



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES University of Idaho – Sandpoint Organic Agricultural Center 10881 N. Boyer Rd – Sandpoint, ID 83864 Wednesday, October 4, 2023 – 8:00AM (PDT)

Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

Chair – Mitch Whitmill
Secretary – Chase Youngdahl
Past Chair – Dave Wenk
Region 1 – Shelby Heiderman, rep
Region 3 – Steve Anderson, rep
Region 5 – Travis Ashby, rep

Vice Chair – Mike Ottley
Treasurer – Alan Martinson
Region 2 – Alan Martinson, rep
Region 4 – Terry Lee, rep
Region 6 – Absent

Attendance – Others:

Jason Parker (Tri-County), Sharayh Krantz (Lemhi County), Jeremy Johnson (Madison County), Brad Bluemer (*Guest – Weed Superintendent emeritus*)

Chairman Whitmill called the meeting to order at 8:09AM

Reports

Minutes from Spring Executive Board Meeting: Minutes from the Spring Executive Board Meeting dated April 5, 2023 were re-presented due to lack of a quorum at the summer meeting for approval. It was noted that no corrections were identified when reviewed at the summer meeting. Motion by Alan to approve minutes as written, second by Dave. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Minutes from Summer Executive Board Meeting: Motion by Dave to approve the minutes of the summer executive board meeting dated July 27, 2023, as written, second by Terry. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Treasurer's Report (July): Alan briefly presented the previous financial report, which was also tabled at the summer meeting due to lack of a quorum. At the time of July 27, the account balance was \$18,179.05, with a regular fund balance of \$11,004.05, and actual expenses totaling \$5,927.37. The board had no

questions on the re-review. Motion by Mike to approve the retroactive financial report as presented, second by Travis. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Treasurer's Report (current): Alan presented the final financial report for FY23 as having an account balance of \$17,487.00, with a regular fund balance of \$10,312.00, and actual expenses totaling \$6,619.32. He then noted that we had previously removed the IWAC & Lobbyist line items due to inactivity, and further noted having currently removed the Industry Relations line item due to inactivity, as well as the Postage & Admin Supplies line items due to IAC having absorbed the majority of the association's expenses related to those items. He reminded the board that the contingency fund can cover non reoccurring expenses. Alan concluded the presentation by mentioning that the paid dues will be reflected on the next report, and stood for questions. Mitch wanted confirmation that working with IAC was still going well, to which Alan confirmed that it was. Motion by Mike to approve the current financial report as presented, second by Dave. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

INWCA: Dave reported that conference planning is well underway with most speakers confirmed, and that Patxi has begun mailing registration notices out. Mitch asked if the agenda has been released yet, to which Dave responded that it's not a hundred percent complete just yet, but hopefully soon. Dave also solicited for calendar photos, and asked that they be submitted ASAP. He noted that the numbers printed will be significantly down from the previous installments. Mike asked about the anticipated number of credits for the conference. Dave replied that they're hoping to receive at least 7 or 8 and the plan is to submit the presentation abstracts to the ISDA sooner to identify any potential accreditation deficiencies.

SNWAC: Alan reported that they will meet sometime this fall and cost share program discussion will likely be the primary focus. Additionally, Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp could be points of discussion, as these have recently shown up in Idaho and are causing issues. Previous meetings this year surrounded negotiated rulemaking, including weighing in on the permanent listing of Cogon Grass. Some general discussion surrounding Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp followed.

Website: Chase reported on editing activities since the spring, which included deleting job postings that have closed, getting meeting agendas and approved minutes posted and updating the county contacts as they change. Mitch thanked Chase for keeping the website as up-to-date as possible, and Dave mentioned that this web platform is easy to navigate. Some discussion on the new Teton County Superintendent background took place.

