

# Oregon Invasive Species Council

## Business Meeting Minutes

### June 2, 2020 | Virtual

#### Summary of Actions / Outcomes:

- January 2020 and Grant Awards Decision meeting minutes were approved pending non-substantive edits submitted by Karen Ripley.
  - Explore allowed uses for the emergency control account funds.
  - Budget committee to meet and update expense projections, make recommendations for budget allocations, and options for coordinator's work plan priorities/timeline to report back to Chair and Council.
  - Council members submit their activities to the Strategic Plan Working Group using fillable documents.
  - Continuing the conversation about Oregon's water vision at future meetings. Council members are asked to reflect on how their work impacts the 100-year water vision and how their organization can help to see the vision implemented.
  - Communication committee to collaborate with the Education & Outreach Committee regarding the brochure.
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#### Welcome & Introductions

*Catherine de Rivera, 2020 OISC Chair (Portland State University)*

(see participants list at the end of the minutes)

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 2020 & Grant Awards Decision

*Catherine de Rivera, 2020 OISC Chair (Portland State University)*

Minor edits were provided by Karen Ripley via email.

**Christine Moffitt moves to accept both January and Grants Awards Decision meeting minutes.**

**2nd: Peter Kenagy**

**All voting members approved.**

Outcome: January 2020 and Grant Awards Decision meeting minutes were approved pending non-substantive edits submitted by Karen Ripley.

#### State & Agency Budget Reductions, Implications for OISC Budget, & Next Steps

*Catherine de Rivera, 2020 OISC Chair (Portland State University)*

Discussion with Oregon Department of Agriculture

*Lisa Hanson, Oregon Department of Agriculture*

*Helmuth Rogg, Oregon Department of Agriculture*

Catherine de Rivera gave a summary of recent budget-related outcomes. The OISC was slated to receive approximately \$465,000 for the biennium. However, Governor Brown asked all agencies to propose an

8.5% general fund cut per year across the board. The OISC is an agency with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) serving as our fiscal agent. Funds for OISC went directly to ODA. Without a specific line item for OISC, ODA can decide how to determine cuts to OISC's budget. Based on ODA's proposed cuts, we are left with \$135,000 for the biennium (cutting approximately \$331,000 or 71% of the budget). This actually leaves \$49,000 for the rest of the biennium after expenses that have already been paid. ODA came up with a process for their cuts to protect their full time employees and on-the-ground programs and they checked in with other natural resource agency directors and Sen. Roblan before proposing these cuts to the OISC. The cuts have been approved unless the legislature gives natural resource agencies a different direction for the percent cuts.

Oregon Department of Agriculture representatives expanded on the situation. Helmuth Rogg noted the solution moving forward = no pandemic and that ODA was not trying to pick on the OISC. Lisa Hanson commended Catherine's summary and reiterated that ODA was asked to implement an 8.5% reduction by year by allotment developing a plan to manage programs by the cash available in lottery funds and general fund cuts across the board. The bulk of the funds for the OISC came through in the general fund allotment to ODA. When the COVID-19 crisis started, we realized that the agency would need to be very prudent and conservative in expenditures moving forward. ODA leadership did outreach to Sen. Roblan, the Governor's office, and leaders of natural resource agencies. OISC was looking forward to giving out education & outreach grants, but ODA thought it would be prudent to not give out these grants. We are still in a spot of uncertainty and running the proposals through the governor's process. OISC funds are one of the changes. There are also significant changes in the noxious weeds and Insect pest & prevention (IPPM) programs. In particular, IPPM didn't bring on 22 seasonal employees for an almost \$800,000 budget savings and instead are reaching out to volunteers or statewide ODA employees to do trapping in a different way than has been done before. There is a great precautionary need to preserve cash because we do not know the full effect of lottery fund reductions. The forecast this biennium is not quite as bad as expected, but the next two biennia are looking much worse than anticipated.

Senator Roblan noted that he got a call from ODA pretty early right after the grant meeting. Recognizing that there is only one year left in the biennium, the 8.5% cut for the biennium turns into a 17% cut across the board for the upcoming fiscal year. We are concerned about not giving grants out now, but applicants may not be able to complete these projects anyway. The OISC and invasive species are very important issues. He would like to continue these conversations and save these grant applications to see if they are willing to do the same thing that was proposed later if there are funds available. Everyone is taking drastic cuts; and many taking bigger cuts because there are certain departments that are not going to be able to take cuts such as healthcare (mental health). The coronavirus taskforce is prioritizing the need to take care of food, shelter, and health first. Senator Roblan appreciated the call from ODA at the beginning when they were starting to make the plans for cuts. Many don't know this, but the Governor has the ability to move funds from budgets in agencies.

Catherine noted the OISC's mission to help advance agencies and other invasive species programs. Especially in these restricted times, the Council can support and leverage some of the agency efforts by bringing in other agencies, organizations, and local groups. These collaborative efforts support prevention, monitoring, and management. Better coordination will better leverage state money and introduce efficiencies to minimize overlapping efforts and maximize outcomes.

