



# The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Nez Perce Bio Center, Lapwai, Idaho & Via Zoom

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021**

**Chair: Dave Wenk**

**Secretary/Treasurer-Bonnie Davis**

**Region 1- Chase Youngdahl**

**Region 3- Steve Anderson**

**Region 5- No Representation**

**Vice Chair- Adam Schroeder**

**Past Chair- Kali Sherrill**

**Region 2- Alan Martinson**

**Region 4- Michael Ottley**

**Region 6- Mitch Whitmill**

Those in attendance via Zoom: Adam Schroeder, Bonnie Davis, AJ Mondor, Kali Sherrill, Jeremy Varley.  
**Others Attending:** Joe Slichter-Idaho County-Region 2, AJ Mondor-Region 3 Alternate, Cindy Shelton-Jefferson County Weed and Jeremy Varley-ISDA.

**Chairman Wenk called meeting to order at 9:14 am our thanks to Paul Brusven and the Nez Perce Bio Center for hosting our meeting.**

### Reports

**Regarding Minutes of the Winter Meeting-virtual-Zoom:** Motion by Mitch Whitmill to accept the minutes of the summer meeting dated July 24, 2021 as written, second by Chase Youngdahl. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bonnie presented the final financial report for the 2021 fiscal year dated 9/30/2021. Total expenditures \$7,385.78, budget balance \$8,964.22 and checkbook balance of \$18,375.80 which includes some 2022 dues. Discussion of the LIA Fact Finding Tour contribution of \$1,000. Motion by Alan Martinson to accept the year-end financial report as presented. Second by Chase Youngdahl, motion carries.  
**INWCA-Dave Wenk** reported the board will be meeting tomorrow morning Zoom and they are moving ahead with a live conference. As of this time it will not be a hybrid meeting due to cost. They will know more tomorrow. Early registration saves \$25 per person. The dates for 2022 are January 12-13, 2022.

**State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Update-Kali Sherrill** reported this committee has been requested by our association for many years. She made reference to an inquiry at the summer meeting as to the benefits of this committee. Kali feels it should be given a chance she pointed out if you have comments each region has a representative on the committee send them your comments/concerns. Committee members did participate in the ISDA rulemaking process and now they have received the Cost Share handbook for review and comment upon. Kali feels one of the main purposes for this group is Cost Share. She reminded them that every region has a representative on that board please reach out to them. Alan feels we should make recommendation that ISDA update the statewide CWMA map. The map shows a map from 2016 with 35 CWMA's when only 26 applied for Cost Share in 2021, so 25% are either not active or did not apply for Cost Share. He feels the ISDA needs to be promoting CWMA's and the state's role in this program. The committee is supposed to be making recommendations to the ISDA Director. We are receiving money from the legislature and we aren't spending all the funding so why is it being given to ISDA? There is going to be money left over and the legislature is going to look at that and the funding may go away. Recommendation was made by Kali that we request a meeting and discuss this. Motion by Alan Martinson the IANWCS Executive Board request the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee meet to discuss the CWMA program.

Second by Mitch Whitmill, motion carries. Point of discussion from Jeremy Varley he suggested the group come with ideas and suggestions for getting participation (he referenced in general those who have not been active for 20 years). Attempts have been made to do just that but with no results. The last two years they have seen CWMA's having difficulty spending the funding due to Covid among other things the last couple of years. Jeremy stated they are on track to spend all the funds. It was asked what happened to the allocated funding that some CWMA's did not accept for 2021. Jeremy explained since the fiscal year does not revolve around the calendar year, the funds received for CWMA's spans two fiscal years. There is enough funding to send out the first allocations before the end of the fiscal year so allocated funding is used to distribute to those who accepted funding for this year. He stated most CWMA requests are reduced due to lack of funding however with less participants there are less reductions. Alan pointed out the disparities in numerous agencies throughout the state. Alan explained in the state statute it states the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee is to advise the director on noxious weed issues. Then 22-2403 (f) was reference as well. Motion carries.

**ISDA Communication**-Jeremy apologized for not being in person today but appreciates the opportunity to join via Zoom. ISDA is currently wrapping things up for the season regarding boat inspections and noxious weed aquatic treatments. CWMA's are in the midst of doing their second term reports and the 3<sup>rd</sup> term has just started. Comments are due today on the 2022 Cost Share Handbook, there will be a quick review to determine if comments have merit. The new handbook and exhibits will then be published for download. He spoke about Cost Share training in November, it is not required but optional. It is a way for those needing help to receive it. Inactive CWMA's can participate in this meeting and the email will go to those involved in noxious weed control including counties that do not participate in a CWMA. Jeremy reported the rulemaking that was negotiated went into effect in July as temporary rule and will go before the legislature this next session. He will keep weed superintendents and the committee up to date on what is happening. Dave Wenk asked if any of the appropriated funds by the legislature for Cost Share is being held back by ISDA for administration purposes. Jeremy checked with fiscal and they do not take any administrative or indirect costs for the administration of the Cost Share program. There is a small portion of federal funds (USFS) used for administration fees. Chase inquired if the Cost Share Handbook is reviewed by Attorney General, Lawrence Wasden's office. Jeremy explained it is the guiding document for the ISDA Cost Share program but it is not sent out to the Attorney General's office. It is reviewed by two representatives from their office. Dave thanked Jeremy for participating.

