



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

Chair: Dave Wenk Boundary County PO Box 267 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 208-267-5341	Vice Chair: Adam Schroeder Ada County 975 E. Pine St. Meridian, ID 83642 208-577-4646	Secretary: Chase Youngdahl Bonner County 1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 101 Sandpoint, ID 83864 208-255-5681 ext.6	Treasurer: Alan Martinson Latah County 200 S. Almon #105 Moscow, ID 83843 208-883-7210
---	--	---	---

FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Boundary County Extension Office (*and Zoom*)
6447 Kootenai St – Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – 9:00AM (PDT)

Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

Chair – Dave Wenk

Secretary – Chase Youngdahl

Past Chair – Kali Sherrill (*virtual*)

Region 1 – Shelby Heiderman, rep

Region 3 – AJ Mondor, rep (*virtual*)

Region 5 – Travis Ashby, rep

Vice Chair – Adam Schroeder (*virtual*)

Treasurer – Alan Martinson

Region 2 – Alan Martinson, rep

Region 4 – Mike Ottley, rep

Region 6 – Mitch Whitmill, rep

Attendance – Others:

Joe Slichter (Region 2 alternate - *virtual*), Terry Lee (Region 4 alternate), Sharayh Krantz (Lemhi County), Jud Elkington (Bonneville County), Jason Parker (Tri-County), Ryan Edwards (Minidoka County - *virtual*)
Bonnie Davis (Washington County – *virtual*), Patxi Larrocea-Phillips (AMG – *virtual*)

Chairman Wenk called the meeting to order at 9:00AM following introductions

Reports

Minutes from Summer Executive Board Meeting: Motion by Mitch to approve the minutes of the summer executive board meeting dated July 28, 2022, as written, second by Mike. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Alan presented the current financial report. Total checkbook balance at the conclusion of FY22 is \$17,565.32, with a regular fund balance of \$10,390.32 (total checkbook balance minus Contingency Funds). Bonnie confirmed that the checkbook balance is accurate. Mitch inquired about FY22 dues, to which Alan replied all 44 counties paid in 2022. Motion by Mike to approve the financial report as presented, second by Travis. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Some discussion unrelated to the motion followed regarding our association having just signed an MOU with IAC to handle our funds. Bonnie said her plan is to write a check to IAC for most of the remainder of the account (will leave a little for contingency), then her and Kali will go to Wells Fargo and sign to close the account. Dave talked about procedure for the reimbursement/payment process with Alan and IAC.

INWCA: Terry reported that their meeting was pushed out a week to keep from interfering with this one and said that most speakers for the conference are set. Russian Olive listing is still being pushed by Representative Clow, but INWCA has not been in favor. Dave reported that calendars are on tap again for 2023 and pictures are due to an INWCA board member no later than October 28. They are still seeking pictures so that they don't need to use pictures that are several years old. Dave also reported that the 10th edition of the UI Noxious Weed booklet has been completed, thanks to Dr. Prather, and should be available at the conference.

State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee: Kali reported that the current 2-year terms are up & that ISDA is soliciting to fill those seats. These seats are based on the state regions, not the IANWCS regions. This committee will be sitting on the Cogon Grass advisory committee where the potential decision will be made to recommend elevating the temporary, emergency listing to permanent listing status. Alan inquired about current members being allowed to serve another term, to which Kali replied that she was not made aware one way or other on that—the only requirement she is aware of is having 5 years of experience in the Weeds Superintendent position.

Website: Chase reported that the main area of focus is keeping up with changes in personnel, and ensuring that the county contacts page is updated when Weeds Superintendents depart and when new ones arrive. He pointed out that this web host will be paid annually, rather than for 3 years at a time, which was the case with Network Solutions, the previous web host. He referenced the line item on the new budget.

Regional Updates:

Region 1 – Chase reported that Phragmites was discovered in Bonner County this year, and that it was treated right away. Scotch Broom, large Knotweeds, Tansy Ragwort, Scotch Thistle and Yellow Flag Iris are EDRR noxious weeds of focus in Bonner County. Dave reported that Buffalobur was discovered in Boundary County this year and that it was treated right away. He further reported EDRR noxious weed projects that included Puncturevine, large Knotweeds and Rush Skeletonweed. Word on the street is that Carl Richel has fully retired and is no longer the Weeds Superintendent in Benewah County, but no one in attendance was able to confirm that.

