



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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SUMMER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES No Principal Location—Virtual only (Zoom) Thursday, July 27, 2023 – 8:00AM (PDT) / 9:00AM (MDT)

Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

Chair – Absent (excused)
Secretary – Chase Youngdahl
Past Chair – Dave Wenk
Region 1 – Chase Youngdahl, alt
Region 3 – Absent
Region 5 – Absent

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

Attendance – Others:

Brett Plummer (Region 6 alternate), Jason Parker (Tri-County), Cody Clyde (Oneida County),
Jeremy Johnson (Madison County), Bonnie Davis (Washington County)

****NO QUORUM****

Vice-Chairman Ottley presided over the meeting in Chairman Whitmill's absence and called the meeting to order at 8:16/9:16AM

Reports

Minutes from Spring Executive Board Meeting: Minutes from the spring executive board meeting dated April 5, 2023 were presented. No corrections noted. Approval tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Alan presented the current financial report as having an account balance of \$18,179.05, with a regular fund balance of \$11,004.05. Actual expenses total \$5,927.37. Alan highlighted the INWCA/IANWCS Calendar as being the most recent expenditure. Following report of the current financials, Alan stated that he intends on removing the Industry Relations line item due to inactivity, as well as the Postage line item due to IAC's management of our dues & checkbook. Without objection from the executive board, these line items would be stricken from the upcoming FY2024 line item budget. Alan will send the proposed budget for the next fiscal cycle well in advance of our fall meeting so that there can be review prior to the actual meeting. Alan further mentioned that he will solicit for 2024 membership dues

early in the fall to provide for flexibility being that some counties will want to pay the dues in the current fiscal year where others will want to pay in the next fiscal year. Alan stood for questions—he clarified a minor question from Mike on the dues payment timeline. Approval of the current financial report tabled due to lack of a quorum.

INWCA: Dave reported that the next meeting is next week and the focus will be to build day 2 of the conference agenda. Day 1 is mostly set. Dave requested additional biocontrol contacts, stating that he is coordinating the track that biocontrol presentations are housed in.

Idaho Noxious Weed Advisory Committee: Alan reported that the last meeting was in the spring prior to rulemaking, and that the committee's position was to support the addition of Cogon Grass to the noxious weed list and the removal of Buffalobur from the list. Cost share will likely be the main area of focus at the next meeting this fall.

IAC Summer Conference: Alan reported that he and Chase teamed up for the presentation in Moscow and kept it general and pointed. Mentioned that it went over well and seemed well attended, despite an overlapping conference related workshop. Chase added that he wrote down all the questions that they fielded and he relayed those questions to the board. It was of particular note that several commissioners showed an interest in weed control/surveys with drones. Mike asked if we plan on presenting at the midwinter conference. Alan said that we need to maintain contact with Seth and Kristen about staying on the agenda, but pointed out that the midwinter conference can be difficult to land a slot on the agenda and that the summer conference is more realistic for maintaining a spot on the agenda. General conversation ensued about the specifics of the presentation—Alan and Chase shared their primary talking points.

General Business

Negotiated Rulemaking Updates:

***IDAPA 02.02.03 – Rules Governing Pesticide/Chemigation Use and Application**—Mike reported on behalf of Mitch and read the following report into the record: “I attended all three of the meetings in person on May 8, May 22 and June 29. There was good attendance from many stakeholders and most of the discussion was over application recordkeeping, recertification credits and category specific credits. On the topic of recordkeeping, the final draft added language that *‘[p]rofessional applicators applying RU’s must provide a copy of the application record to the landowner within 30 days.’* Recertification credits application process for training language changed to *‘Professional applicators will need 16 credits over a 2 year period, trainings will be reduced to 50 minutes per credit, and applications for credits offered at trainings must be submitted 30 days prior to the training but will be able to be amended up to 7 days before the training.’* There was a lot of discussion about category specific credits and training that EPA is pushing states to transition to. However, at this time, the consensus was not to make that change until EPA mandates it. Licenses have been combined in some categories, from 25 to 19 certifications, but allows current license holders to directly transition from the obsolete category to the new one without testing. Many of the changes to the rule are eliminating redundancy and improving clarity. Additionally, Chemigation will be removed from this rule and will be a standalone.”

***IDAPA 02.06.09 – Rules Governing Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds**—Mike reported on behalf of Mitch and read the following report into the record: “At the June 1 meeting I expected Japanese Yew to be a large topic of discussion. At the close of the meeting, the consensus was not to add Japanese Yew to any section of the rule. Cogon Grass was agreed upon to be added as an EDRR listing. Also, it was decided to remove Buffalobur from the list. I also want to pass on to everyone how valuable Patxi’s knowledge is, and the influence of the INWCA helped to make this process go mostly in our favor. By attending these meetings in person I was able to become acquainted with many of the folks involved in this process from ISDA and was able to have conversations prior to and following these meetings. Ryan Ward, Blaine Sterling, Elizabeth Palmateer, Brian Slabaugh and Hillarie Gray are some of the employees at ISDA that I had conversations with and got to know.” Alan mentioned that it was good that Mitch made the trip to Boise to attend these meetings in person.

