



# The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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**Treasurer:**  
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## SUMMER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual (Zoom)

\*No Principal Location\*

**Thursday, July 18, 2024 – 8:00AM (PDT) / 9:00AM (MDT)**

### Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

**Chair** – Mitch Whitmill  
**Secretary** – Chase Youngdahl  
**Past Chair** – Dave Wenk  
**Region 1** – Chase Youngdahl, alt  
**Region 3** – Steve Anderson, rep  
**Region 5** – Cody Clyde, alt

**Vice Chair** – Mike Ottley  
**Treasurer** – Alan Martinson  
**Region 2** – Alan Martinson, rep  
**Region 4** – Absent\*  
**Region 6** – Bryce Fowler, rep

### Attendance – Others:

Bonnie Davis (Washington County), Adam Schroeder (Ada County),  
Kali Sherrill (Twin Falls County)

*Chairman Whitmill called the meeting to order at 8:05AM/9:05AM following introductions*

**\*\*Upon the meeting being called to order, Alan moved to add the following items to New Business:  
\*LIA Discussion, \*Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign Update, second by Bryce. Motion carries  
unanimous. No further discussion.**

### Reports

**Minutes from Spring Executive Board Meeting:** Mitch noted a minor correction needed under General Business-Legislative Update to include “rodenticide” to the category report in the first sentence. Motion by Dave to approve the minutes of the spring executive board meeting dated April 10, 2024, as corrected, second by Mike. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Alan presented the financial report dated 7/08/2024 with a total checkbook balance of \$20,334.35, and a regular fund balance of \$13,159.35. Actual expenses total \$3,452.65, with no pending

expenses at this time. Alan pointed out that all 44 counties have paid their membership dues for a total income of \$6,300.00. A minor correction was pointed out; last FY fund balance was presented as 10/01/2024, where it should be 10/01/2023. Alan indicated that he will make that correction. Chase asked about IAC's staffing being that key positions were vacated earlier this year at near the same time. Alan replied that Kristin Cundiff is filling most the roll in the interim, with Seth filling in some of the gaps. Things have seemingly smoothed out after a rocky period following the director of finance leaving. With no further questions or comments, motion by Dave to approve the current financial report with the noted date correction, second by Bryce. Further discussion—Alan reminded the board about his impending retirement in the fall of 2025 and suggested identifying a replacement Treasurer in the association by the annual meeting so that he can work that individual for a few months to ensure a smooth transition. Motion carries unanimous.

**INWCA Update:** Dave reported that two meetings were held with Director Tewalt on the updated pesticide licensing rules to clear up some confusion that resulted in county commissioners contacted state legislators—and that Patxi is keeping the board looped in on current rulemaking meetings with the noxious weed rule. He further reported that the 2025 joint calendars are in progress and that pictures are needed—and that the next board meeting is scheduled for August 1. He concluded the update by reminding members that the conference will take place on January 29 & 30 at a new location; the Nampa Civic Center. The format with the general session on day 1 and breakout sessions on day 2 will continue. At this time, this will be a “one off” with a planned return to the Riverside for 2026. Chase reminded members that our annual meeting will be on January 27 & 28 with a return to the Canyon County Administration Building. All winter meetings in 2025 will take place in the west portion of the Treasure Valley outside of Boise proper.

**SNWAC Update:** Alan reported that Palmer Amaranth has been the main point of focus, with the current petition to list as a noxious weed. The newest conversation revolves around Roger Batt initiating efforts to seek funding from state agencies for the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign. Director Tewalt wants a recommendation from the SNWAC prior to accepting or declining the IWAC's request for funding from the ISDA. This conversation will take place at the next meeting.

**IAC Summer Conference Presentation:** Mitch reported having presented with Bryce at this meeting in Idaho Falls on June 4, and that the attendance seemed lower than usual, especially with long serving commissioners. He further reported that the time slot given was 15 minutes, so there were follow-up questions and side discussions with some eastern Idaho commissioners after the presentation was over. Mitch stated that he has been in contact with IAC's events coordinator, Gracee Gorrell, to earmark our association for a 30 minute slot at the midwinter conference. Bryce added that 15 minutes didn't allow for all of the content that they wanted to share, but that Mitch was effective with the time given. Mike asked about the content of their presentation. Mitch replied having hit on the importance of employing and retaining competent professionals, as well as the noxious weed statute. He further replied by having closed the presentation posing a rhetorical question asking the commissioners if their noxious weed program was strong or weak, then suggested they reach out to commissioners in neighboring counties for input if they need direction for improvement.