### **General Business**

**2022 Budget**-Bonnie presented the 2022 budget with changes made at the summer meeting. Motion by Chase Youngdahl to accept the budget as presented, second by Alan Martinson. Alan questioned why there is \$4,050 budgeted for LIA when we have no one going, Bonnie explained this is the same budget that was presented at the summer meeting with the exception of the \$1,400 being taken from the contingency line and placed in the line item for the joint calendar. Alan feels this should be zero and we can budget for that next year. He would like to see annual meeting awards increased to \$400. He would like to see our operating expenses on what we plan to operate on for the year as a sub group and then have the contingency fund separate from that and would like to see the dues as income and not have that be in our cash balance carry over. Bonnie asked that Alan make the requested changes and send to her. Motion carries.

**Update on Joint Calendar Partnering with INWCA**-Alan Martinson reported on the progress of this project and stated they are getting some sponsors so the budgeted amount may be less. Alan requested photos be sent to him. Alan will know more tomorrow and will send an update at that time. They would like a variety of photos, not all weed pictures and they will be bouncing topics around. Cost will run approximately \$2,000 depending on sponsorships. They will be dispersed to legislators, state agencies, counties and possibly sell some. Feel free to ask your herbicide representatives about supporting this educational tool.

**Cost Share Discussion & 2022 Program Updates**-Dave Wenk inquired about the progress the subcommittee from the summer meeting has made. Adams, Chase and Alan were selected to serve. It was

stated after the morning discussion this may not be necessary. The State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee solves this. Issues we are having: the amount of paperwork required, date changes by state, streamlining the process. Joe Slichter, Idaho County stated his county needs those funds. It was discussed there is a fine line between usable and user friendly. It is too complicated. It was suggested we need to find alternative funding so we don't have to deal with these issues. It was suggested we need a consistent message to share with our legislators. It was suggested something from our association with bullet points or something to present to ISDA and see what can be addressed. Dave Wenk will draft a letter from our association of our issues with the Cost Share to give to the Advisory Committee. It was agreed the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee can deal with this. Jeremy will happily entertain any of these issues as questions to him as he is the program manager and would like to receive them soon. He understands the concerns but by the time the letter is drafted for the committee to review the handbook will be out and applications will be out. Jeremy understands the issues with the 2021 start date and explained this was due to CWMA's that were working through legal actions and needed more documentation. ISDA has been doing date amendment requests individually. ISDA owns that due to the internal review process and errors in the auditing process. They have documented 5% of abuse of the program while others run very smooth. There are some spending in a manner not consistent with the program. Jeremy assured the board ISDA is not trying to make more and more paperwork. Concerns expressed that several months are going by before things are resolved and that is problematic. Could this committee come and ask ISDA if we could help streamline this process? The board asked about changes that are made midstream and why they are occurring after the handbook is published and the agreements are out. Jeremy stated this was due to findings of issues with particular CWMA's such as methods in which money was spent, not following the rules, the bid process and the procurement process for goods and services. He was asked about fraudulent records and inadequacies of some CWMA's and the history of such. Jeremy responded three years they found issues with how funding was spent, audits then revealed more errors, misuse of Cost Share dollars for unallowable expenses. If we want to find these sooner and prevent them from happening again. The new process is term by term. The auditors wanted month by month but he explained to them it wasn't feasible. It is more streamlined this year and the fiscal training in March helped explain some of the issues. The majority of CWMA's are doing a great job. Jeremy was asked what they have found in documentation is it misappropriation of Cost Share and poor record keeping? Jeremy responded it is not adhering to rules of the bid process and bookkeeping. The board feels the bid rules are confusing with two sets of rules. Jeremy stated they are trying to get legal counsel's opinion that is how they came up with the \$10,000 bid requirement. Dave Wenk stated the Ada County budget is bigger than the Cost Share allocation. How do we get the amount of money coming from the legislature increased? Jeremy explained this is done through appropriations from JFAC. The last several years this amount has increased and this is our own line item, he noted the majority of the Cost Share funding is coming from the state. Jeremy stated there is nothing wrong with talking to your legislators but he cannot endorse asking for more money to come from us. There are issues that have to be corrected at every CWMA level. Remember a CWMA is not a county program, this is not meant to be an individual funding source to stimulate a county program, that is not what a CWMA Cost Share is about. That matter comes up every year that counties need the Cost Share for their budget. Some are always trying to get labor or equipment for their counties. Some counties expressed that most of their lands are public with limited budgets but have a huge footprint and their resources are spread thin. Jeremy reminded them to blur the boundaries on a project by project basis. Jeremy was asked if ISDA could add a line item for landowner reimbursement type projects to prevent having to go to bid. Jeremy stated every CWMA is unique and there are numerous different ways to run your programs.

