



The Idaho Association of NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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WINTER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

University of Idaho – Boise

322 E. Front St – Boise, ID 83702

Monday, January 8, 2024 – 9:00AM (MST)

Attendance – Officers & Executive Board:

Chair – Mitch Whitmill
Secretary – Chase Youngdahl
Past Chair – Dave Wenk
Region 1 – Chase Youngdahl, alt
Region 3 – Absent
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:

Brett Plummer (Region 6 alternate), Jason Parker (Blaine County), Sharayh Krantz (Lemhi County), Matt Voile (Payette County), Paul Rekow (Boise County), Adam Schroeder (Ada County), Cory Flatt (Canyon County), Denise Helsley (Tri-County)

Chairman Whitmill called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

Upon the meeting being called to order, Alan requested the Chairman add the following items to General Business: *Noxious Weed General Notice, *Lobbyist Considerations, *OHV Registration Fees. The items were added to the agenda by consensus.

Reports

Minutes from Fall Executive Board Meeting: Motion by Dave to approve the minutes of the fall executive board meeting dated October 4, 2023, as written, second by Terry. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Alan presented the financial report dated 12/31/2023 with a total checkbook balance of \$22,277.57, and a regular fund balance of \$15,102.57. Actual expenses total \$1,359.43, with pending

expenses totaling \$569.93. Actual income totals \$6,150.00. Alan reported that Valley County's dues are pending, but all other counties have paid. Motion by Terry to approve the current financial report as presented, second by Mike. Further discussion—Alan pointed out that an email was sent to all members from IAC as a notice to pay their IANWCS dues, but confirmed that we can disregard that email, as it was automatically generated. Motion carries unanimous.

INWCA: Terry reported that the conference is now fully adjusted with some last minute maneuvers, including a bonus presentation at the end of Day 1 by Rhonda Hyrnick on Glyphosate, among other hot button issues. Dave reported that Patxi is planning on delivering the joint calendars to us when he attends the annual meeting to give his presentation. The update concluded with the mention of 220 registered attendees for the conference. Mitch asked for clarification on the final meeting for the INWCA Board of Directors. Dave replied that it's Tuesday night onsite, at the Riverside.

SNWAC: Bryce reported that the cost share program has continually been delayed, but said that CWMAs will get 4 weeks from the time the handbook is published to submit the application. Waterhemp was speculated to be temporarily listed as a noxious weed, but no one could confirm, and committee action has been quiet. Some general discussion surrounding Waterhemp and Palmar Amaranth took place. Adam mentioned that Ada County has been approached regarding the listing of Palmar Amaranth. No further SNWAC updates were available.

Website: Chase reported having posted a handful of employment opportunities with the Great Basin Institute on the Jobs page at the request of Jeffrey Pettingill of Baker County, Oregon. He further reported adjusting county contacts as needed, and that the annual fee of \$144.00 is set to be paid soon.

Regional Updates:

Region 1 – Chase reported no changes in personnel in the region at this time. Expects some very heated county commissioner primaries in Bonner County this spring, and likely throughout the region as well.

Region 2 – Alan reported that Joe will be absent from this year's meetings due to a family medical situation. He further reported that the Clearwater County superintendent position is vacant again due to the commissioners having buried the department under Road & Bridge and not allowing Anthan to run a comprehensive noxious weeds program throughout the entire year, leading to his resignation.

Region 3 – With no region representation present, Cory stated that he has been working to get up to speed on his job in Canyon County, and Adam reported that Ada County will no longer include custom Range & Pasture services and will instead focus more on public spaces and specific noxious weed projects. Some question and discussion followed regarding Ada County's fee based services versus community assistance programs.

Region 4 – Terry announced the slate of personnel changes in the region, which included Jason Parker leaving his position with Tri-County to take over for the recently retired John Cenarrusa in Blaine County. Long time Tri-County noxious weeds program assistant, Denise Helsley, took over the superintendent position following Jason vacating the post. Jason chimed in that he is settling into his Blaine County position and that the commissioners seem open and receptive to the program.

Region 5 – Travis reported that the region is quiet and he hears very little from any other county with the exception of Oneida. Power County came up in discussion, and their lack of any kind of presence in the association. It was mentioned that the superintendent there wears several hats, and primary duties are reportedly in Planning & Zoning.

Region 6 – Bryce announced that Teton County finally filled their superintendent vacancy and that it appears to be business as usual for how Teton operates. He further announced that the Headwaters CWMA has been approved by ISDA and is now officially the combination of the former Henry's Fork & Upper Snake CWMAs.

General Business

Noxious Weed List Considerations: Adam distributed a risk assessment sheet from the USDA on Palmar Amaranth and laid out a spate of issues that it causes, and mentioned which states it is currently found in. While neutral himself, Adam did say that a constituent in Ada County approached him about listing it statewide. Additionally, Floating Waterprimrose has been identified in a riparian area in east Boise and it is reported to be highly invasive. He wanted to inform the executive board about these two weeds as a heads up, being that petitions are possibly coming ISDA's way for listing them. Matt asked if he has put a query out to the landscape industry regarding Floating Waterprimrose, and followed the question with a historical tidbit on the pushback from that industry during the Water Hyacinth petition process. Adam mentioned that he is still in the scoping process and will attempt to gather information from the landscape industry. Adam then queried the board on potential targets for delisting. Some discussion followed. It was mentioned that the state of Washington has delisted nothing, rather reclassified as needed. No particular specimen currently on Idaho's noxious weed list was definitively asserted to be delisted, but general discussion continued, particularly surrounding classifications.

