



# The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

Chair:	Vice Chair:	Secretary:	Treasurer:
Dave Wenk	Adam Schroeder	Chase Youngdahl	Alan Martinson
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## SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Lemhi County – 200 Fulton Street, Room 203, Salmon, ID 83467 Wednesday, April 6, 2022 – 8:00AM

### Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

**Chair** – Dave Wenk

**Secretary** – Chase Youngdahl

**Past Chair** – absent (excused)

**Region 1** – Chase Youngdahl, alt

**Region 3** – AJ Mondor, rep

**Region 5** – Travis Ashby, rep

**Vice Chair** – absent (excused)

**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), Terry Lee (Region 4 alternate), Bryce Fowler (Region 6 alternate), Bonnie Davis (Washington County), Sharayh Krantz (Lemhi County), Brett Plummer (Custer County), Jud Elkington (Bonneville County), \*Jeremy Johnson (Madison County)\*, Trent Brusseau (Corteva rep)

*Chairman Wenk called the meeting to order at 8:07AM*

### Reports

**Minutes from Winter Executive Board Meeting:** Motion by Alan to approve the minutes of the winter executive board meeting dated January 10, 2022, as written, second by Mike. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bonnie presented the current financial report. The total checkbook balance as of April 6, 2022 is \$20,382.56 (which includes 2021 carryover), and the 2022 actual expenses to date total \$1,218.24. Bonnie's main note of interest was a reimbursement from LIA in the amount of \$675.00 due to Connie Jensen-Blyth (former Idaho County Weeds Superintendent) not completing the program. Motion by Mike to approve the expenditure report as presented, second by Mitch. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

**INWCA:** Dave reported that the calendars are in and still being disseminated. The board met on March 31 and it was reported that a Statewide At-Large position on the board of directors was created, of which 3 individuals expressed interest in filling. Chase Youngdahl was selected for this position. Other vacancies on the board of directors were also filled, including the USFS and District IV positions. Carroll Randall and Terrell Sorensen were appointed to these respective positions. Negotiations were made with the Riverside Hotel to host the 2023 conference, but other locations are going to be explored for 2024. There is some reluctance to change locations due to Cindy Pusey having just retired. *\*Jeremy Johnson joined the meeting at 8:15\** Mitch asks if the board has looked into cities other than in the Boise area for the INWC conference. Alan replied that they have but that the cost has been the primary hang up for that. Bonnie asks about complaint levels on the conference evaluations to which Alan replied that they are not bad. The main complaints have been that the hotel has been in a perpetual state of remodel construction, but overall complaints are generally minimal. INWCA updates were wrapped up by Dave reporting that Representative Clow contacted the INWCA about Russian Olive being added to the Idaho Noxious Weed List as a response to his constituents (more on this to be reported later).

**State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee:** It was reported that Jeremy Varley will be reaching out to board members for term renewals (2 year terms). Invasive Species Strategic Plan and cost share progress will reportedly be the focus of the next meeting.

### **General Business**

**Summer Executive Board Meeting:** This is scheduled for July 28 at Lake Cascade State Park. Steve Anderson of Valley County will be the host, and he is the point of contact. Yurts are available on the site reserved for our group. Alan requests that our association consider making a donation to IDPR since Steve maneuvered to secure this site for free.