Senator Roblan agreed. We need to have a conversation with the natural resources committee about how to leverage support. Certainly a challenge. Anytime we can use our resources to bring more people to the table and increase participation to meet the challenges, engage committee members to help us

the better - and this is the group to do that.

Christine thanked Senator Roblan for his engagement in all of these issues. The opportunity for better public understanding of invasions & prevention is in our laps right now. We could do some things to explain modeling efforts and use that as an example. It is a very strange time and proud that we are trying to do our work.

Jas. wanted to clarify the following points: DOJ rendered advice upon request from the Council that stated the OISC is a state agency with duties unique to the Council. OISC has infrastructure elements housed in ODA. As we move forward, can we correct the budget mechanism so that the OISC has control over our budget like every other agency and as such budget cuts could be responsive to the Governor's request. The language regarding appropriation of general funds in HB5050 mentioned the OISC. We need more recognition of the status of the Council as its own entity with ODA's help on these infrastructure elements.

Catherine asked about the opportunity to explore Jas.' points, such as a line item in the budget this biennium and in future budgets. Council members discussed as follows:

- *Lisa: If there is a desire for the Council to have more autonomy, that may be a legislative discussion. Could there be another fiscal agent such as DAS? Would need legislative direction regarding an allotment for OISC. ODA has a couple new programs that had their own allotment.*
- *Helmuth: We had this discussion in the past, there are pros/cons. Other Council members were involved with this.*
- *Catherine: We may want to add to the next meeting agenda.*
- *Rian: Yes, there have been multiple conversations to talk about the Council's autonomy. We haven't agreed upon a solution. The OISC recognizes the necessity of cuts, that this process has been very painful and that the process started with not impacting personnel. Putting on my Council member hat, the difficulty that I hear from others members is that it is confusing as to why the Council hasn't had any say about where reductions are made. Is there a way to separate the funds so that ODA doesn't have to do this in the future? Doesn't fault ODA for finding funds where they were available, if OISC has its own line item then ODA doesn't have to make that decision. Does this require legislation? Acknowledge that we are in unprecedented times and it's really challenging. However, this group wants more ability to have this discussion before decisions are made.*
- *Senator Roblan: Appreciate the effort that Jas. has put into this. This is something that the legislature should take up. OISC is in the right place at ODA, but would benefit from a line item - look forward to future folks having to make this decision, talk to other legislator colleagues about this.*

Cat asked Helmuth to give a run through of the budget reductions and plans thereafter. Helmuth's overview as follows:

Helmuth referenced the OISC budget document that includes what we have remaining in budgeted funds. Removed \$50,000 from lottery funds, removed \$250,000 from general funds. Expenditure projections need to be updated to accommodate the budget cuts. There is approximately \$51,000 remaining in the operations account and approximately \$81,000 in the emergency control account. Originally the OISC budgeted \$150,000 for professional services to fund the coordinator and INR for the hotline. Currently, we have expended ~\$60,000 which leaves about \$30,000-\$40,000 for the rest of the

biennium. Less than what we anticipated. The only big cut is to the grant program and that was put on hold. Could we remove funds from the control account to overcome shortcomings?

Catherine asked for an overview of the emergency control account and the intent to respond to Helmuth's question. Group discussion as follows:

- *Rian: The emergency control account was started in late 2000's, initially with \$350,000 deposit - the idea behind the account that an organization/agency could tap into the funds quickly to help address emerging species or concerns. Eradication programs can be slow to ramp up for a new detection - this fund is intended to help with the initial response effort. The Council was authorized to establish rules with how the Council can distribute/use the funds. The account has been used judiciously, demonstrating fiscal responsibility about use of the funds. As a result of that, some of the additional funds were appropriated with the intent to partly seed additional funds into the emergency control account.*
- *Jas.: In ORS, it says funding for new infestations. This is a limitation.*
- *Helmuth: In the rule, there is a long list of allowable expenditures including administration. Intended to be able to react quickly.*
- *Jas.: The rule can't go outside/beyond the statute.*
- *Rian: We need to take a close look at the rule and statute. Allowed administration was intended for agency/organization that are requesting funds to enhance their ability to monitor etc.*
- *Helmuth: We've never experienced a pandemic - these are uncharted waters. We should look into this and see about possibility.*
- *Jas.: Would COVID-19 be a new invasion?*
- *Christine: Agencies are strapped with looming budget cuts. Knowing the history about how the account was established, it seems like this is the worst time to deplete an account like that.*
- *Helmuth: Hanging on to money is good but if we don't use it there is an issue.*
- *Sam: The Council has been very judicious in use of the control account; for quick response. Japanese beetle was one of the uses, among others.*
- *Cat: Go forth and explore, but we need to consider what we are doing without it. Sounds like intent is not to cover costs for Council and also there is the danger of needing the funds for the intended cost of quick response.*

**Outcome:** Explore allowed uses for the emergency control account funds.

Cat moved the conversation back to next steps. Erin McConnell pointed out that Bureau of Land Management has been successful in putting a procurement through to ODA that includes \$20,000 for the Council. Should be coming through any day. Sam thanked BLM for their support of the Council and asked if the agreement allows for state indirect charges. Erin clarified that it would not as it's a contract and Council will have full access to the funds. Catherine thanked Erin for the good news.

