



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Latah County Courthouse – Room 2B 522 S. Adams Street – Moscow, ID 83843 Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – 8:00AM (PDT)

Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

Chair – Mitch Whitmill
Secretary – Chase Youngdahl
Past Chair – Dave Wenk
Region 1 – Chase Youngdahl, 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 – Bryce Fowler, rep

Attendance – Others:

Joe Slichter (Region 2 alternate), Jason Parker (Region 4 alternate),
Sharayh Krantz (Lemhi County), Bonnie Davis (Washington County),
Kali Sherrill (Twin Falls County)

Chairman Whitmill called the meeting to order at 8:06AM

****Upon the meeting being called to order, Alan requested by consent to move two agenda items;
*Annual Meeting Lunch Sponsor & *Summer Executive Board Meeting Format to the top of General
Business due to those items having an impact on the FY25 budget, which is agendized for adoption at
the top of General Business.****

Reports

Minutes from Summer Executive Board Meeting: Motion by Mike to approve the minutes of the summer executive board meeting dated July 18, 2024, as written, second by Terry. Further discussion—Terry pointed out that Region 4 was listed as absent even though a county from the region attended. Chase clarified that the absence was listed on the Officers/Executive Board attendance block, since neither the rep

nor the alternate attended, however the county in attendance from Region 4 was listed in the Attendance/Others block. Motion carries unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Alan presented the financial statement dated 9/30/2024 with a total checkbook balance of \$18,382.88, and a regular fund balance of \$11,207.88. Actual expenses total \$5,405.15, with no pending expenses nor income at this time. Alan then mentioned that membership dues invoices for FY25 should go out this week, and that paying dues by credit card is now an available option. Alan reported that personnel within IAC is settled, previous hiccups have been resolved and everything is back to running smoothly. Alan concluded his report by announcing that he will step down as Treasurer at our annual meeting due to his pending retirement in the fall of 2025. With no questions or comments, motion by Dave to approve the current financial statement as presented, second by Travis. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

INWCA Update: Dave reported that registration for conference is now open, and that it is taking place later in the month of January than the previous handful of years, and will be held in Nampa at the Civic Center. He mentioned that the schedule is taking shape, however, they could encounter speaker conflicts due to the new timeframe overlapping with Montana's Noxious Weeds Conference. Dave concluded by mentioning that the board of directors decided to retain Patxi Larrocea-Phillips of the AMG Group as their executive director on another 1-year contract.

SNWAC Update: Alan reported that the previous meeting centered on the Myrtle Spurge and Palmer Amaranth petitions. The recommendation from this committee was to support listing Myrtle Spurge, and to not support listing Palmer Amaranth. Mike asked if they granted the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign's request for funding, to which Alan replied they recommended not granting that request for funding.

Website Update: Chase reported that the only updates since the summer meeting include edits to the officers/executive board page to reflect a couple of members having left their positions, along with the corresponding contacts on the regional contacts page, as well as adding/deleting positions to/from the jobs page as requested.

Regional Updates:

Region 1 – Chase reported that Shoshone County is in transition; former Superintendent Carol Young has come out of retirement to return on a part-time basis to keep things together while they are recruiting to fill the position. He then reported that one of the Bonner County Commissioners resigned at the end of the summer due to losing his re-election bid in the Republican Primary and needing to return to a teaching job at the start of the school year; the governor appointed the individual who prevailed in that primary race to fill the vacancy. Chase further reported having not detected any Cogon Grass in Bonner County's nurseries this year after making sure each nursery retailer received a letter notifying them about the addition to the noxious weed list. He concluded the region 1 report by announcing ITD's Veg Conference in Coeur d'Alene October 8-9, and that all are welcome to attend for info/networking and/or license credits.

Region 2 – Alan reported that there's no word on the Clearwater County vacancy. Further, he said Nez Perce County is static, but that Phillip plans on taking advantage of an impending board turnover in January to try to bolster their program. Alan concluded by reporting that he has received preliminary approval to hire his replacement in Latah County next fall. Joe reported that Idaho County will also see a board turnover in January. He then reported having dealt with new infestations of Poison Hemlock over the course of the field season, and ongoing FEMA projects. Joe concluded his report by mentioning a lessened emphasis on Turkish Thistle due to population expansion with no realistic shot at eradication—pointed out it's easy to mis-I.D. it with Italian Thistle, but that he is learning the nuances.

Region 3 – Steve reported that the ISDA took over Eurasian Watermilfoil operations in Payette Lake, as the population has exploded. Residents are not happy about it, but ISDA is planning herbicide treatments for 2025 after 20+ years of Valley County performing mechanical removal treatments. He said private bays are where the infestations are the densest. On the terrestrial side, Steve reported wildland fires having set back some operations—with Valley, Adams and Washington Counties being affected the worst. Steve relayed

that Dave Herold of Adams County had queried him on rehab funding for burns. Steve concluded his report by stating he has been short staffed for a long time, and can't get anyone qualified to pass the professional license exams. Some brief discussion ensued about organized training efforts and possibly attempting to extend the 1-year apprentice category. Chase asked about any updates on the Gem County vacancy, to which Steve replied no new developments have occurred.