**Cost Share Update:** Jeremy Varley not in attendance due to jokes having been taken the wrong way at the annual meeting in Caldwell. Some discussion ensued on getting out from under Ag and moving under the purview of another state department, at least for cost share administration. Discussions followed on how ISDA has become regulatory oriented as opposed to service oriented. Mitch brought up some history on previous efforts in regards to separating from ISDA, pointing out that it backfired, but acknowledged that they went about it the wrong way. Dave mentioned the House Ag Committee meeting where Jeremy reported on cost share but did not advocate for us when asked by a member of the committee why requests were down. Alan suggested that Dave reach out to House Ag Chairman Clark Kauffman. The upcoming Republican primary could change a number of seats in both the legislative and executive branches—the consensus was to wait until after the primary to reach out to state elected officials. Bonnie talked about some history with ISDA audits. SNWAC reps reported that agreements are out now and that there were 17 applications received, down from 24 last year. Agreement language was discussed. Chase mentioned that this year's agreement is mostly unchanged from last year's with the exception of some additional provisions related to landowner reimbursements. The landowner reimbursement rules were implemented and enforced during the last cycle, but those rules are now recorded in the agreements. Alan suggests some talking points be developed by executive board members regarding concerns about cost share and be emailed to Dave so we have something to bring to legislators. Some history about PILT and the Craig-Weiden Act was discussed. Some history with federal agencies was brought up, where relationships used to be cultivated by ISDA but are now being distanced. Mike mentioned that federal agencies are requested by his Commissioners to report on their noxious weeds operations at Cassia County meetings. Discussion circled back to talking to legislators, regardless of if they're on an Ag committee or not. Bryce brought up some history about Representative Eric Anderson who showcased a physical specimen of Eurasian Watermilfoil everywhere he traveled and ended up making a difference as one voice in the legislature for extra funding. Bonnie mentioned that the INWCA board of directors has a lot of sitting historical knowledge that could be an asset to us, especially Carol Randall. ISDA administrative fees were

discussed. The update was wrapped up by reporting that aquatic expansion is creating several new regional positions in ISDA.

**Russian Olive Discussion:** Dave read an email from Representative Clow to Patxi Larrocea-Phillips (Executive Director of INWCA). The gist of the email was the questioning of previous efforts to list Russian Olive going nowhere. IANWCS pushed back on the previous petition. Some discussion followed on the Prohibited Plants portion of the noxious weed statute, but a change to the statute would still be required for a “stop sale” provision. The area within Legislative District 24 (Clow’s district) wants available CORP funding to control Russian Olive, but the CORP requires that it be on the Idaho Noxious Weed List to consider awarding funds. Power County passed their own ordinance to stop the sale and planting of Russian Olive, but doesn’t require control of existing populations. AJ asked about proximity of dams to the Twin Falls area, and pointed out that Idaho Power Company awarded some funding to Owyhee County to take out Russian Olive that could interfere with dam operations. Extension Offices as a resource was mentioned. Travis said that Russian Olive is a disaster in Franklin County, and that it was widely distributed in history. He mentioned that the Tribe is controlling it in their jurisdictions, about 200 acres worth. It was brought up that our biggest counterpoint in the proposal to list Russian Olive will be the excessive cost. IDFG is taking them out on WMA’s in Jefferson County where they interfere with wildlife habitat. Travis looked up a newspaper article that detailed the Tribe’s efforts on their Russian Olives projects, and relayed that the reported cost was about \$5,000 per acre. Terry thinks that Clow will drop the issue if he can’t gain the support of the IANWCS.

**Website/Social Media:** Chase reported that after he completed the heavy lifting this winter of building the new website, that he has just simply maintained regional contacts as they change. He mentioned exploring Instagram upon a previous suggestion from the executive board and is willing to add that platform. He asked if anyone used Instagram, and the response was somewhat minimal. The idea seemed lukewarm, but may still be worth doing. Mitch suggested that adding a Calendar of Events to the website would be helpful. Chase said that he would see if that feature is available on the template and will incorporate into the website if it is.

**Chairman Wenk called a recess at 9:30AM**

**Chairman Wenk presented Bonnie with her 2021 Weed Superintendent of the Year plaque & gift card before resuming the meeting at 10:03AM**

**IAC Presentation:** It was reported that there was no room on the agenda for the winter meeting, but a ½ hour slot is available at the upcoming summer meeting in Burley, June 7-9. It was requested that a Superintendent in that region give the presentation. Mike volunteered to tag team a presentation with Kali and agreed to reach out to Kali to put something together. Alan suggested that we secure a spot on the next winter agenda NOW.