Additional discussion as follows:

- *Cat: Moving forward, how do we prioritize activities such as with the Council Coordinator's work plan for example. The budget needs to cover the Coordinator costs in addition to other expenditures. We rely on the Coordinator to advance all of our missions - thank you to Samara Group for the work you've done to help us be an effective Council. We can't ask you to volunteer time (knowing you effectively do not charge for all the time demands now). The BLM funds help close a good part of the gap. Asking the Budget Committee to include the Coordinator's priorities*

*in their recommendation of budget allocations. Do we keep the Coordinator in more or less normal capacity for a shorter amount of time and transition to not having a Coordinator for a period of time?*

- *Jas.: I've seen a lot over the course of my career with state government. The Council is one of the most cost effective agencies with an extremely talented Coordinator who was the driving force in the first strategic plan - should not be relegated to minimal tasks. We need to find the funds because we can't limp along without the support.*
- *Brendan: Asking USFWS supervisor about the ability to provide additional funds to the Council.*
- *Sam: Echo previous comments. Jalene came on years ago and there was a growing process. The Council is not just about setting up meetings and is not a plug and play process. It takes time to be the Coordinator, we have reached a very high plateau. Cutting the Coordinator team's hours is not the most productive/wise decision if we want to keep momentum. Thankful for our federal partners. We need to think about proactive foundation funding.*
- *Q (Troy): In summary, we need \$40,000?*
  - *A (Cat): Close to that, but we need to also fund other programs including the online hotline / iMapInvasives which was originally projected to receive \$10,000 over this biennium. We need to support this program.*
- *Sam: We just got a new detection of ringed crayfish through the hotline. This tool is important and relatively low cost.*
- *Cat: Also reduced monitoring / detection funding means an increased need for detection through hotline.*
- *Q (Sam): Can we help ODA with a trained volunteer force for monitoring/trapping?*
  - *A (Cat): Budget Committee to take this up, my view to include Coordinator costs and hotline. Budget Committee to get together soon to identify a path forward. There is wide support for the Coordinator team and to find a way to keep coordination moving forward.*

**Outcome:** Budget committee to meet and update expense projections, make recommendations for budget allocations, and options for Coordinator's work plan priorities/timeline to report back to Chair and Council.

## Round Table Updates

**Sam Chan, Oregon State University & Oregon Sea Grant:** Working with oyster growers regarding Mud blister worms that are increasingly affecting the health and marketability of oysters in Oregon. A graduate student is studying the biology of the mud blister worm, its impacts, and education to minimize its spread and impacts. With the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), Oregon Sea Grant is preparing biofouling management outreach directed specifically for recreation boaters, commercial fishing vessels and mobile marine infrastructure owners and operators. Open to the opportunity to work with ODA and Extension to support trained volunteers for trapping/monitoring.

**Glenn Dolphin, Oregon State Marine Board:** Recently contributed to a zebra mussel rapid response exercise on Lake Billy Chinook in central Oregon. This event was planned as in-person, but then transitioned to a virtual event. This change downsized the number of participants to just the agencies involved in authority or management of the water body. This is the first virtual tabletop in the PNW. The group spent about 4-6 hours per day on GoTo meeting to run through scenarios such as a boat coming

from Arizona and mussels found on a ramp. Response activities included things like bringing in staff, closing down ramps, coordination with law enforcement, etc. The exercise was successful culminating in lessons learned and a few things on the task list to follow up on. There is an exercise report that will be shared in the next couple weeks.

**Erin McConnell, US Bureau of Land Management:** Updated everyone earlier about funds for OISC finally coming through. Otherwise business as usual for the agency.

**Helmuth Rogg, Oregon Department of Agriculture:** In addition to the pandemic we are also facing a detection of Asian giant hornet - detected last year in Vancouver BC and northern Washington. Vancouver BC recently found its first giant hornet this year in Langley; one this year was also recently detected in Washington State. Although it was formerly stated that they are not yet known to be established in the U.S. or Canada, these new detections would indicate that there is an incipient population - with nests and spreading. We are really concerned about the honeybee industry. With the reality of budget cuts, it is clear that we won't be able to do anything to respond to this issue. We are relying on the honeybee industry for early detection. Interested in the possibility of the national guard being on call for a trained strike force of 3-5 people that can be deployed to respond WHEN (not if) it is detected in Oregon. These hornets will destroy hives. The hornets present a health risk as well - on average 40-50 people die from this hornet in Japan. We are not positive yet on how it got here, but it is a delicacy - if you go online you can order pupae so that is a possibility. USDA APHIS is working on this to find out how it is being introduced.

IPPM has completed the ground Japanese beetle treatment this year and is now preparing for foliar treatment. The team is faced with severe budget constraints but this eradication project is a priority because \$4 million will otherwise be wasted if the program is cut. The foliar treatment will occur this month. Other surveying through IPPM with permanent staff - the entire agency's staff is putting out traps in their neighborhoods and relying on sister agencies - thank you for your support!

