner County is a definite maybe. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2021. Due to the timeline we can vote by proxy via email. Region Representatives are to reach out and let their regions know this opportunity is coming up. It was noted this is a huge time commitment and if you start you must finish.

**Fall Meeting October 6, 2021-**Connie has spoken with Salmon River Lodge and they are not open Sundays and Mondays. They are following CDC guidelines per Covid and the governor's recommendation. They do require masks, fee for the conference room is \$300 and that comes with water and coffee is extra. They do have a government rate but Connie was not sure of that rate at this time. The city has nice meeting room that is a basement setup which includes a full kitchen. The fee for the city conference room is \$50. The site is within walking distance. Grangeville is an alternative. Dave asked that Connie let the board know about room rates. A tour may not be necessary after our meeting as many have to drive home that day.

**Winter Meeting & Annual Meeting 2022-**Dave stated ISDA may or may not be available to hold our annual meeting. Adam was approached if he would have room for us to meet at his facility January 10-11, 2022. Yes his room will hold 50 people but they have to follow CDC, local and county restrictions that may be in place at the time of the meeting. Dave asked if we would like to have it at ISDA if possible. Adam stated at ISDA there is room, for tables and such but in his conference room with that number of folks there is no room for tables. Locations were discussed along with fees for different facilities. AJ Mondor, Canyon County stated the county has a public meeting room that will hold 50 people. AJ also reported there are no restrictions or mandates at this time. More details to follow. AJ will be the backup-we would rather have the room at ISDA if possible. He spoke with his commissioner and they are on board with hosting it there.

Awards/Certificates and coffee cups from the annual meeting were distributed to members and region representatives. Membership certificates cannot be given until we have all the signatures.

Thank you Sharayh for hosting this meeting.

Chairman Wenk adjourned meeting at 1:37 for the garden tour. Our thanks to all who attended.

*Approved as amended 7-24-2021*