Region 2 – Alan reported finding Phragmites in Latah County, primarily near Genesee, which they enforced on. Joe reported that Denny Williams is retiring from Clearwater County at the end of the year, in December, after turning 80! He further reported that wildfires were in impediment in some treatment areas of Idaho County, mostly affecting USFS & BLM work. He mentioned that they missed a lot of the treatment window on Turkish Thistle, but intends on keeping after it as diligently as possible. Alan asked Joe if moving Turkish Thistle from the EDRR category to the Control category is worth it, to which Joe responded that he's not exactly sure about acreage thresholds, but he indeed has his doubts about whether eradication is realistic. He wants to expand survey efforts next year, and mentioned that Carol Randall with the USFS is seeking funding for inventory. Some general discussion about noxious weed classifications followed. Funding priorities can revolve around classifications. Joe asked the board about their experiences with Common Crupina, as it is creeping in to Idaho County and even driving out some Yellow Starthistle populations. Bonnie shared that their BLM district found an infestation of it in very rugged, difficult to access country in Washington County. Aerial treatments took place on it and they are now in monitoring mode. Speculation is that it came in as a seed contaminant on a wildfire reclamation project.

Region 3 – AJ reported that Bonnie already covered what he intended to report on with Common Crupina when she answered an inquiry of Joe's. He mentioned fielding numerous complaints in Canyon County of Tree-of-Heaven (not an Idaho noxious weed). He also mentioned that Bohemian Knotweed is being found more often. Adam reported that more counties could have Cogon Grass and not know it, as there are widely available ornamental grasses with red tips and very difficult to distinguish from Cogon Grass. Dave asked if the nursery association has been contact by ISDA on this, to which Adam replied being unsure of, but suspects that contact with the nursery industry following a listing is SOP. AJ asked if a tour of it would be possible. Adam said that he would do that except for the fact that Ada County has already killed all the infestations that have been found so far. The discussion was wrapped up with chemistries that Ada County used on it.

Region 4 – Mike reported that Ventenata (not an Idaho noxious weed) is being targeted by the USFS in Cassia County, and that heavy spring rainfall provided good grass hay yield countywide. Joe chimed in that Rejura® for the treatment of Ventenata is timing specific and that results are not really visible in the same year treated, but kicks in at the year 2 mark and carries into year 3. Mike further reported sporadic success with Leafy Spurge treatments, possibly due to weather conditions. Ryan Edwards reported Leafy Spurge being found cultivated in a flower garden in Minidoka County. Jason Parker just started this week for Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln counties (Tri-County), taking over for the retired Terry Ruby. Kali reported finding some Scotch Thistle in Twin Falls County, and is hoping to treat it soon. She also reported that Leafy Spurge has not showed up in her county yet. Terry Lee reported an odd, cactus-looking plant in Camas County (photo was passed around the room).

Region 5 – Travis reported that Goatsrue is present in Franklin County, which is a more recently listed noxious weed, and does not occur in very many portions of the state. He also mentioned that region 5 battles just about every noxious and invasive weed that has been talked about today. He further reported that there will be a change in Oneida County, as Shelby Thomas will be moving on. A replacement is in the works.

Region 6 – Mitch reported that the Weeds Superintendents in that region hold periodic meetings amongst themselves, and that it last happened in the spring. Rush Skeletonweed is an EDRR of focus in many counties throughout the region. Jeremy Johnson in Madison County has shifted more focus towards mosquito abatement, and that has resulted in less noxious weed control efforts. Bingham County is weak with support, and Mitch said that it has gotten the attention of Jefferson County Commissioners who are planning on meeting with Bingham County Commissioners to try to leverage more involvement with their noxious weed program. Yellow Starthistle is taking hold there, and spreading rapidly with the lack of action. Bingham County is actually in region 5, but has traditionally partnered with neighbors in region 6 instead. Mitch further reported that ISDA brass, along with the Governor, visited Jefferson County this summer as part of a Cattleman's Association meeting and tour. Jud mentioned battling the same noxious weed issues in Bonneville County. It was reported that there is a strong weed control team with INL (Idaho National Laboratory) in Butte County. Sharayh reported finding Perennial Pepperweed and Saltcedar for the first time in Lemhi County, as well as Puncturvine in the city of Salmon. Some general discussion of treatments on Saltcedar and Yellow Starthistle closed out the regional reports.

General Business

Guest Patxi Larrocea-Phillips with AMG joined the meeting virtually at 10:15 and two agenda items were moved up in the order to accommodate

Noxious Weed Notice: Patxi told us that INWCA will bring this up at their next meeting, and, if approved, will lobby on this on our behalf. He noted some concerns about political chaos with legislative turnover and changes in committee assignments, so this may need to wait until the dust settles. He has reached out to the legislative services office; we will need a sponsor from each legislative body on the draft legislation. The potential pushback is unknown at this point, but there is speculation that smaller counties could be concerned about loss of revenue for their newspaper.