**Alex Staunch, Mosaic Ecology:** I am the operations manager for a private habitat restoration contracting firm. The budget cuts we have been talking about drift down to the private businesses. Trying to keep a field-based company together in this climate is quite difficult. We have lost employees, lost a lot of clients as budgets are diminished or cut entirely. Additionally, we have lost time for treatment windows this year such as garlic mustard / geraniums. There will be a lot of natural areas degraded even with just one season missed. I am happy to share protocols with anyone that would like it.

**Christine Moffitt, Friends of South Slough:** Reporting from South Slough / Charleston area. We have closed the visitors center and a lot of outreach activities have been cancelled. There will be a small, cautious youth program starting in July. Monitoring of green crabs still going on. In the slough addition there are volunteers removing weeds - scotch broom and thistle. Friends of South Slough is working with the pacific marine estuarine group and Pew Charitable Trust to bring in funds regarding eel grass and summarizing information that has been gathered on the pacific coast.

**Catherine de Rivera, Portland State University:** The Center for Lakes & Reservoirs is gearing up for zebra/quagga mussel and aquatic weeds surveys by Rich Miller and a couple others mostly in OR and a couple places in WA (20 sites). Two grad students are going to work with eel grass and green crabs - will follow up with Christine about housing etc.

**Troy Abercrombie, Western Invasives Network & North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area:** I have been working a lot with Washington's Invasive Species Council putting together a scotch broom symposium that is just adjourning now as we speak. I have also been helping partners especially on the coast manage staffing transitions. I am doing my best to help the Council and partners to fill gaps; currently I am remaining in my position with a full budget.

**Heidi McMaster, US Bureau of Reclamation:** Field work has been a struggle since the COVID shutdown. We have contracts with weed partners that have been put on hold. We are trying to get weed contracts completed but we are behind schedule. Reclamation will be putting out another call for proposals for FY21 funding for quagga mussel grants, so be on the lookout. We are anticipating \$2 million for mussel grants out of Reclamation for FY21; \$35-\$45,000 will be allocated for maintenance of the database. Anthony added information: we have a hydra detection. It doesn't seem to be causing a problem and hasn't been found in other locations. We will continue to look into it if and when allowed to go on boat and check. No plan for field work resuming at this time.

- *Christine: I was involved with hydra infestation about 15-20 years ago and could give you an overview of what we learned.*
- *Catherine: Nice, that's an example of the Council doing what it's supposed to!*

**Noel Bacheller, Oregon State Parks:** It is budget doom and gloom for State Parks. Many contracts for invasive species cancelled, put on hold, or reduced. Trying to accomplish a lot with staff - including doing treatments when parks are closed. Now, parks are opening and without the help of seasonal staff we are stretched thin with parks operations. We are anticipating layoffs throughout the agency including people in the natural resources section.

- *Sam: Protecting the health of the parks is important - buy annual parks pass!*

**Jas. Adams, Public Member:** COVID as an invasive species? This economic catastrophe can be seen largely as a failure of implementation of the tenets of invasive species management - prevention, rapid response. This example is global, but shows that the kind of work we do to stave off dire circumstances. This work is not "just a program". Lack of a coordinated response is a vivid example.

**Wyatt Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry:** Thanks for Cat stepping up and thanks to ODA. ODF is looking at potential layoffs and furloughs; a lot of unknowns right now. In the forest health unit, Sarah Navarro accepted a job with the USDA Forest Service - she was the lead for Sudden oak death; it's still being determined but that position may remain vacant. I volunteered to take on some of the work; she is leaving around July 1. This is the first year that aerial surveys have been cancelled: typically an annual fly over every forested acre to look for pockets of mortality. We are doing other things including working with ODA and stewardship foresters that will hang traps in kind for ODA. Working on knotweed biocontrols. Oregon Forest Pest Detectors program funding was extended including replacing Amy Grotta with Dan Clark to take over remaining funds for the program. I like Jas.' input that we are the invasive species experts leading experts on rapid response, population dynamics, etc. Emergency fire management teams were called up to support the National Guard to set up an incident command center. We have people that have been educated in incident response in addition to being highly trained biologists. There are opportunities there to develop plans, glean knowledge, and experience to benefit the state of Oregon.

- *Sen Roblan: Clearly help from the fire group made a big difference; will pass along that information.*

- *Helmuth: At the national level - there was terminology about a “playbook” - we have a playbook that Clint, Jalene and others put together for eradications. (link: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/EradicationPlaybook.pdf>)*

**Peter Kenagy, Kenagy Family Farm, Inc., Oregon Farm Bureau, Willamette Mainstem Cooperative, Oregon Agricultural Trust & Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon:** This year I have been forced to give up on some of the weeds, including poison hemlock and wild carrot. The amount of weeds that are showing up this year is phenomenal despite diligent past efforts in the riparian area. At least one new weed that I’m worried about.

**Nikki Brooks, Customs and Border Protection:** Across the nation, international travel has been down about 98%; in the past month there have been no international flights at the port. Starting next week, Mexican flights will be coming in about 3 days a week. I am working mostly at the airport during this time due to personal constraints so not a lot of updates about the sea port. CBP is still boarding vessels and looking for gypsy moths. We are expecting a big gypsy moth year in Japan and China.