By-Laws Changes, Voting & Finance: Alan distributed a proposed By-Laws document that reflects an authorization for a regional proxy member for voting if a rep & alternate from that region are both absent from an executive board meeting and if an additional vote is needed to achieve a quorum. The proposed proxy member's vote would be valid for one designated meeting. This was first discussed at the fall executive board meeting, this marks the second discussion. Further, Alan cleaned up some language in the financial section of the By-Laws related to the Secretary & Treasurer position split. Motion by Alan to send the proposed By-Laws changes to the full membership for approval, second by Terry. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Endangered Species Bulletin, EPA: Mike reported that EPA is pushing a new requirement related to pesticide applications in areas of endangered species. Applicators are supposed to refer to an online bulletin where you punch in the EPA registration number of the chemistry you're looking to use in a given area to see if it corresponds with an endangered species overlay area and whether the chemistry is allowable or prohibited. The bulletin is found on the EPA's website and needs to be visited within 6 months of the planned application. Adam chimed in, mentioning that label changes reflecting this are likely coming, and that it's already taking place with insecticides for mosquito abatement. It was further discussed that if the labels indeed change to reflect this as a requirement, we will probably be directed to work with our local USFW unit to develop a compliance plan for this bulletin.

Pesticide/Chemigation Use & Application, Proposed Rule: Mitch reported having attended the negotiated rulemaking meetings and that the proposed draft rule has since changed. New proposed rules related to application records was met with resistance from private industry. Additionally, proposed rules related to license categories aim to combine Herbicide & Insecticide/Fungicide categories in order to mirror federal code CFR-40. It is speculated that the governor's Records Reduction Act could be driving this, as opposed to demands from the EPA. Grandfathering of the current categories, for current applicators, is the preferred option in our industry. It was mentioned that if this proposed rule does not advance through this legislative session, it will be a 2-3 year rewrite and that the EPA could force their requirements in the meantime. Dave mentioned perhaps teaming with the Nursery Association to achieve a bigger voice, or possibly the Farm Bureau. It was suggested to tabulate all questions and concerns, then request a meeting with director Tewalt. It was further mentioned that if this proposed rule folds as a result of potential pending discussions, it automatically gets kicked out of the legislative bulletin, and only a legislator can pick it back up within the same session if there is a desire.

Letters of Support: Backstory of a recent situation was discussed related to a letter of support from this association endorsing an individual for a superintendent position, when other qualified individuals were interested in the same position. Mike would prefer our association to remain neutral on such matters and have individual endorsements come from individual counties, if desired. Some discussion followed. The

board consensus seemed to favor a change/addition to our association's policy document for a standard protocol for approving letters of support.

Chairman Whitmill called a recess at 10:53AM

Chairman Whitmill resumed the meeting at 11:03AM

Noxious Weed General Notice: Alan asked the board if we want to further pursue this matter, as it has been addressed at previous meetings and left open ended. The proposition has been to change §22-2405(2) to eliminate the requirement for posting the noxious weed general notice in a newspaper of general circulation, and allow an online posting of the notice to suffice. Some brief discussion took place, and the acknowledgement of stiff headwinds if it were to be pursued. The consensus is to save our political capital for other potential matters and to kill this one.

Lobbyist Considerations: It has been previously discussed on how our association can move forward with being recognized by the Secretary of State in order for a registered lobbyist to represent us. There has been confusion surrounding this issue, and Terry mentioned having briefly talked with Patxi about this. He didn't bring forth many details, but indicated that Patxi thinks the process can be worked through. Terry agreed to follow up with Patxi.

OHV Registration Fees: Dave provided a statistic sheet from the Department of Parks & Recreation showing how many off road vehicles are registered in each county and how much revenue is generated from those fees. IDPR would serve as the fiscal administrator should we be able to tack on a fee for noxious weeds. How to equitably split the revenue would pose the biggest challenge, as the number of machines registered varies widely from county to county. A working group was established to research this matter further—Mitch, Bryce, Jason, Dave and Chase. More to report on this at a future meeting.

New Business

Election/Re-Election, Secretary & Treasurer Positions: Chase Youngdahl currently holds the Secretary position, and Alan Martinson currently holds the Treasurer position. Both indicated interest in continuing for another term, however, Alan made it known that it will be his last term due to his planned retirement in late 2025. Terry called the question, and moved to re-elect Chase and Alan to their respective positions, second by Mike. Motion carries unanimous. No further discussion.

Schedule 2024 Executive Board Meetings:

Following a brief discussion, the board settled on the following:

Spring Meeting - To be held on Wednesday, April 10 in Salmon

Summer Meeting – To be held virtually on Thursday, July 18

Fall Meeting – To be held on Wednesday, October 2 in Moscow

Annual Meeting Agenda Review: Chase informed the board of a couple of minor presenter adjustments not reflected on the agenda, and the board went over how introductions will be conducted.

Miscellaneous Business/Open Discussion: Superintendent vacancies came up as a loose end item from previous discussions and how the association should go about addressing them. The consensus, upon a brief discussion, seems to be a letter from the Chairman when a vacancy occurs. The importance of us presenting at one IAC conference per year was also stressed, so that we can lay out a full, comprehensive county noxious weed program for the benefit of new commissioners and to refresh established commissioners. A question came up and was researched on the spot as to the time and location of the summer IAC conference; June 4-6 in Idaho Falls.

Chairman Whitmill adjourned the meeting at 11:58AM upon no further business or discussion