Russian Olive: Patxi reported that Representative Clow presented a pilot program to INWCA and that it was met with skepticism by the board of directors. INWCA is not in support of adding Russian Olive to the Idaho noxious weed list. The main concern is the burden that it would place on county noxious weed programs, and that has remained the primary sticking point for this issue. EDRR listing is a non-starter, as overall population levels in the state are quite high. A 12-year grant was proposed, which is unheard of. It was recommended that Representative Clow consult with his local Weeds Superintendent to help come up with a local solution, or at least a better plan to present. Mitch mentioned that some counties, like his, it's even more widespread than what he believes is appropriate for the Containment category. Funding avenues was discussed. Alan wants to keep this discussion alive since the issue is unlikely to go away. Power County was approached about listing it as a County noxious weed, but the Commissioners ultimately rejected the idea due to no other counties having listed it. Patxi touched on some general INWCA business that was reported earlier by Terry & Dave. Joe asked about prices on the new edition of the UI Noxious Weed Booklet, to which Patxi replied that costs are expected to be higher due to printing costs being higher.

**Chairman Wenk thanked Patxi for joining us to discuss those agenda items and called a recess at 10:35
Chairman Wenk resumed the meeting at 10:47

Budget Adoption, FY2023: Alan presented the FY2023 budget numbers; pointed out a healthy surplus. \$6,300.00 budgeted income for annual dues, \$7,844.00 budgeted operating expenses and \$17,566.32 carryover from FY2022. He noted the following changes: Added a budget line for the IAC to serve as our fiscal agent, combined the travel & conferences line items, removed the IWAC (Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign) line along with the Weed Summit line due to budget inactivity with those entities, and zeroed out the postage & administrative supplies line items due to the incorporation of IAC's services. Dave mentioned that \$150 will not cover this meeting's refreshments and lunch. After a brief discussion, it was suggested to increase the spring, fall and winter executive board meeting line items from \$150 to \$250, and the summer executive board meeting line item from \$500 to \$600. Kali asked about a retirement gift for Denny to match Terry Ruby's & Reid Smith's. Some discussion followed. Discussion related to the INWCA calendar came up; sponsorship vs. what we contribute. Adding \$400 to Miscellaneous Expenses for retirement gifts and \$400 to Executive Board Meetings for a total of an \$800 increase was agreed upon. Motion by Mike to adopt the FY2023 budget with the noted changes, second by Mitch. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

INWCA/IANWCS Calendar: Dave reported that the INWCA is in need of pictures from recent projects to keep from using pictures of old projects, and possibly is in need of sponsors. Alan mentioned that the distribution process needs improvement, but they now know who to target better. Number of calendars printed will be more refined this time—last year was a learning process.

By-Laws Change Review: Alan presented, once again, the By-Laws changes separating the Secretary and Treasurer positions in our association, including duties and voting rights. He mentioned that we should wait until the incoming Vice-Chair is selected for the signature page. This By-Laws change was discussed at the spring meeting and voted on at the summer meeting. Will be presented to the general membership.

Noxious Weed List, EDRR Category Language: Reintroduction of the Russian Olive discussion prompted Alan to revisit the noxious weed category language, being that an EDRR listing was proposed at one point. Alan presented a document with more clear language regarding the definition of the EDRR category so that there is more teeth in the discussion when something unrealistic is proposed. This would go through the rulemaking process if pursued. Alan recommends moving forward on it, and plans to present it to the general membership during our annual meeting business.

New Business

Noxious Weed Statute, Enforcements: Following an enforcement action in Cassia County this year, Mike ran into a trespassing accusation, then was sued for using Milestone on the pasture. Questioning of dates on the enforcement notice came up. A notice period of 5 days is in code, but whether the property owner actually sees the notice in time factored in to the issue. If you haven't picked up the notice from 5 days of the postmark, it is considered enforced—that has been the stance of Cassia County. During the course of this coming into question, business entities versus individuals became cloudy. After consultation, ICRMP recommended 8 days from the postmark. Absentee property owners not seeing the notice at all is another gray area that came into question. Mike would like to see us draft language to make these areas more clear for a proposed law change. New residents in Idaho are scrutinizing our laws and procedures more than we're accustomed to. Alan recommends utilizing your County Sheriff to serve the notice for individual landowners. For absentee landowners, it was agreed that this is an issue and perhaps ISDA along with the Attorney General's office should be involved. Joe brought up the issue of multiple access easements to reach 1 single property being a potential complication for "reasonable attempt at contact". Discussion of the distinction between County Powers and County Duties in the noxious weed law followed. Alan suggests putting a bug in legislator's ears and to refine a plan throughout 2023, including assembling a working group within IANWCS, and to aim for bringing this to the 2024 legislative session. Mike and Joe volunteered to be part of a sub-committee/working group to hone in on this issue and to put together a more refined product to bring to our annual meeting. Alan volunteered to serve as a sounding board for Mike and Joe. County Duties and County Powers as related to noxious weed enforcements and trespassing is the working summary for moving forward. It was mentioned once again to work with ISDA and the Attorney General on this, as well as to continue to consult with ICRMP.