**Brendan White, US Fish & Wildlife Service:** I took part in the mussel rapid response exercise as part of the endangered species act consultation process. There is not a real process for this but through all the pre-work that has been done we are confident in and support the State’s response.

**Meg Raabe, USDA APHIS PPQ:** A lot happening with APHIS now. [We found ralstonia in geraniums \(Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2 \(RSr3b2\)\)](#). Trace forwards have been conducted since the beginning of April and trace back to a greenhouse in Guatemala. Doing things differently - virtually or safely in the field. Additionally, working with an interagency team in OR/WA to address incidents (pest detections) that involve both states. There is always a question about jurisdiction, so WA put together a collaborative team between the two states. APHIS doesn’t do a lot of pest trapping but was hoping to trap for cherry fruit fly but couldn’t get a permit from parks which minimized the effort this year due to COVID. We are challenged to do field work and meet with people in a safe way. Exciting news: I was selected as South Carolina’s new State Plant Health Director starting in the beginning of July. (Congrats!!)

**Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife:** Reduced staff for inspection stations; so far 4000 inspections; 5 interceptions of mussels & 60 biofouling. Increased number of invasive turtles. The agency has produced a coloring book for aquatic invasive species that can be available for distribution as well as a short advertisement and new stickers for the invasive species program. Also participated in the response exercise that Glenn mentioned [see above].

**Amira Streeter, Office of Governor Kate Brown:** No additional updates, but will continue conversations about how the budget will be impacting agencies and stakeholders. A lot of work has been centered with COVID and agriculture. Encourage members to reach out to work together to find solutions.

**Rian vanden Hooff, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality:** Working on budget management at the agency and relying on a mixture of funding sources; some with more impacts than others. Trying to ensure that the ballast water program budget is not reduced. Program activities rely on two steps towards compliance: 1) screening pre-arrival self reporting forms and identifying potential compliance issues; and 2) boarding vessels for inspections. The second step has been on pause and currently relying on screening.

**Josh Emerson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality:** Discussed a recent challenge with a vessel with high risk ballast water already in the Columbia River. This vessel did not exchange water where they should have, but did use a treatment system. Unfortunately, with brackish water as a source, the rule is to exchange water prior to treatment. The vessel was already in the city of Longview when they were contacted and made it to Vancouver. They were presented with options that were too expensive and after two days of deliberation, they opted to go back to sea for the exchange. This is a success story for prevention of invasive species being released into the Columbia River system.

- (Q) *Were they aware of the rules and were they translated?*
  - (A) *Josh & Rian: The rules at least once were provided to the master of the boat. Some degree of English is required and often shipping companies will hire agents to provide necessary translation services when necessary. This vessel had an officer on board with a fluency in English. Overall, fluency varies but the number of languages that would be needed for translation is not feasible.*

**Kathy Pendergrass, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:** The agency isn't talking about budget issues at this point and is hiring for positions. I have been passing along as much information as is sent my way to maintain awareness across the state for all taxa issues.

**Karen Ripley, USDA Forest Service:** Working on remote sensing methods to replace aerial surveys. Fire, safety, and recreation are priorities for the agency. The agency's state and private forestry division provides grants to a lot of partners and a lot of revisions have been necessary to accommodate for COVID adjustments. Most agency staff continue to telework except for some field positions. Shawna reported that one issue with weed control staff - difficult to get pesticide applicator licenses. PNW research station is redoing its charter, right now doesn't have forest health / invasive species in the charter update. Trying to get more input into that.

**Sen. Roblan, Oregon Senate:** I am proud to be an Oregonian and have appreciated all of the updates. One thing that we have learned from the pandemic is that we don't need to put things back together the way they were before. One of the disturbing things is that less than 2% of the budget goes to natural resource agencies. We need the budget to be more stable and resilient over time and to understand how central natural resources are to the state. I appreciate Amira's efforts and all of the good people on the line. I will continue to relay information to the legislature and do what we can to support this issue. Looking at Montana's lesson about how much money it takes when there are detections of zebra/quagga mussels. It is frightening to see detections but rewarding to see that they were found. We can't depend on our neighbor states to cover our bases; we need to stay diligent and we have to be careful to not let invasive species fill in where there is a void. I am thankful for what the OISC does.

#### **Other updates?**

Thanks to Sen. Roblan for his service was expressed and echoed by meeting participants.

## Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Update

*Jas. Adams, Public Member*

Jas. Adams gave a presentation ([link](#)) about an update in progress to the statewide invasive species plan that was created in two parts: 1) a 10-year set of strategies; and 2) a working document of actions. The strategic plan is a very important part of the Council's mission as a mandatory responsibility in statute.

### **Clarifying Terminology**

Jas. noted the following recommendations to update terminology for the working 2-year document: Replace what are currently called “actions” with the term “pre-implementation measures” to include measures such as inventories, etc. and add “activities” or “actions” to be the on-the-ground activities that are being implemented by Council members and members of the network.

The Working Group suggests a new fillable spreadsheet to be an efficient reporting tool of how the pre-implementation measures have been executed and activities have been carried out. This compilation of information will allow for adaptive management and support a feedback loop to improve the plan over time with an analysis of gaps / overlap, etc.

