



Oregon Invasive Species Council

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2014

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, 2600 STATE ST, SALEM, OR 97310

OISC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rick Boatner, ODFW
Jim Cathcart (ODF, representing Wyatt Williams)
Carolyn Devine, Council Coordinator
Glenn Dolphin, OSMB
Robyn Draheim, USFWS, Special Assistant to the Council
Thea W. Hayes, PPS and other Public Districts

Dan Hilburn, ODA
Rian Hooff, Oregon DEQ
Dominic Maze, City of Portland
Helmuth Rogg, ODA
Leslie Shaffer, ODA, Special Assistant to the Council
Dan Sherwin, High Valley Enterprises, LLC.
Mark Sytsma, PSU

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Philip Baldauf, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Tristen Berg, ODA
Keith Brown, Northwest Youth Corps, OISC Advisory Committee Member
Tim Butler, ODA
Crystal Durbecq, Benton SWCD
Don Ferrar, Gilliam County, OISC Advisory Committee Member

Joe Holmberg, Oregon Tree Farm System
Diana Kearns, ODA
Heath Keirstead, Benton SWCD
Ivan Kuletz, OSU
Cindy Schumacher, OSU

Chair Mark Sytsma presided over the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Decision

Motion made by Chair Mark Sytsma to approve the minutes from both meetings, seconded by Rian Hooff. Unanimously approved.

Next Steps

Coordinator Carolyn Devine will post the meeting minutes on the OISC website.

2. BUDGET

Coordinator Carolyn Devine presented the latest balances and analysis of the Council's "Nutria Level Sponsorship" of the Eradication by Mastication event held by the Institute for Applied Ecology.

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim Cathcart introduced the concept and motivation for having an Advisory Committee. In addition to having committee members online via the webinar, there were three present in Salem: Joe Holmberg, Keith Brown, and Don Ferrar. There will be a committee meeting November 10th in Salem. Members are invited to attend and there will be online/webinar access.

3. EDUCATION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sam Chan presented an overview of the 4 projects that are in progress or have been completed for 2014.

1. OISC sponsorship of the Eradication by Mastication event
2. The Don't Let it Loose contest
3. Legislative Toolkits
4. Don't Pack a Pest

Decision

Motion made by Sam Chan to create a working group to submit a pre-proposal Farm Bill Grant for Oregon's "Don't Pack a Pest" campaign; seconded by Thea Hayes. Unanimously approved.

Next Steps

Coordinator Carolyn Devine will coordinate a meeting the week of October 13, 2014 of the working group.

Special Assistant to the Council Tania Siemens joined the meeting remotely and presented on the progress and funding needs of the Design Contest. There was consensus among Council members that the project was worthwhile, however that it should stay within the original, poster/media contest concept for this first year.

Next Steps

Coordinator Carolyn Devine will research funding options for the Student Design contest in order to implement the revised contest for 2015.

Heath Keirstead of Benton SWCD presented on the legislative toolkit she is developing.

Next Steps

Council members who have stories regarding invasive species and their economic and community impacts on the citizens of Oregon should contact Heath.

Rian Hooff presented on two DEQ bills. These are a result of the recommendations of the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force which presented its report June 2014.

1. An increase to the vessel arrival ballast management fee in order to generate funds to sustain current service levels through the 2017-19 biennium
2. The second legislative concept would implement two recommendations from the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species task force.
 - a. Adoption of Federal requirements regarding “Ballast on Board” vessels which would allow Oregon to regulate and enforce EPA requirements.
 - b. Distribution of funds from state penalties would be amended from General Fund to be deposited in the Oregon Invasive Species Control Account.

Dan Sherwin and Don Ferrar presented on their effort to support Oregon Counties to all be included in a weed district.

Next Steps

Coordinator Carolyn Devine will re-engage the Legislative Committee, chaired by Mark Sytsma.

4. DAN HILBURN’S REFLECTIONS

Dan’s last OISC meeting, he shared with the group his thoughts on OISC highlights, accomplishments, and recommendations.

Dan was also presented with the Sandy Denyes Diedrich award for his outstanding contributions protecting the state of Oregon from the threat of invasive species.