***BREAK-***

**AJ Mondor requested we move the winter meeting up on the agenda as he has another meeting to attend.**

## **New Business**

**Planning Annual Meeting-** AJ Mondor reported he has the Canyon County Administration Building, The address is 111 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Caldwell, The room is reserved for both days, is 50x30 in size, there is no projector but they do have multiple big screen TV's in the room. Canyon County has the cabling on hand for us to use and they will run everything. Dave stated on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> the Executive Board will meet at 9 am and the annual meeting will begin at 1:00. AJ inquired about lunch adding there are multiple food places downtown Caldwell and he will see about local caterers for Tuesday's lunch. There will be 12-15 folks for the Monday morning board meeting and 50 to 60 for the annual meeting. It was stated we only budget \$600 for the annual meeting lunch on Tuesday, Trent may be willing to help sponsor lunch for our group. There is ample room for parking and Bonnie will check with Denise Helsley about doing our refreshments and snacks once again. Dave asked about a contingency plan in the case of Covid issues. AJ stated his commissioners have been very relaxed regarding Covid restrictions and the same with the city of Caldwell. Presenters will need to bring their presentation on a USB drive and he will set us up with IT to have a dedicated person. Kali suggested the Canyon County Commissioners do the welcome to kick off our annual meeting.

**Weed Superintendent of the Year Nominations-**They will be due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Chase asked about the selection committee. It was stated the 2014-2018 recipients are all gone. Terry Lee-2013 is left. He inquired with the huge gap that is supposed to be on the committee should we take a look at how that review committee is assembled? Alan explained it used to be the previous two winners but they sometimes had issues agreeing so the committee is now made up of the three previous winners. This year those serving on the committee will be Dave Humpherys, Chase Youngdahl and Terry Lee. Dave and Alan feel it should be left alone. Dave will send requests for nominations this next week. All nominees should be submitted to Bonnie.

**Summer Meeting-**Mitch Whitmill suggested the summer meeting be moved to a Wednesday rather than a Friday. This eliminates overtime and may improve attendance. Maybe just make it a regular business meeting like the spring and fall. The group attending gets smaller every year. Kali suggested possibly trying it one year and see if it is better attended. The board discussed how difficult it is to get away during spray season. Kali shared when the summer meeting was held at Sunbeam every year as it was a central location. It is scheduled to be in Region 3 in 2022. We will continue discussing this at our winter meeting.

**IAC Winter Meeting-**Dave Wenk will get ahold of them and find out when their winter conference is. He noted it was nice to have two people do it as it kept the audience focused and kept their attention.

**Annual Meeting-**the meeting is scheduled for half day on Monday and all day Tuesday. Bonnie asked if you would like credits. Discussion this is for the weed superintendents and to provide us with training needed outside of the pesticide program. If people attend the conference they will receive pesticide credits. Is this necessary for people to be allowed to travel.

### **The following topics were suggested for the annual meeting:**

The Canyon County Commissioners will be invited to do the welcome. Adam suggested DEQ since they are taking over ownership of the EPA program (NPDES), Tim Prather is interested in sharing the support he can provide to weed superintendents, weed control in neighboring states including Montana, Oregon, Washington, Jim McNall with ICRMP, bio control updates from Paul and or Joey, meet the new weed sups, ISDA updates to include the Organic Program and regulatory updates they will each get 20 minutes. County presentations will feature Cassia and Kootenai counties and Chase will serve as an alternate. Bryce will be asked to present on the accident in his county and how it was handled including what has transpired. Board consensus is the officers will make the decision regarding catering, Reminder to bring your name tags, we will take disposable ones as well and a sharpie for those who forget. Volunteers will make the speaker contacts. Dave noted that AJ shared at the summer meeting his commissioners were looking forward to hosting this but wanted us to spend some time in Caldwell too. This will occur immediately after our Monday annual meeting adjourns.

Request that AJ and possibly his commissioners show us around the revitalization of downtown Caldwell and we could have dinner there. New weed superintendent updates will include: Brett Plummer-Custer, Andrea Higgins-Power, Kathy Dahlke-Bannock, Shelby Thomas-Oneida, Travis Ashby-Franklin, Joe Slichter-Idaho, Devin Wadsworth-Teton. Gem County is thought to still be vacant.

Chairman Wenk adjourned meeting at 12:54. Our thanks to all who attended.

*Approved 1-10-2022*