Regional Updates:

Region 1 – Chase reported having identified and treated a half acre patch of Phragmites on railroad ROW, as well as two small patches of Leafy Spurge—both high priority EDRR noxious weeds in Bonner County. He further reported the following: ISDA reporting Purple Loosestrife working its way up the west shoreline of Priest Lake; a Selkirk CWMA work day for Scotch Broom on Warren Island (Lake Pend Oreille) which included participation from a Bonner County Commissioner; working with the UI Weed Sciences department on a site for a trial plot testing chemistry combinations on Rush Skeletonweed; working with the UI Entomology department on sites for SIMP plots for the Houndstongue crucifer weevil; and writing a comprehensive noxious weeds article for Northwest Woodlands Magazine, which is distributed to forest owners across the 4 northwest states; he concluded Bonner County's report by stating a high confidence in identifying Cogon Grass in ornamental settings in the city of Sandpoint, but did mention that there is a benign look-a-like that can be very difficult to distinguish without the presence of seed heads. He then reported that Kootenai County was also involved with the UI Entomology department on sites for the Houndstongue SIMP plots. Additionally, he passed along that Kootenai County inspected about 2,000 acres, identified and treated five small patches of Scotch Thistle and treated about 300 acres of county owned property, and presented on noxious weeds at a Farm-To-Table event. Shelby reported that Shoshone County teamed with Kootenai County for a biocontrol workshop. She then reported having contracted out field operations this year, and it totaled about 600 miles of treated roadsides. She then noted that Shoshone County executed an MOU with the USFS for a small CWMA being that the Inland Empire CWMA has

dissolved—they held 2 spray days with the public this year. Dave reported that he is working with his commissioners on abolishing Boundary County’s ‘No Spray Program’ for the roadsides, noting that it has become a big time drain and caters to very few Boundary County residents, and he is making progress with winning over the board majority on this matter. Some general discussion surrounding the agreement process and sign posting took place.

Region 2 – Alan reported that no updates were provided by Lewis or Clearwater Counties, although he mentioned having met with Anthan Larson, the new Clearwater Superintendent, once this summer. He reported that Idaho County has incorporated the herbicide HighNoon into their operations, and that their program is busy. He then reported that Phragmites showed up in Latah County in small patches here & there, and it was treated as it was discovered; and Latah is also working with UI Entomology on the Houndstongue SIMP plots for monitoring the crucifer weevil. Some discussion followed surrounding the Houndstongue weevil, as well as application timing on Phragmites.

Region 3 – Steve reported having just filled the region rep vacancy a couple of weeks prior, and that he hasn’t really had a chance to check in with everyone in the region just yet, but did note that most counties in the region are understaffed, and that Paul Rekow of Boise County is planning on retiring this upcoming spring. He reported that Valley County’s program has grown each year with private landowners and other government agencies, as well as the biocontrol aspect. He closed his report by mentioning that he hopes to resurrect the region involvement, both within the IANWCS and the region itself. Jason jumped in and mentioned that he recently spoke with former Canyon County Superintendent, AJ Mondor, and AJ told him that his former assistant Cory Flat is the new Superintendent. It was pointed out that it has been difficult to get even basic information out of Canyon County at this time. Mike asked Steve which biocontrol agents his program has been working with, to which Steve replied Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed and Yellow Toadflax. Some general discussion around staffing and noxious weed department structure within the counties took place.

Region 4 – Terry reported that John Cenarrusa of Blaine County has retired and mentioned that Blaine County is not likely to backfill that position. He then listed out some access closures on the Snake River due to the recent Quagga Mussel detection, and mentioned that the ISDA started treating yesterday upon finding an adult mussel following weeks of surveys. Mike and Jason jumped in to further report on the following Quagga Mussel management activities: The city of Twin Falls held a public meeting; 1 pair of adult mussels are releasing 82 – 2,000 veligers per day; Centennial Park below the Shoshone Falls is ground zero, the site of the first adult detection. General discussion followed on mussel management and treatment methods. Mike then presented a ½ page ad for education & awareness on invasive mussels that he ran in their local paper, split between Cassia and Minidoka Counties. He also went on their local radio station for an interview on the matter. Scotch Thistle and Leafy Spurge were pointed out as regionwide noxious weeds of emphasis. Plateau + Milestone + Overdrive + 2,4-D was mentioned as a successful tank mix for Leafy Spurge.

Region 5 – Travis reported that things are good in Franklin County, and that Cody Clyde in Oneida County has become a good partner. He mentioned that most other counties in the region are either close to retirement and not wanting to increase involvement, or just want to do their own thing.