**2023 INWCA/IANWCS Calendar:** Alan reported \$600 in sponsorship and that the INWCA was able to procure 2,000 calendars for 2022. They’re hoping to try again for next year but will tweak the distribution process, and target more state agencies. He is currently soliciting for pictures. It was brought up that CWMA’s could possibly use educational funding from cost share for sponsorship. Bonnie reported that IANWCS has yet to receive a bill for our 2021 sponsorship; Alan assured that it will come. The discussion was wrapped up with a reminder to make sure that every state rep & senator receives a calendar.

### **New Business**

**By-Laws Changes:** Dave prefaced this by reporting that Bonnie stepped down from the role of Secretary/Treasurer at the winter executive board meeting. With no one in the association willing to take on the combined role upon the announcement at the annual meeting, Chase agreed to take on the role of Secretary and Alan agreed to take on the role of Treasurer with the stipulation that the association approve edits to the By-Laws to reflect a split in the duties and to allow multiple positions being held simultaneously on the executive board. Alan presented two drafts of revised By-Laws to split the Secretary & Treasurer positions. These drafts change language and strike redundant language. Draft 2 addresses voting rights in

more clear fashion and Alan recommended this draft for approval. Alan reminded the board that discussions need to take place at two executive board meetings for complete By-Law ratification. We only need to vote once to advance it, but it needs to be discussed a second time in order to bring it before the general membership to secure full approval. Motion by Mitch to accept Draft 2 of the revised By-Laws, second by AJ. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

**Financial Administrator:** Bonnie reported that the association needs an active EIN to change names on the bank account. It is stuck as is until that is accomplished. A special meeting was held with the association officers last week to discuss this issue, and an idea was brought forward to hire a financial administrator for the association. Dave pointed out that for the sake of continuity in the midst of continual turnover and the impending retirement of several experienced association members, that we farm these duties out to either IAC (of which we are an affiliate), or another appropriate outfit. Dave emailed IAC regarding this, and an official did respond requesting additional info. We have about \$6,000 of income annually and Bonnie estimated that we write about 30 checks per year. Dave also approached AMG with this. Having an RC&D manage our financials was a mentioned idea. We're in price check mode. Tax forms were discussed and how that applies. Bonnie added that another glitch with the changeover was the association name change (from IAWCS to IANWCS). It was brought up that our expenses will need to be on a reimbursement basis with an outside financial service, which will necessitate association members fronting some expenses, mainly meeting refreshments. Terry offered to inquire with his RC&D about these services. Alan estimates that probably 10-15 hours per year would be put towards this. Our current bank account will need to be closed and a new one opened. Conversation will continue and avenues will be explored in more detail, but the consensus was that an outside financial administrator will help with association stability.

**Idaho Noxious Weed List Discussion:** Alan recommends that the IANWCS discuss the Idaho Noxious Weed List at each meeting and consider potential new additions to, category changes or removal from the list. Joe mentioned that working with ISDA on Turkish Thistle in Idaho County initially looked like a 1 year job but is turning out to look like a 3-5 year job. He thinks they may have jumped the gun on the permanent listing and should have consulted with resources on the ground more closely first. Trent inquired about labeling, since it's at least a 2 year process to get a weed on an herbicide label. Some discussion ensued. Dave asked the group when the last deduction from the list took place. Terry thinks it was Watercress in 2007 or 2008. Joe asked the group if any of their counties had a noxious weed list of their own. Chase replied that Bonner County had a noxious weed list of their own, but that it was not set in county ordinance to have the same weight as state statute, rather recommendations from the Selkirk CWMA as invasives of concern that should receive attention when practical. It was pointed out that other counties do have a separate noxious weed list set by county ordinance. AJ shared that Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) was discovered in a flower bed in Canyon County. He received good cooperation from the landowner. He also mentioned that he has fielded reports of Myrtle Spurge and the associated concerns with the toxicity, and pointed out that it is listed as a noxious weed in the states of Colorado and Washington. AJ then announced that today was the 10 year anniversary of being the recipient for the INWCA scholarship award and thanked those in attendance that were on the board at that time for the support. Dave asked if anyone actually wants to see some weeds delisted. Terry mentioned Rush Skeletonweed. Some discussion followed. Consensus is that it's tough to get folks from different regions to agree on the delisting of any one weed. AJ mentioned that he would support adding Jimsonweed, saying that it's insanely poisonous to humans, and recalled a firsthand account of experiencing the effects of coming into contact with it. It's in the Nightshade family and originated in Mexico and has the appearance of a large Cocklebur. Dave supports this discussion as a standing agenda item.