As such, the recommendation is to transition to use of the titles of the state’s two plans: Part A: Objectives & Strategies + Part B: Pre-implementation measures & actions. As a whole, the actions can serve as a legislative report. Analysis of gaps and overlap in existing statutes would be helpful as part of the report to the legislature.

The outcome: This plan will help the entire network focus actions where needed and effective, gauge progress, and recognize network actions that inform legislative reports. The working document (part B noted above) is a working document that is periodically approved by the Council. This is a tool to help the state. No other agency is charged with doing this comprehensive effort in partnership with agencies, Council members and the larger network. This is not an expensive task, but will help the collective effort.

Cat: Thank you for your work. We will be asking Council members to submit their activities.

**Outcome:** Council members to submit their activities to the Strategic Plan Working Group using fillable document.

## **100-Year Water Vision Overview & Process Moving Forward**

*Amira Streeter, Governor’s Natural Resources Office*

Oregon’s water infrastructure is showing its age and needs key investments or systems set up that are adaptive for the next 100 years. To continue to have clean water, we need to make these investments now. The agencies that have been leading this effort have done great work over the last couple months. We have heard from stakeholders about the role/connections between water and invasive species. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the water vision process is on hold for now. In the process of regrouping around all the Governor’s priorities to see what is the most pragmatic way to move things forward. Trying to pause and see what makes sense with our new reality. We understand that water quality and invasive species are intertwined with each other. It is hard to even share the information that was collected because it may look different in the future.

Cat described the original purpose of this agenda topic to be a discussion about collaboration, communication, and planning with the Governor’s Natural Resources Office. The virtual format doesn’t offer as good of a discussion format. She offered to keep this conversation open for future meetings and Amira agreed that would be helpful to continue to understand impacts of invasive species and where effective investments can be made.

Discussion followed between Council members including:

- *Helmuth: When the description came out about the vision, there was no mention about invasive species. When the revised version came out, there was still no inclusion of invasive species. Water quality and water quantity are impacted by invasive species and we were surprised by the lack of invasive species.*
- *Amira: Invasive species have been part of the conversation. Remember that water includes a vast range of different aspects - everything from dam safety, septic systems, environmental justice, on and on. This is a huge body of work that's all encompassing. We could spend days or weeks talking about the influence of invasive species alone.*
- *Sam: I attended a stakeholder event. It was most impressive that people were coming to learn. Invasive species were mentioned more in the breakout groups, but not in the main session. When we look at those notes there will be invasive species mentioned in the sessions. When it comes to water and water security, there is also an issue with water as a potential conveyance of invasive species.*
- *Jas.: I attended the natural resources cabinet for many years. It is surprising that the Council does not have a seat at that level. I think the information sharing at the cabinet round table would be impactful for all involved. The 2-3 minutes of round table reporting would keep invasive species more top of mind.*
- *Christine: Also consider invasive species connections with climate change, certainly there are links to changing of forest canopy, etc. That seems like an easy way to team up with other agencies.*
- *Sen. Roblan: I am pleased that Amira has been working on this. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this water vision from stakeholders and stakeholder groups; this has to get done because we don't have another option. We know that the Cascades won't be the long term storage solution for us. There are enormous drops in eastern state water tables and big issues that need to be tackled. Looking forward to everyone getting engaged. We have to do something. Invasive species needs to be a part of it. Inch by inch, how do we get back to where it needs to be.*
- *Troy: Thank you to Amira for listening to this topic. It was not that long ago that there was a question about how to engage with the governor's office and I appreciate the interaction. But, a part of the conversation is not enough, invasive species should be part of the vision moving forward. This is a great opportunity to empower the Council and participating agencies and organizations that manage invasive species to reiterate more forward progress.*
- *Cat: It's clear we have a homework assignment. We all need to think about how our work impacts the water vision and how we can help so that it can be implemented more clearly and more easily achieved.*
- *Rian: It is unfortunate, but understandable to take a pause; last week the house water committee convened and discussed infrastructure issues and possible federal stimulus funds; listening to input from water utilities as well as OWEB (Link to hearing: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Committees/HWTR/Overview>). The takeaway was a little bit of frustration that if we were a few years down the road in planning we would be in a better position to take advantage of federal stimulus funds to be "shovel ready". Unfortunately, we may not be as competitive as we should be.*
- *Amira: I appreciate giving this issue the time that it needs and deserves. It is a let down that it's on hold after gaining momentum. I will take back the comments to the smaller planning group and work with Meta about the Council as a resource moving forward.*

**Outcome:** Continuing the conversation about Oregon's water vision at future meetings. Council

members are asked to reflect on how their work impacts the 100-year water vision and how their organization can help to see the vision implemented.

## Invasive Species Hotline & Mapping Initiatives

*Lindsey Wise, Institute for Natural Resources (Oregon's Invasive Species Hotline Administrator)*

Lindsey shared a PowerPoint ([link](#)), beginning with a short background and history of the online hotline ([www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org)). There is still a backlog of reports that have not been reviewed. Mitch Bixby with the City of Portland is the top reviewer where reports are concentrated in the Portland metro area. There was a recent new report of garlic mustard that resulted in a quick response and treatment. This online tool continues to be a valuable resource and data hub. There are over 175 new users in iMapInvasives and a-list species are being reported. iMap launched an update with new functionality including the ability for users to create their own custom distribution maps in addition to filters. You can now compare distributions. New reports are available including: a species list by geography via established boundaries or you can draw your own boundary, a report for 'approaching region' to monitor infestations coming closer to your geography, and an infested area report to sum up the area.