Region 6 – Sharayh reported having 7 spray days this year, and that one of her CWMA’s procured educational brochures. She further reported that the BLM & USFS are major stakeholders in Lemhi County and that Cheatgrass treatments have been a priority for those agencies, mostly treated via aerial applications. She mentioned Puncturevine being one of the main noxious weeds of concern. Jeremy reported that Madison County is battling Leafy Spurge, and that an Extension Office function was put on this summer regarding Leafy Spurge that he & Bryce Fowler just happen to hear about through the grapevine, so they attended. He said that the information presented was heavily skewed in favor of organic options, so he and Bryce were able to make an impromptu contribution in order to share other control methods and offer county resources. Mitch asked Sharayh about Custer County, being that they apparently don’t have an active

CWMA. Sharayh is hoping to work with the ISDA on a boundary adjustment to one of her CWMA's in order to absorb Custer County. Mitch reported that a CWMA merger is pending—Upper Snake & Henry's Fork—and Bryce has been leading that effort. The new name will be the Headwaters CWMA. He further reported the following: the Teton County position has been filled; Jud had a productive season in Bonneville County and continues to gain solid footing; Fremont County had a busy season and is pushing forward with their drone program for treatments, especially pastures. General discussion on drones followed, including regulations, certifications, funding and technical aspects. Mitch furthered his report by stating that Clark County had a successful season, and that Butte County had challenges with staffing being that they compete with nearby Craters of the Moon (which offers higher wages) for workforce. He concluded by mentioning Rush Skeletonweed as a primary noxious weed of focus throughout much of the region.

**Chairman Whitmill called a recess at 9:56AM*

**Chairman Whitmill resumed the meeting at 10:11AM*

General Business

Budget Adoption, FY2024: Alan presented 'draft 2' of the FY2024 budget, beginning with describing each column. He then broke down the operating expenses, starting with the annual meeting, then moving to the executive board meetings, and then on to the other expenses. He then noted having summarized income and standing expenses on the back of the page. The draft budget amounts are as follows: \$6,300.00 budget income for annual dues and \$7,479.00 budgeted for total operating expenses. Alan did project a slight net loss, but not enough to be concerned about due to a healthy cash reserve. Some discussion on retirement awards took place and where they fit within the line items. It was discussed and agreed upon to add \$200.00 to Misc. Expenses to bring it to \$850.00, and to add \$75.00 to Awards to bring it to \$475.00. Mike asked about speaker gift amounts, and whether what we have budgeted is enough or not. Some discussion ensued. It was agreed upon to keep that line item as is. Motion by Dave to approve the FY2024 budget with the agreed upon changes, second by Terry. Further discussion: Alan stated that he will send out copies with the noted adjustments. Motion carries unanimous.

Proposed By-Laws Changes, Voting & Finance: Alan passed out a draft of edited by-laws with language indicating that the region rep may appoint a 1-time proxy voting member for that designated meeting should the rep & alternate both be unable to attend. Under finances, he cleaned up the language to bring it into alignment with current practices—where the Treasurer has authority to make purchases up front (within the approved budget amount), then have the board ratify after the fact. This is the 1st meeting record of discussion on these two proposed by-laws changes. Alan then presented a change to our policy document to reflect the split of the Secretary & Treasurer positions. Motion by Alan to strike the word "Secretary" in Article VI of the IANWCS Policies, second by Travis. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Superintendent Vacancies & IANWCS Involvement: Mike brought up the issue of some counties choosing to file their noxious weed functions under other departments and what we as an association can do to assist, whether a letter to the BOCC or some other kind of involvement. Robust discussion took place surrounding this issue. It was pointed out that code states under County Duties that the county control authority shall designate 1 of its members as the liaison between the county weed superintendent and the county commissioners, indicating that the spirit of the code is such that the legislative intent is to have standalone noxious weed departments under the BOCC. Alan queried on the possibility of assistance from IAC on sending letters to counties when a weed superintendent vacancy occurs, or when an organizational restructure occurs resulting in a noxious weed department getting buried under another larger department. Contacting BLM and USFS stakeholders to support the cause was mentioned. INWCA being looped in on a letter was also recommended. Solutions were discussed for two separate situations—addressing superintendent vacancies/county organizational structure, as well as member involvement within the

IANWCS. The latter situation was discussed as a possible topic for the annual meeting. The entire discussion wrapped up by planning for letters to Elmore and Boise Counties due to the impending retirements of Dave Humphreys and Paul Rekow in 2024.