5. WALKING TOUR – OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Jim Cathcart led a tour of the ODF facilities and forestry museum.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

RICK BOATNER, ODFW

- Aerial gunning in Wasco and Jackson Counties has been very effective in controlling feral swine populations. Aerial gunning has been so effective that we did not observe any new damage in the area in the last year and have only trapped 1 sow with 6 piglets within this same time frame we have also not observed any swine a trail cameras set in the area.
- Rick also shared how ODFW has modified rules so that it is now possible to catch a non-native crayfish for consumption and not be illegally in possession of a controlled species. They reclassified the non-native crayfish as controlled crustaceans.
- To import non-native crayfish for immediate consumption, you need prohibited species permit and a Fish Transport permit.
- Rick reported compliance statistics at the mandatory boat inspection stations, noting that many of those not complying are non-motorized watercraft owners who perceive their non-motorized watercraft as not actually being a “boat.”
 - Gold Beach 30%, Ashland 60%, Klamath / Lakeview 71%, Ontario 68%

GLENN DOLPHIN, OSMB

- Informed the Council that permit sales are down considerably \$300,000 from the previous biennium (\$1.4 million in 2011-13).
- Registered motorized boat owners are compliant because the permit is part of their registration.
- The largest group of offenders is out-of-state, non-motorized boat owners. When approached on the matter, they claimed they were told the permit was not needed, or they took a calculated risk thinking they would not be checked (most are not).
- Boats less than 10 feet long do not require a permit, but do need to stop at inspection points. At that time, all boat owners are asked about their anticipated launch site.

DOMINIC MAZE, APPOINTED MEMBER

Declined to report.

SAM CHAN, OSU SEA GRANT

- Oregon Sea Grant, by January 31, 2015, will have completed the production of an aquatic invasives species toolkit for teachers. Each of the 20 kits is about the size of a car trunk, and is chock full of resources and teacher-tested lesson plans. There is an electronic version of the toolkit as well.
- They had a press release regarding the transponders used to track marine debris after the 2011 tsunami in Japan. Transponders, about the size of a 2 liter soda bottle, cost approximately \$5,000 each. Their batteries have run out, and OSU Sea Grant would like to retrieve the information which includes the location of the debris over time. This is important because it is evident that some organisms have survived over the 3 years since. It was thought that these organisms would die mid-ocean where they would not find enough to eat. Three of the transponders have already been recovered: 2 at Arch Cape in 2013; one in BC in June. If you should find a transponder, call Sam Chan, and OSU Sea Grant will pay for shipping.

DAN SHERWIN, APPOINTED MEMBER

- Suggested the use of drones in the future for detection, eradication and rapid response activities. He proposed that agencies represented by the Council consider thinking creatively and collaborating in the future.

KEITH BROWN, ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Keith Brown introduced himself to the Council and described his work at NW Youth Corps where they do on-the-ground work. They have 200 members who can be hired out as a single person placement or up to teams of 10-12. The size of the team and the duration of the project depends on the customer's needs.

MARK HITCHCOX, APPOINTED MEMBER

Mark shared with the Council a 2-page report summarizing a number of activities in his program and suggested that Council members ask him specific questions.

- He discussed the Farm Bill and his work developing ideas for the Council.
- He introduced Phil Baldauf who is visiting and serving as the interim state plant health director. From Ohio, he is providing expertise on Asian long-horned beetle projects such as eradication, surveying and citizen science. He has provided advice on how to do trainings and detection.

RIAN HOOF, DEQ

- Already mentioned Legislative Concepts.
- In addition, he discussed an incident at PDX shipyard and the enforcement actions that have ensured. Right now, the fees that have been paid are going to the General Fund; in the future, the funds may be deposited in the Council emergency fund.
- DEQ is in the process of hiring a 1/2 time position at DEQ for ballast water inspections; the first round of interviews have been completed.

ROBYN DRAHEIM, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE COUNCIL

- USFWS is phasing out the toll-free national hotline; for the West, there have been no calls that have resulted in EDRR. Citizens who did call were frustrated to have calls answered by a national call center rather than immediate help appropriate to their region. An online system is much more effective. Council members who have the toll-free number on their publications should remove this number.