## **General Business**

**Negotiated Rulemaking Updates – Noxious Weed/Invasive Species Rule:** Mitch attended the most recent rulemaking meeting (July 10) and presented our association's stance in opposition to the listing of Palmer Amaranth. He mentioned having talked off the record with the petitioner and heard some valid points that he had not considered, but not enough to sway opposing the listing. Further, he reported that the petition to list Myrtle Spurge was introduced at the meeting, and mentioned that since our association is split on that one, he won't submit a recommendation on behalf of IANWCS one way or the other and suggested that individual counties weigh in on the matter if it's important to them. Mitch then furthered the report by relaying that NWFF gravel through NAISMA was brought up, being that the entire rule was open for discussion. Piggybacking the state MOU with NAISMA was thought to be the logical way to go. Mitch

stated that he intends on doing some legwork on this matter for possible follow-up at the next rulemaking meeting. The July 10 rulemaking meeting report concluded with a solicitation for input on moving Turkish Thistle from the EDRR category to Control or Contain. Mitch thinks it's not appropriate to have that species listed as an EDRR anymore due to the increased footprint within the region of infestation. Alan suggested that we need to increase the number of letters to the ISDA in opposition to the listing of Palmer Amaranth due its robust support for listing. He indicated that we need to keep the pedal to the metal in order to successfully defeat this petition. Adam suggested that the association develop a standardized list of thresholds and variables, so that future petitions can receive a prompt response from us with data to back up our decision. Chase & Adam agreed to brainstorm this idea and develop a template.

***Chairman Whitmill called a recess at 8:48/9:48AM***

***Chairman Whitmill resumed the meeting at 8:53/9:53AM***

**OHV Fee Update:** Mitch and Dave have been researching this matter, and both provided updates. Dave reported having finally received a response from Oregon—originally, a fee of \$1.50 on a per vehicle basis from OHV registrations went towards noxious weeds for counties, but Oregon state statute has since changed to where the fees go towards a state grant fund, but not designated specifically for noxious weeds anymore, although noxious weed related projects are eligible to apply for grants from that source. Reportedly, Oregon vehicle registration fees are based on GVW (gross vehicle weight), and their fees have actually gone down. Mitch reported having met with IDPR administrative personnel and relayed that due to a GIS platform switch, it would be too labor intensive for their staff to gather our requested data—miles of OHV trail by county, etc. While this particular meeting was in progress, Mitch said that the IDPR Bureau Head dropped in, who essentially shot down the notion of entertaining any additional fee to their registrations. He reasoned that they had already committed \$30,000 to the IWAC, and that their department is becoming wary of fee requests from special interest groups. He did offer an idea; research a code change that the Sheriff's Association successfully tackled, where law enforcement increased violation fees for trail misuse (suggested that as a potential template for us to work off of). He then advised that we consult with the Idaho Land Board, and indicated that the buck stops with them, and that's where this issue will ultimately die or have the opportunity to advance. Dave said that he knows an OHV lobbyist who works with Land Board, and that this individual has clout with them. He further stated having worked with said lobbyist on snowmobile matters and that he could establish contact with her on this matter. Fuel tax was discussed as a potential avenue to pursue. Dave mentioned that Oregon receives \$.40/gal gas tax revenue for their state's parks & recreation programs. To be continued...

**Superintendent Vacancies:** Updates reported by the respective regions. Teton County has been filled (per Bryce); Larry Shippy, who has vacated the Gem County position, has applied for the Elmore County position vacated by the retirement of Dave Humphreys (per Bonnie); Boise County reportedly now has a replacement for the retired Paul Rekow, Kari Allred (the long time department assistant) filled in as the interim but did not apply for the position (per Steve); Shoshone County is vacant, as Shelby Heiderman resigned in June, with no update at this time (per Chase); Clearwater County is still vacant following the abrupt resignation of Anthon Larson, who was in that position for a short period of time and reportedly left due to resistance from commissioners on wanting to run a professional program, as opposed to just spraying roadsides & plowing snow (per Alan). Mitch asked region reps to confirm all of this and report back to himself and Chase. Bonnie asked Alan about a succession plan in Latah County, to which Alan replied he has broached the subject with his commissioners and that they seem receptive to getting that position filled with a little bit of overlap so that a new individual can get up to speed and ensure a smooth transition.