Vice Chair Nominations: In order to not be caught unprepared, being that a new Vice Chair needs to rotate in this winter, the reminder was presented, and interest was solicited. Kali presented a nomination for consideration; Mitch. Some discussion followed regarding the duties and time commitments. Mitch accepted this nomination, and will go before the general membership at the upcoming annual meeting.

Weeds Superintendent of the Year: Nominations for this award were solicited, and are due by December 1 to allow sufficient lead time for procuring the plaque. Some discussion ensued regarding award eligibility, and submission requirements.

Travel Assistance: Chase announced that he will be attending the NAISMA annual conference in Florida the 1st week of November. He received approval from the commissioner that supervises his department to attend this conference and to pay for whatever is able to fit in his operating budget. Chase mentioned that he is able to pay the conference registration fee and the hotel cost out of his county travel line item, but that he had to pay for the flights out of his pocket. The flights totaled over \$1,000 and he is seeking assistance from the IANWCS for the full \$500 that's budgeted for in the Travel/Conference line item. As support, he indicated that NAISMA conferences are specifically referenced in the IANWCS Policies document as being eligible for travel assistance. As further support, he mentioned that Cogon Grass has been an issue that the southeastern US has dealt with for a while, and any information that he may glean from invasive veg managers in that region may be of value to our association. With that presented, he brought up the recently developed hiccup; Hurricane Ian made landfall in Fort Myers last week, which is where the conference is set to take place. Given the scope of the damage in that area, Chase has his doubts that the conference will actually move forward as planned in Fort Myers, and relayed that the NAISMA organizers are currently working through the contingency plans if Fort Myers in November is not an option. Possible options as of right now include holding the meeting virtually during the week currently scheduled, moving the meeting to a different host city during the week currently scheduled, or postponing the conference to a different timeframe in Fort Myers (with holding it as currently scheduled in Fort Myers still not being ruled out just yet, but seeming to be the least likely option). Assuming the conference still ends up being held in-person, Chase would appreciate financial support from the IANWCS. Motion by Mike to approve this

request for travel assistance funding, second by Alan. Motion carries unanimous. Further discussion— Dave requested a brief report from Chase at our annual meeting on the highlights of this conference to which Chase agreed.

****Chairman Wenk called a recess for lunch at 12:05PM***

****Chairman Wenk resumed the meeting at 12:55PM***

Membership Nametags: Chase brought to the board's attention that he discovered a document in Bonnie's files that described the colors of our membership nametags. They are coded by region, and Chase expressed to the board that in his decade of attending the annual meeting, he never heard an announcement at any of them explaining this. Sharayh indicated that she never knew of this either. Bonnie chimed in with the history—explaining that the colored coded name tags by region was Jeffrey Pettingill's idea when he was chairman, many years ago. Some discussion about the concept followed. It was agreed upon that the concept of metal, magnetic nametags is valuable (as opposed to writing our names on paper labels or not using nametags at all), but that the color coding by region seems to not really make a meaningful difference. The idea of a uniform, neutral color combination moving forward was presented, and agreed upon; white background with black letters. From this point forward, the Secretary will procure nametags for new members using this color combination, regardless of region.

****Regular business concluded at 1:05PM and the board moved into planning for the 2023 annual meeting***

****With annual meeting planning completed at 2:25PM, Chairman Wenk opened the business meeting back up for miscellaneous business and/or open discussion****

Other/Open Discussion: Discussion around sponsors, gifts and swag for our membership came up. The retired and soon to be retired Superintendent's gifts was also discussed. Alan asked about making some tentative selections now for the new terms on the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Jeremy Varley Zoomed in briefly during the annual meeting planning to confirm an ISDA presentation at that meeting and while online, he confirmed that sitting members of the SNWAC can serve another term if they wish. Alan and Bonnie expressed interest in serving another term for their respective regions. Mitch expressed not wanting to serve another term and some discussion on a new person in that seat followed; possibly Bryce or Bo. The region boundaries came into question and was discussed/researched. After confirming where those boundaries are, Sharayh expressed interest in the seat currently held by Kali. These positions will all be confirmed later. As a final discussion point, Mitch brought up the possibility of certain bird seed mixes being contaminated with Yellow Starthistle seed.

****Chairman Wenk adjourned the meeting upon no further business or discussion at 2:47PM***