Region 4 – Terry reported wildland fires having closed areas of Leafy Spurge infestations in Camas County, and it was too late to treat when the area reopened. He's having issues retaining help, like others. Jason reported having hired an employee mid-season, and that Spotted Knapweed and Hoary Alyssum were his focal species in Blaine County. Kali reported that Quagga Mussels are back in the Snake River near Twin Falls, above the dam, and that Jeremy Varley is there right now assessing the situation and planning for a treatment larger than last year's. Kali then reported that the commissioners in Twin Falls County combined several departments this year, and that Noxious Weeds was combined with Parks & Recreation—she will be the director for both departments now, and that her time spent in the field in the future will be drastically reduced as a result, but mentioned having great field supervisors for both Noxious Weeds & Parks/Rec. Mike reported receiving authorization to hire a full-time assistant in Cassia County. He noted dry conditions this year have caused certain growth patterns to stray from the norm, most notably Rush Skeletonweed and Leafy Spurge. He concluded by applauding Representative Doug Pickett for continuing to be a great ally for our industry.

Region 5 – Travis reported having lost his summer help in Franklin County mid-season due to an injury, and that cost share programs with his CWMA are going well. He mentioned that he doesn't hear much from other counties within the region with the exception of Oneida County...Caribou County takes their cost share money and runs, Bannock County's program is pretty restricted by the commissioners there, and he still hasn't met Andrea from Power County. It was pointed out that her main role is with Planning & Zoning, and that no one across our association has ever seen or heard from her.

Region 6 – Bryce reported that the Teton County position has been filled with a good individual, and that Fremont County participated in lots of cooperative spray days and had an overall successful season. Mitch pointed out some challenges with the weather and supply chain issues, but concurred with Bryce on an overall successful season for the region.

General Business

Annual Meeting Lunch Sponsor: Alan reported that Trent Brusseau has left his position with Corteva, and that he has sponsored our annual meeting lunch for the last few years. Jerome Otto was floated as a potential new sponsor, by Steve, who agreed to reach out to Jerome about this. Mitch thought perhaps a Nutrien rep, or Jeffrey Pettingill with Alligare could be possibilities. Bryce floated the idea of trying to stick with Trent first, on behalf of his new company, Orion. Sharayh agreed to contact Trent first about continuing with this sponsorship, with Jerome Otto as the backup (via Steve).

Summer Executive Board Meeting Format: Discussion was initiated on the format for this meeting moving forward—do we continue it as a virtual meeting indefinitely or return to the traditional, in-person + campout format? The history of the summer meeting was brought up, with it having started as a 'Summer Weeder's Retreat', where there really wasn't much of a meeting, rather a camaraderie building weekend in the summer with one another revolving around a camping trip with an activity (rafting, tubing, 4wheeling, etc.). It was further mentioned that commissioners began questioning the Weeder's Retreat as a legitimate use of county employee time & travel funding, so the title was changed to the Summer Executive Board Meeting and more business was added to the agendas, but the content of the weekends remained similar. Eventually, counties ran into challenges with traveling on the weekends, so it was then shifted to taking place during the week, which cut into valuable field time making it a challenge for other counties. Attendance declined over time. General discussion followed the history briefing. It was concluded by the board that face-to-face engagement remains important, but that sticking with a virtual format for only the July meeting is reasonable, when most everyone is at the peak of their busiest time.

Chairman Whitmill called a recess at 9:16AM

Chairman Whitmill resumed the meeting at 9:22AM

FY2025 Budget Adoption: Alan presented his proposed budget, which included the FY23 & FY24 budgets as reference lines for comparison. FY25 includes no budgeted amount for the LIA line item due to no one in our association going through in the upcoming class, as well as no budgeted amount for the Calendar Expense line item due to the INWCA deciding to discontinue that project. He mentioned having moved the Speaker Gifts line item from the Other Expenses category to the Annual Meeting category, and expressed a healthy reserve. The presented budget amounts as follows: \$6,300 income from annual dues, and \$4,894 operating expense total. Mike asked if we should fill in the blank amount for the Retirement Gifts line item. No one had any definitive answers on potential retirements taking place within this fiscal year. Dave requested increasing the Speaker Gifts line item from \$500 to \$750 in order to accommodate nicer items. Mike expressed support for that, as did the rest of the board. It was agreed to leave the Retirement Gifts and Summer Executive Board Meeting line items at zero. Motion by Alan to approve the FY25 budget, as amended to reflect the \$250 increase for Speaker Gifts, second by Dave. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Rulemaking Update: Mitch reported having attended the summer negotiated rulemaking hearings for the Noxious Weed Rule, and mentioned having sent a letter to ISDA on behalf of our association reflecting our stance on the Myrtle Spurge and Palmer Amaranth listing petitions, which was submitted into the official rulemaking written record. He reviewed that our stance was neutral on the listing of Myrtle Spurge due to our membership being split nearly right down the middle, and that our stance was to oppose the listing of Palmer Amaranth. Mitch also relayed that Turkish Thistle was discussed in one of the hearings, with the proposal being to move it from the EDRR category to the Control category. Mitch further reported that the Pesticide Rule remains open and that ISDA staff is working on modifications, but nothing specific to report. Practical testing modules is rumored to be in play.