ISDA Update & Funding Idea: Mike reported on behalf of Mitch a conversation that was held with Jeremy Varley surrounding a cooperative work day in 2024 with the IANWCS—Jeremy asked Mitch if the association would be interested in taking part in a project with the state on Turkish Thistle in Hell’s Canyon as a goodwill collaborative event. It would likely take place in March or April. General consensus is that there is interest, especially with the targeted timeframe being early in the season. Mike suggested that we solicit this idea to the general membership prior to the fall meeting and plan on further discussions at that time. Mike further reported on behalf of Mitch regarding conversations that Mitch had with some folks this spring on the topic of a noxious weed trust fund in Idaho. It was expressed that with the recent turnover in the state legislature and state agencies that the time could be right to visit the possibility of proposing a bill to create such a fund via an increase of fees for recreational stickers on ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles and electric trail bikes. We would need to gain support from industry groups, but with pressure from federal agencies to limit motorized access to public lands, we may be able to show them how their support with good stewardship by contributing to noxious weed control could secure their continued use of public lands. Dave brought up a meeting that Boundary County had with IDL and Stimson Lumber Company and mentioned that Stimson has such strict insurance requirements, it sounded nearly impossible to work in a cooperative manner with them on noxious weed control projects. Alan mentioned that Potlatch and Bennett Lumber Companies allows use of their lands with a simple permit. Mike mentioned that ATV/UTV traffic on public lands in Cassia County is near constant. It was suggested that the conversations surrounding this topic should continue at future meetings.

New Business

Rangeland Center Strategic Plan: This past spring, Dr. Tim Prather with UI College of Agriculture held a series of meetings throughout the state with various stakeholders to gather input on the University’s Rangeland Center Strategic Plan update. Chase reported having sat in on the Bonner County meeting and mentioned that the Strategic Plan has five focus areas that ended up being the meat of the discussions—1.) Fire/Fuels/Invasive Plants Restoration, 2.) Rangeland Uses, 3.) Rangeland Wildlife, 4.) Watershed Function, 5.) Climate Change. Chase further mentioned that it’s a requirement in Idaho code for the University to have a Rangeland Center Strategic Plan and that it gets updated every 5 years, so robust review and input is important. Dr. Prather is interested in Weeds Superintendent input on this plan, and Chase agreed to send a draft copy out to the general membership. To be discussed further at the fall meeting.

Fall Executive Board Meeting: Chase stated that this meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4 in Sandpoint. The meeting will be held at UI’s Sandpoint Ag Center, and Chase will arrange for a tour of the Ag Center and associated Organic Orchard following the meeting. There is a cost associated with renting this facility, but the executive board approved the expenditure at the spring meeting (\$220). Dave confirmed that he is willing to source Italian sausage and bring supplies to make sausage sandwiches in the kitchen adjacent to the meeting room (part of our rental area). Chase offered to reserve a block of rooms at the Cedar Street Hotel in downtown Sandpoint and organize a specific time for everyone to meet for dinner the night before at the hotel’s diner. The offer seemed to appeal to the group, so Chase agreed to set this up as we get closer.

Winter Meetings 2024: Dave mentioned that we will likely need to locate a different venue for our next annual meeting due to the Canyon County Noxious Weed/Pest Control unit being in a nebulous state of flux right now with very few answers available. It was agreed that the ISDA downstairs meeting room is not a great facility and that we should look elsewhere. It was noted that most hotels that have the accommodations we would need, would also require their catering, and that our budget would not support that. Ada County, DEQ and BLM offices were ideas floated by Mike, Alan and Bonnie. Dave offered to reach out to Patxi for ideas on facilities in the Ada/Canyon County area that would suit our needs for a reasonable fee. It was also mentioned that the door is not necessarily closed on the Canyon County Admin Building as a host location, it would just take solid communication with the right people. Dave, Chase, Alan and Mitch will serve as a working committee to get this figured out and locked in.

Miscellaneous Business/Open Discussion: With all agenda items having been addressed, Vice-Chair Ottley called for any miscellaneous business or anything else for the good of the order.

*Alan queried the group on whether or not we should proceed with pursuing the potential code change as related to the general notice posting. Chase asked Alan if he had a representative in his district that could be willing to sponsor such a bill. Alan replied that he thinks he could work with Representative McCann to carry it. Some general discussion ensued. Group seemed lukewarm to the prospect, but open to continuing the conversation. It was agreed up to address it again at the next meeting.

*Alan reminded the group to gather current project pictures for the 2024 INWCA/IANWCS calendar, so that they're not using pictures from several years ago. Bryce indicated that he had good pictures from a drone project and asked when they needed to be submitted by, to which Alan & Dave both replied "October".

*Alan asked if we should explore an adjustment to our current by-laws in order to add an at-large region voting designee should a region representative & alternate be absent in instances where our board lacks a quorum. It was agreed to upon to continue this conversation.

*Chase reminded the group to start thinking about Superintendent of the Year nominations, and further reminded them that \$500 is on the line for winner.

*Mike asked if anyone from our association put in for LIA this year. No one did this year.

*Alan asked about the status of the Lava Ridge Windmill Farm. Mike replied that they're still going through the public commenting and that there will be no new developments until that phase has concluded; September or October. Jason mentioned that a similar project near the Jerome & Gooding County line has been proposed, and to expect developments on that one in the near future.

*The Japanese Yew issue came up and a discussion took place. The Idaho Conservation League pitched a case for listing during negotiated rulemaking when the invasive species/noxious weed rule was open this spring, and it was noted by members that we likely have not heard the last of this issue.

Vice-Chairman Ottley adjourned the meeting at 9:37/10:37AM upon no further business or discussion