## **New Business**

**LIA Discussion:** Alan reminded the board that August 1 is the deadline to submit the application packet for the Leadership Idaho Agriculture program, and wanted to bring this up as a point of discussion, particularly for the new and relatively new Superintendents. It was noted that if we don't keep this topic visible and push for it, there will likely not be proactive interest. Mitch mentioned that the Bingham and Bonneville County Superintendents would be good candidates in the future, but probably not for this cycle. It was recalled that former Canyon County Superintendent, AJ Mondor, had previously advocated for his assistant, Cory Flatt, to go through the program—Cory is now the Superintendent of that county. Mike mentioned that Jason Parker of Blaine County has indicated some interest in attending, but he's still trying to get his feet under him with the program—good candidate for the future. The discussion concluded with no candidate likely within our association attending the upcoming session.

**IWAC:** Alan reported that Roger Batt is lobbying agencies for funding for the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign, even though activity has been nearly non-existent and that the organization hasn't had a presence on a board or committee in some time. It was further reported that the little material IWAC does produce is usually poorly timed and not coordinated with the local Superintendents. Some general discussion followed hitting on organization history, funding and the state education efforts. It was brought up that the optics could look poor if the ISDA opts not to contribute to IWAC after IDFG & IDPR has already committed funding to the organization. Alan pointed out that Roger had a \$90K budget in 2017/2018 with very little to show for it, and concluded the discussion by stating that he's gathering information to bring to the Idaho Noxious Weed Advisory Committee, of which Director Tewalt will be seeking a recommendation from on the matter.

**Vice Chair Nominations:** Chase laid out the timeline for the nomination process, where Mitch will open the 2025 annual meeting and will pass the torch to Mike during the business meeting portion of the annual meeting, at which point Mitch will rotate into the Past Chair and a new Vice Chair will be seated. Chase & Alan expressed the need for planting the seed early so that we're not left scrambling and faced with the reality of nominating a Vice Chair on the floor of the business meeting (at the annual meeting) with no prior discussions or communication. An email of solicitation for Vice Chair will be sent out by Chase prior to the fall meeting and will be discussed again at that time.

**Fall Executive Board Meeting:** This will take place in Moscow on Wednesday, October 2, and Alan is working on meeting location and hotel info. Alan will plan on having venue and hotel nailed down by September and will pass along to Chase to forward to the membership. Some discussion followed on questions surrounding the University of Idaho, including the noxious weed booklet development process. Chase reminded the board that the fall meeting includes the workshop for planning our annual meeting, and think about topics of interest to bring forward at that time. Dave reminded the board that we also set our annual budget at the fall meeting. Mike suggested having an agenda item for discussion on the standardized criteria for responding to noxious weed petitions, as brought up by Adam earlier in the meeting.

**Winter Meetings 2025:** Officers reviewed the plans for the 2025 winter meetings; the INWCA conference will be held on Wednesday, January 29 & Thursday, January 30 at the Nampa Civic Center (new location for 2025 only), preceded by our annual meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> with a return to the Canyon County Administration Building.

## **Miscellaneous Business/Open Discussion:**

\*The Nez Perce Biocontrol Center was discussed, and related service levels in the midst of the personnel transition. Mitch received an order of agents that he didn't place. Bonnie received agents without any prior notification. Chase never received requested Purple Loosestrife agents that are customarily collected and distributed around Memorial Day. It was mentioned that Levi has missed significant time due to a surgery, at the same time, he's trying to get his feet under him with the program. It was further mentioned that Claudia is the NPBC's entomologist and is reportedly fulfilling most of the orders. Suggestion from the

group was to include both Levi & Claudia on correspondence with the NPBC. Mike mentioned that they have developed a new order form, different from the one that we have received from Paul each year at our annual meeting for biocontrol orders. Sounds like this new form was only distributed to select customers, as not all Weeds Superintendents received this new form.

\*Chase notified the board that NAISMA will be holding their annual conference in Missoula this year the week of Sep 30 – Oct 3. Further, he mentioned that while our fall executive board meeting will take place on Wednesday of that same week, it could be convenient for members to attend a portion of the conference on the way to or back from Moscow—or for non-executive board members to attend in its entirety. He then reminded the board that we have a \$500 line item in our budget to assist with travel expenses for conferences upon request & approval of the executive board.

\*Mitch announced that the poisonous plants lab led by Dr. Stegelmeier in Ogden, Utah is reportedly pending permanent closure.

***Chairman Whitmill adjourned the meeting at 10:18/11:18AM upon no further business or discussion***