The hotline has been somewhat of an orphan and we need to figure something out pending the funding confirmation from the OISC. Currently, Portland State University hosts the online site for a minimum cost of \$2000/year. Additional funding is needed for any improvements and administration. For example, currently the site allows people to make reports from any state and it would be good to limit the geographic scope of allowed reports. Another example is that it would be good to have a weekly/monthly reminder email to managers to respond to reports to decrease non-responsive reports. Any additional funding would support administrative time to recruit managers to respond to reports, fill in to respond to reports, manage the species list to avoid duplicates, and migrate information between platforms.

## Committee Updates

*Education & Outreach Committee - Sam Chan*

The grant program that was suspended was a good representation of the needs across the state. We saw many proposals from the east side of the state ([link to map of geographic distribution of applicants](#)). We could get in touch with the applicants and see how we might otherwise support their efforts, such as help with innovation and enhance the impact of their proposed work. Almost all of these proposals involved person-to-person contact to some degree; around 40% of proposals engaged youth/families. In person activities will not be done in the same way, for example county fairs may not be held this year. For youth, distance learning support can work. Based on these needs, how can the Council support remote learning? All proposals were strong. There was a total of around \$460,000 asking with at least 25% if not 50% in some cases in leveraged match funds. Some areas along the southern border did not have applicants and could be an area where we spend more time supporting efforts or doing outreach. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this effort and in particular Sen. Roblan making it a reality to a certain point. Identifies needs and areas of challenge/opportunity.

The Education & Outreach Committee is also working to build on public interest in Asian giant hornet and getting additional materials online. What do we expect people to do? Why is it important? How to report? We still have a busy year ahead of us.

*Governance Committee - Catherine de Rivera filled in for Wyatt Williams*

No additional updates regarding the proposed administrative rule yet. It is an immediate priority for the Governance Committee to confirm election & nomination timelines and follow up on items from January 2020 meeting.

*Legislative Committee - Rian vanden Hooff*

Since the last meeting in January, we had a session that ended early. Let's hope that doesn't become a norm in the future - optimistically we can recalibrate how we are working together. Now looking towards the next long session, acknowledging the expected revenue shortfalls. As a Council and Committee, we need to think about ways that we can support existing natural resource programs and work with the Communication Committee to think about materials to get this message across to limit cuts. We can find a good balance understanding that there are difficult decisions and maintaining the message about the work that the Council and agencies are doing. There is a revised list of interest in the Committee and we will start working on things over the next couple months.

## OISC Communication Plan Implementation & Materials Status Update

*Karen Ripley, USDA Forest Service*

Karen Ripley gave a PowerPoint presentation ([link](#)) about progress and next steps for the Communication Committee to implement the Council's approved communication plan including the following points:

**Member access page:** Created a member access page on the website to increase efficiencies. Find a button to the page on OISC website here: <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/council>. Additional access information sent via email.

**Events Calendar:** Encourage Council members to take a look at the events page (<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/events>) and ensure up-to-date information is there as events may have changed. Send information to [coordinator@oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org](mailto:coordinator@oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org).

**Published Products:** Annual plan in progress, final pending priority direction for Coordinator work plan. The Committee has recommended updates to the OISC brochure including updating the cover, photos, reading order, and changes to the Council's membership.

*The current approved brochure can be found at the bottom of the 'reports and publications page' on the OISC website - [link to PDF here](#). Recommended updates to brochure from Communication Committee can be found at: [Page 47-50 of posted meeting materials](#).*

**OISC PowerPoint slide deck:** The Committee is looking to create a modular set of slides depending on your audience, maybe in the future we will have a recorded presentation that would be available through the website. Has the power to be a very strong resource as we are reaching out to our networks.

**Oregon’s “invasive species network” & Council member resources:** The Committee is looking to update the definition of the “network” to enhance our ability to communicate about the “hub” role of the Council as a whole (from statewide plan), roles or duties of individual Council members, and non-Council members engagement. We’d like Council members to easily recognize their duties as well as who is in your network or who you represent to communicate information. We want to welcome strong non-Council member engagement however is appropriate including remaining connected, in a review or advice capacity, or through Committee participation. Expectations as productive for both parties: Council and non-Council members. The starting place is to connect, and it is helpful to establish what this network is. Council members were asked to fill out a pilot “network opt-in directory” form; intended to be something we ask members to share publicly to further fill out the information. The Committee needs to work on this directory form more as there seems to be an issue with ‘opt in’ + contact sharing permissions. We will also clarify the types of expertise that are needed/included and how we will use the information to increase comfort of sharing. We also asked Council members to fill out another form that is important to understand how we best share information and tie people into the activities of the Council.

Ready for review and subsequent approval from Council:

- Brochure. We need to figure out a way to share and/or print.
- Updated definition of network.
- Member duties.