HELMUTH ROGG, ODA

- Helmuth reported that ODA is being inundated with calls regarding brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB). We've had a hot summer, they've likely produced a second generation in Oregon.
- In 2004, Jim Labonte of ODA predicted what we are seeing today. It's shorter to name the commodities it does not effect than the ones it does which include a large number of commercially important crops: wine grapes, berries, hops, hazelnuts, etc. For example, it even attacks maple trees. Stink bugs usually have delicate mouth parts; but they can get through maple bark .
- Researchers in Florida and Michigan are looking in to biocontrol agents which need to be tested against native stinkbugs.
- ODA is also on the lookout for a devastating snail that is present in Montana where it creates huge problems for wheat.
- He's working on 20 suggestions from ODA for the Farm Bill.
- The Christmas tree season starts soon. BMSBs can be transported to new sites like Hawaii and Mexico via these trees.

THEA HAYES, APPOINTED MEMBER

Thea is working on the toolkit and media contest.

WILL LACKEY, ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ODOT has moved the scheduled of some of the shoulder applications to the fall so that spray applicators can do weeds in the spring. The products they use “stay put” in the rain.
- Lane County is considering a ban on roadside spraying, and the Lane County Public Works commission has been directed to get rid of all spray equipment.

JIM CATHCART, ODF REPORTING FOR WYATT WILLIAMS

- They’ve found gypsy moth just west of Grants Pass will but not working to eradicate until they find the center of infestataion. The search includes asking residents of the neighborhood where the moths were found to see if someone moved in recently or brought it in w/ an RV.
- Working with USDA, they are starting a second year of Emerald Ash Borer surveys.
- The Gorse Action Group (GAG) completed the first aerial survey for gorse.
- Thye are hoping to expand a pilot forest test detector program that is being implemented via the Farm Bill and in partnership with OSU Extension.

7. COUNCIL REVIEW UPDATE

ODA Director Katy Coba has asked that all agency directors sign off on the review prior to it’s inception.

8. TUNICATE UPDATE

Glenn Dolphin reported that they’ve scheduled follow-up surveys; the USFS Dive Program needs to find good weather. He expects the results of the survey to be completed by December. Final paperwork is being finalized by USFS and OSMB; and then OSMB and ODFW. OSMB will reimburse ODFW and USFS and then will request reimbursement from ODA.

Glenn participated in a workshop this summer that was facilitated by the Pacific States Marine Commission where he gained a deeper understanding of the impacts of tunicates. Initially, the information focused on the species found here in Oregon; but this expanded to include all invasive tunicate species on the West coast.

The Pacific States Marine Commission will spearhead the effort to get a biofoul management plant for the Western United states. This is a big project and leading it will be a big undertaking.

9. FLOWERING RUSH UPDATE

Tim Butler from ODA presented an update on the work to eradicate flowering rush, an aggressive aquatic invader of the Northeast US that appeared in Montana in 1964 and has since started moving down the Snake River. The monotypic stands provide poor habitat for salmon and other fish.

The State Weed Board funded a PSU grant to do aquatic surveys on the Columbia where they located Oregon's first sites, which ranged in size from 0.25-0.75m. Eradication poses a problem, however, since it is necessary to move through a number of permitting processes (NEPA, State, Federal). He concluded that rapid response is not a reality in federal jurisdiction land, and that collectively, we need to streamline the permitting process. An intergovernmental team is hoping to work collectively to identify roadblocks and move forward so that after an "ED" the "RR" can happen in a timely manner.

10. EXOTIC INVERTEBRATE PESTS

Diana Kearns, of ODA presented her model for Pathway Risk Analysis which helps to prioritize high risk projects.

She came to the Council asking for other ideas for data, and feedback on her project to date.

11. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION UPDATE

David Williams, USDA APHIS explained that while there has been a plan to eradicate feral swine since 2007, Congressional to implement a national feral swine management program became reality this spring. It is important to make the effort to eradicate feral swine a partnership involving APHIS and the State of Oregon. In April, a group convened that included a number of Federal and state agencies. They plan to

- formalize the group into a Task Force that will provide input on the use of the new federal funds and the various other contributions that other federal/state/local governments and non-government entities are making towards the effort to eradicate feral swine in Oregon.
- work with hunters, ranchers, others to communicate venues for detection and reporting.
- capture pigs and place GPS collars in order to track groups of pigs.
- expand the search.

The meeting was adjourned.