New Business

Superintendent of the Year Nominations: Chase reminded members that nomination letters are to be sent to him by no later than November 30, in long form, and that he will pass along to the review committee, which is comprised of the previous 3 award winners. He mentioned that the full criteria is posted on our website, but any superintendent can nominate any other superintendent in the state, whether they are previous winners of the award or not. Winner receives a \$500 cash award, a recognition plaque and their nominator's letter read at the annual meeting.

2024 Elections/Appointments: Chase and Alan reminded members that the slate of elections and appointments in 2024 includes the Region Reps, Region Alternates, Secretary and Treasurer positions. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are elected/re-elected at the winter executive board meeting, and the region posts are appointed at the annual meeting.

Winter Meetings 2024: Chase announced that he reserved the Legacy Point Room at the University of Idaho – Boise for our winter meetings, including the executive board meeting the morning of January 8 and the annual meeting that afternoon through the afternoon of January 9. There is a fee involved, but pointed out that it is reasonable for what we get—full audio/visual equipment with university tech support, and several options for table & chair setup. The stipulation is that we need to pay for our own parking, which is \$1/hour after the first hour (which is free). It was pointed out that other options for parking could exist in the area.

**Regular agenda business concluded at 11:25AM and the board moved into planning for the 2024 annual meeting*

**Chairman Whitmill recessed the annual meeting planning at 12:07PM for lunch*

**Chairman Whitmill resumed the annual meeting planning following lunch at 12:45PM*

With annual meeting planning completed at 1:27PM, Chairman Whitmill opened the business meeting back up for miscellaneous business and open discussion

Miscellaneous Business/Other:

*Alan asked the board if we want to pursue the weed notice adjustment in code, as was brought up last year but ultimately shelved. The basis of the idea is rooted in cost savings, and would aim to eliminate the requirement for posting the annual noxious weed notice in a local newspaper, and allow an online posting of the notice to meet code requirements. Mitch asked what the result was when the Clerk's Association attempted a similar law change. Board members indicated that their proposal got rejected hard, but was noted that the proposal included all matters related to county public notices—hearings, etc. Some general discussion followed on how various counties handle their public notices. An idea floated for language was “a media source of general circulation”, rather than “a newspaper of general circulation”, as currently written in code. Conversation surrounding this topic was productive, but it concluded unclear as to whether we want to remain open to pursuit in an upcoming legislative cycle or to kill the idea.

*Mike asked if the association should look into some sort of action in order to be a recognized entity with the Secretary of State for future lobbyist needs. It was pointed out that we piggybacked off of INWCA for lobbying services on H94, which worked out, but it's likely we will need lobbying again at some point and would be nice to be proper. Some ideas were touched on, but a clear direction was not decided. It was further pointed out that various groups, both formal and informal, hire lobbyists routinely—so there has to be

a non-complicated way to achieve this. Terry mentioned that Patxi would probably know what to do on this matter, and agreed to contact him about it.

*Dave asked if other CWMAs have run into the MOU roadblock with the USFS, where the Forest Service now needs a separate, non-monetary agreement in order to have Forest Service personnel participate on non-National Forest projects, including CWMA spray days on private or state lands. No other board members in attendance have run into this yet, with the exception of Shelby.

*Chase reported via Jeremy Varley that all ISDA staff, from technicians to upper level management, is currently in Twin Falls as part of the response to the Quagga Mussel discovery in the Snake River, so to expect service delays from all sections in the department. For his part, Jeremy wanted passed along that he will be on the project until October 20—so there will be delays in reviewing the 2nd term reports, executing disbursement requests and publishing the 2024 Cost Share Handbook. Board members requested that Chase pass this information along to the general membership.

*Mitch reported that now would be a good time to approach the legislature about other funding mechanisms for noxious weeds, specifically through ATV sticker fees. He mentioned that a selling point could be to pitch to ATV groups that this can help ensure access for users into the future, as a stewardship component. Dave cautioned that the way ATV registration works is based on number of machines per county, so it wouldn't be an equitable distribution of funds through the current structure and we would need a specific plan in place. A trust fund was a possible mechanism that was discussed, and whether or not that would be better than an annual fund. Land Management was brought up as a possible group to assist. A working group led by Mitch to address this idea further concluded the discussion.

Chairman Whitmill adjourned the meeting at 2:37PM upon no further business or discussion