Questions & Discussion:

- *Q (Jas.): Question about .org vs. .gov sites that he will redirect to the Committee.*
  - *A (Jalene): The Council has a .org website. The email listservs are housed at ODA with a .gov address separate from the web domain. It may be helpful for the Committee to take a look at our various communication tools.*
- *Q (Sam): Good job. The Communication Committee is serving a critical role of “network engagement & communications” - more than traditional communications. The Education & Outreach Committee would like to help finalize the brochure.*
  - *A (Karen): Communication Committee will work with the Education & Outreach Committee to get feedback and finalize the brochure.*
- *Council members discussed their questions about the purpose of the Committees. There is some confusion that the Communication Committee is only communication between Council members when there is more than that. Additionally, Christine requested that the Committees and Coordinator continue to send out information (repeat if necessary) such as the member protected page and materials that need review. Cat noted that she is proud of the work that has happened across Committees since January.*

**Outcome:** Communication committee to collaborate with the education committee regarding the brochure. No other outcome regarding pending approvals.

## Oregon's Worst List Working Group Update

*Nicole (Nikki) Brooks, Customs & Border Protection*

Nikki gave a PowerPoint presentation ([link](#)) of Working Group progress and recommendations for next steps. Roy Marler and Nikki from CBP took a look at all the states' lists including species and assessment tools. Upon consultation with the Working Group, there were four favorites selected for further review: S. Carolina, Indiana, Washington, and California. We have the most similarities between California and Washington. California has the biggest invasive species list with over 1700 species. They have a great scorecard for about 200 of the species on the list that is thorough but might be too detailed for our purposes. The Working Group would like to use this information for refining our list and enhance coordination between all three of our states.

The Working Group would like to maintain a running comprehensive list that is not restricted to a certain number of species. The group also recommends a shift in names so that we have a "watch list" (our comprehensive list) and a "worst list" (a short curated list of the state's or Council's current priorities). The Working Group would like to categorize the watch list into sections for prevention, eradication, and control. This would be a searchable list by region and would include information about whether the species of interest is 'near', 'here', or 'far'.

### Recommended Next Steps :

- Recruit taxa leads for review of the current list.
- Review categories for the current list (such as prevention, control, etc).
- Cross reference our lists - to see if there are species that need to be on our list immediately.
- Add disclaimer language that updates are in progress.
- Set longer term goals such as recruitment of experts from the network to enhance list / do risk assessment of species, and discussion of hybridization of the CA/WA/OR models to support information hub.

We need Council support moving forward to update the document names, continue Working Group's activities to update lists, coordinate with west coast states, and begin developing the products mentioned.

Council discussion regarding the possibility of slowing down the process when approvals might be debated. Nikki noted that we want to be a resource hub. Jalene noted that the group's intention is to be a hub of information and this will implement multiple components of the statewide plan. Also we are asked about our "top priorities" often and we need to be able to respond quickly. Sam noted that the worst list is responsive and supports engagement. Nikki stated that we can support the state and regional needs.

**Outcome:** No specific recommended outcome for Worst List Working Group recommendations, but general support for the recommended updates and purpose of the lists.

### Public Comment

No public comment.

## Action Items

*See summary list of actions/outcomes at the top of minutes.*

Council discussed next steps, including homework to support Oregon's 100-year water vision. Council members discussed a need to follow up on shared terminology. Sam & Troy noted the importance to keep Council capacity and not lose momentum. Christine noted the need to see all presentations.

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## Meeting Participants

### **Council Members**

Troy Abercrombie, Western Invasives Network  
Jas. Adams, Member of the Public  
Noel Bacheller, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Nicole Brooks, US Customs & Border Protection  
Sam Chan, Oregon Sea Grant  
Glenn Dolphin, Oregon State Marine Board  
Rian Hooff, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Peter Kenagy, Kenagy Family Farm Inc  
Erin McConnell, Bureau of Land Management  
Heidi McMaster, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Christine Moffitt, Friends of South Slough  
Kathy Pendergrass, USDA-NRCS  
Dave Pranger, Morrow County  
Meg Raabe, USDA - APHIS PPQ  
Karen Ripley, USDA Forest Service  
Catherine de Rivera, Portland State University  
Sen. Arnie Roblan, Oregon Senate - District 5  
Helmuth Rogg, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Alex Staunch, Mosaic Ecology  
Amria Streeeter, Office of Governor Kate Brown  
Brendan White, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Wyatt Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry

*Council Members Excused: Olivia Duren, Tim Newton, Cheryl Shippentower*

### **Committee Members, Coordinating Team, and Members of the Public**

Jake Bodart, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Tristen Berg, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Clint Burfitt, USDA - APHIS PPQ  
Josh Emerson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Alternate Council Member)

Edward "Chuck" Fisk, F5 Wildlife Control  
Lisa Hanson, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Jalene Littlejohn, Samara Group  
Sean McMillan, USDA - APHIS PPQ  
Jenn Poirier, US Fish & Wildlife Service (Alternate Council Member)  
Anthony Prisciandaro, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Elaine Rybak, OISC Committee Member  
Lindsey Wise, Institute for Natural Resources