**LIA Nominations/Considerations:** Jud is possibly interested. It was mentioned that the networking alone is worth it, but that the whole experience is unique and beneficial. The timeline for the class was discussed. The COVID class got shorted of the full experience. AJ pointed out that the tours are very insightful and really put the bigger picture of the state into perspective. IANWCS requires a letter a support from a County

Commissioner to sponsor a student, although LIA itself does not require it. It was mentioned that tuition support is available, and that August 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply for the upcoming class.

**Presentation Suggestions:** There was some confusion about this agenda item. Dave just recapped with Mike regarding the summer IAC presentation in Burley, and recapped with the board regarding pictures for the INWCA calendar.

***Chairman Wenk called a recess at 11:23AM***

***Chairman Wenk resumed the meeting at 11:43AM***

**Miscellaneous Business:** Miscellaneous business was opened with a motion made by Alan to authorize the association to purchase meat for two meals instead of one for the summer executive board meeting, second by Mitch. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion. Dave asked the board if they had any input on how to handle the fallout with ISDA stemming from the incident in Caldwell. Discussion ensued about ISDA's culture and their lack of support for key players in noxious weed management. Speculative discussion followed, thinking that issues were likely bubbling under the surface for some time and that they [ISDA] were probably eager to use anything they could to provide some distance from Weeds Superintendents. General consensus from the board was to just let it ride. Mitch announced that there was an ATV training course in history and are hoping to revive the program. He is currently soliciting for additional trainers. Bryce added that it's about \$12,000 to put the program on now. The importance for this type of training revolves around risk management, and is a solid CYA tool in the event of a workman's comp claim. Two classes are needed per year to remain certified under this particular program. Mitch and Bryce are the contacts. Dave reported that the Idaho State Forestry Contest used to have a noxious weed I.D. station incorporated into their program, which was dropped this year and he suggested writing a letter on behalf of the IANWCS to IDL (the event organizer) requesting to bring the station back in future installments. Chase mentioned that he corresponded with the contest coordinator about this, and was told that they do in fact intend on bringing that station back. Noxious Weed I.D. along with Tool I.D. were two fixtures in the contest that were dropped this year due to moving to a new venue and IDL staff wanting to regroup slowly following the COVID layoff to gain a rhythm for the contest logistics again. Motion by Mike to send a letter to IDL on behalf of IANWCS to return the noxious weed I.D. station to the Idaho State Forestry Contest, second by Alan. Further discussion – Alan suggests that Chase writes the letter and that Dave sends it to the appropriate parties. Motion carries unanimous.

***Chairman Wenk yielded the floor to guest speaker Trent Brusseau for an update from Corteva***

**Main points of interest from this update included the following:**

Allocations are made to distributors' warehouses and it's then up to those individual branches to determine how they distribute product regionally, based on forecast. He recommend planning ahead, as supply chain issues are affecting the chemical business just like nearly everything else. He reported that High Noon was labeled on March 17 in the ten intermountain states, and that it combines all the use sites that are included in both DuraCor and TerraVue. Some general discussion and Q&A took place.

***Chairman Wenk adjourned the meeting at 1:02PM following Trent's update and upon no further association business***