Noxious Weed Listing Considerations/Criteria: Adam's criteria considerations were presented and discussed. Consensus seemed to indicate it's a great start, and a collective suggestion to build on what's there is to add a practicality angle for on-the-ground operations. Alan agreed to go through this criteria consideration summary in more detail and add where needed. Chase agreed to take what Adam & Alan document, and develop an easy to follow (hopefully) flowchart. This will be revisited at future meetings.

Years of Service: Since he couldn't find specific language in the association's policies, Chase sought out guidance from the board on how to handle tracking years of service as a Superintendent when a lateral move is made from one county to another, and cited two instances of that taking place in 2024. He queried the board on whether the years of contiguous service should reset if a current Superintendent takes a Superintendent position with another county, or if the credited years of service from the previous county should remain intact and transposed to the other county on the years of service spreadsheet. Brief discussion followed. Board consensus was to keep service years intact if an individual makes a lateral move from one Superintendent position to another with no time gap. Chase will note this on the years of service spreadsheet

New Business

Superintendent of the Year Nominations: Chase reminded members to submit nominations for Superintendent of the Year by November 30, in order to allow enough time for the review committee to select a winner and subsequently procure the award in time for our annual meeting. He mentioned that the criteria for nominations is on our website, but pointed out that the primary thing to keep in mind is that the nomination needs to be in letter form, as opposed to just submitting a name with no content or just a sentence or two. Get those nominations in!

Vice Chair Nominations: Reminder was brought up that we will need to select a Vice Chairman at our annual meeting. Chase notified the board that no one responded to his recent solicitation for interest in the position. Discussion ensued, and no one in attendance at this board meeting seemed willing to step forward—either members are too new and still learning their jobs, or too short staffed or too close to retirement to take it on. Mitch mentioned that he has a couple of individuals in mind that he will approach about this.

Winter Meetings 2025: Mitch floated the idea of a tour of the Capitol in lieu of our traditional 2nd day annual meeting format. Patxi Larrocea-Phillips joined the meeting at this time to offer more information on this proposed idea, as he would be involved as basically the tour guide. Potential agenda items for a Day 2 meeting at the Capitol include a tour of the building, committee meeting observation and a luncheon with junior legislators. Logistics were discussed, including transportation to & from the Capitol—possibly hiring a charter bus or renting a few sprinter vans. After some brief discussion and Q&A with Patxi, he departed the meeting. With the board seemingly in agreement that this would be a good opportunity for our membership to experience, Alan made a motion to add \$1,000 to the Annual Meeting category in our budget under a new line item “Capitol Tour” to cover lunch & transportation costs, second by Terry. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

With regular agendized business concluded at 10:38AM, Chairman Whitmill recessed the meeting to move into a workshop setting for the planning of the 2025 Annual Meeting

With Annual Meeting Planning completed at 11:40AM, Chairman Whitmill opened the business meeting back up for miscellaneous business and discussion

Miscellaneous Business/Other:

*Mitch passed out USB drives with the updated draft of the Superintendent Handbook. He said it’s not yet completed, but most of the notable amendments and additions have occurred, i.e. – attaching “noxious” to “weeds”, some tweaks were made to statute language, and the NPDES content was stricken and replaced with simply a heading; IPDES. Mitch solicited review and input on this updated draft.

*Mitch reviewed having presented at the IAC summer conference in Idaho Falls for 15 minutes, and he mentioned having spoken to Gracee Gorrell (who manages IAC’s events) to ensure our association is earmarked for 30 minutes at the mid-winter conference in Boise.

*Mike asked about any progress or developments on the OHV fee idea. There was very brief discussion indicating that we’re at dead ends with no viable path forward at this time.

*Mitch announced that he is working with ISDA staff on a preliminary petition for the next rulemaking cycle to include verbiage in the noxious weed rule to include Noxious Weed Free (NWF) Gravel to the NAISMA MOU with Idaho. Discussion ensued, mostly related to fees & program parameters.

*Finally, Mitch solicited, via Becky Kingston of Montana, for a noxious weeds presentation from someone in Idaho for the Montana Noxious Weeds Conference. There was a reminder that their conference overlaps ours this year.

**Chairman Whitmill adjourned the meeting at 12:07PM upon no further business or discussion*