



## OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

21–22 FEBRUARY 2012

**February 21, 2012**—All Council member organizations were represented at the meeting. All Council members were in attendance except that Claire Hibler replaced Jeanne Standley (BLM), and John Barnes replaced Rosemary Mannix (Oregon Department of Forestry).

### **Council Housekeeping**—

- The meeting minutes were unanimously approved from the September 2011 meeting.
- The Council budget and its respective accounts (operating budget, invasive species control account, OISC coordinator) were reviewed, and there discussion on actions to be taken relative to Council finances was delayed for the until the 8:15 agenda item tomorrow.
- Announce completion of action plan—The Council walked through the final draft of the action plan, and requested that the reference to climate change be removed from action item #5.2 and that INVOLV be added to action item #4.7.

**Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit Action Plan Status**—Mark Sytsma led a discussion on progress taken to develop a regional action plan for the PNWER region. The Council reviewed each of the elements of the action plan, including the development of a 2-page legislative document, a white paper on the economics of invasive species, a theme (Protect the NorthWest) and set of slogans for outreach campaigns:

- “Clean, Drain, Dry”
- “Buy It Where You Burn It”
- “Clean it Before You Use It”
- “Grow Me Instead”
- “Report- a- Pig”
- “Don’t Let it Loose!”
- “See It—Report it

The Council also reviewed a fundraising plan, which, if implemented, would generate \$450,000 for feral swine outreach and eradication in Oregon.

It was recommended that the Council/PNWER reconsider “Report-a-Pig” and think about a new slogan that might better reflect the goals of the campaign.

**Creating an OISC Science Committee**—Council members discussed the merits of creating an OISC Science Committee, and discussed next steps toward creation of the committee, including an inventory of who exists in the region that can offer expertise on a variety of topics (via PNWER). The Council also discussed implementing an independent review of *Arundo* science and reports, perhaps after Portland State University completes its contract with Portland General Electric. Mark Sytsma will chair this committee, and Sam Chan will be Vice-Chair.

### **Hot topics**—Council members discussed hot topics

- Boxwood blight—ODA is conducting nursery and homeowner outreach; everyone with boxwoods should be on the lookout for boxwoods that start losing these leaves from the bottom of the plant upward, and individuals should be cautious about the source of their

boxwoods (purchase only from a reputable source). There was a suggestion to provide information on Boxwood blight to OSU Extension for their Master Gardener's program.

- Goat's rue—This is an “A” rated weed in Oregon; this plant exists in SW Oregon, but experts believe it is capable of being eradicated (at this point).
- Tunicates—The most recent surveys of tunicates show they are not spreading. The Umpqua oyster farms has a new manager, who is allowing temperature and salinity sensors on the oyster bed lines. There was discussion about the need for an Oregon invertebrate invasive species action plan, or perhaps a “fouling marine organism response plan.”
- Underia—This species is moving its way up the coast, and with large-scale regattas in San Francisco Bay this summer, there is concern this species could be spread.
- Yellow-tufted alyssum—This plant was introduced to Oregon via a nickel mining company in the Rogue River Siskiyou areas of Oregon. This mustard plant was grown on serpentine soils, and an interagency group in Southern Oregon is working on eradicating this species. This site in Oregon is the only place in North America where this plant currently exists. The mining company that introduced it paid about \$20,000 toward its eradication, but has since left the site.
- Lack of funding—There was discussion from USDA APHIS that lack of funding could potentially open doors to some species that have not been able to become established here because of monitoring and control efforts (e.g., LBAM, Japanese beetle). Lisa will send Council members the rules for disbursement of funds from the Invasive Species Control Account: [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/bulletin/0710\\_bulletin/0710\\_ch609\\_bulletin.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/bulletin/0710_bulletin/0710_ch609_bulletin.html). These rules will be posted on the OISC web page.

**Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center's Report on Implementing Legislation and Regulations to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species**—PEAC student, Kate Walter, discussed the report she wrote to help Oregon better understand legal issues associated with the prevention and spread of aquatic invasive species (part of the OISC National Sea Grant project).

**Annual Awards Banquet**—The annual awards banquet was held, and the following received awards:

- **Eagle Eye Award** — For reporting the most important sighting of an invasive species:
  - Jane Hartline, Lost Lagoon Farm, Sauvie Island, for attending the state noxious weed conference, where she learned that Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) is an “A” listed invasive plant that Oregon should be on the lookout for (there is currently a large infestation in the Yakima River). She then noticed it was for sale at an Oregon aquatic plant nursery, so she contacted ODA, and they immediately took action to cease selling the plant and determine who had purchased any plants from this nursery.
  - Cedar Whitemen, Mike Plamondon, Shannon Parton, Tracy Ann Whalen, and Robert Boswell, for their quick action when they heard a rustling sound in a shipping container from China. These employees worked with USDA and ODA inspectors, who found live wood wasps emerging from wooden pallets. The container was immediately sealed,

and the wood was fumigated and destroyed. Through their keen observations and cooperation, they helped protect Oregon trees from exposure to a new pest.

- **Ten Fingers in the Dike Award — For going above and beyond the call of duty to keep new invaders out of the state:**
  - Jas Adams, Oregon Attorney General’s office, for his interest and expertise identified the mechanism to implement mandatory boat inspections, which was the key missing link in our aquatic invasive species defense strategy.
  - **Honorable Mention:** The Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program, US Forest Service, Corvallis for collecting and identifying non-native *Orconectes neglectus*, the northern ringed crayfish from two locations in the Umpqua drainage and immediately notifying Oregon Sea Grant.
  - **Honorable Mention:** Josh Lambert, Coordinator of Lincoln County SWCD’s Invasive Species Control Program, for ongoing efforts to create and support community and interagency awareness of invasive species for all taxa as well as an active county-based EDRR network.
  - **Honorable Mention:** Josh Thompson of the Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District for his work with private landowners and feral swine.
  
- **Invader Crusader Award — For students making a difference in protecting Oregon from invasive species:**
  - Jennifer England and her 4th grade class Jennifer England and her 4th grade class their excellent participation in the Invasive Species Awareness day at the Capitol, and for their partnership developing solutions to the use of invasive crayfish in classrooms.
  
- **Protect the Northwest Award — For a company that makes a difference in protecting Oregon from invasive species:**
  - West Coast Contractors in Coos Bay for their prompt *and proactive work in* cleaning the hulls of their construction barges to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during the construction of the NOAA Pacific fleet headquarters in Newport.
  
- **Sandra Denyes Diedrich Award — For making the most outstanding contribution to protecting Oregon from invasive species:**
  - Representative Bob Jenson, for his efforts and long record of support for invasive species management in Oregon. He has consistently supported ballast water management legislation in Oregon aimed at preventing invasive species introductions long before many legislators were even aware of the issue. Over the years, he has nearly singlehandedly kept the invasive species issue alive in the legislature. He has been a welcome, appreciated, and regular participant in various invasive species conferences, including OISC-hosted invasive species summits as well as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Invasive Species Working Group conference, and has been tireless in his efforts to support key pieces of invasive species legislation.

▪ **Certificates of Appreciation for Service to the Council 2010–2011**

- **Vanelle Peterson** has worked for Dow AgroSciences with integrated weed management in the areas of range and pasture, noxious/invasive weeds and industrial vegetation management.
- **Nancy Willmes** joined the SOLV team in 1999 to coordinate the Best of Oregon Program in rural communities. Since 2004, she has coordinated SOLV IT and Clean & Green Programs in the greater Portland Metro area.

**FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

**Discuss the future of funding for OISC**—The OISC lost its biannual operating funds in 2011, and will no longer be funded with lottery dollars. Council members discussed strategies to obtain funding for annual Council operations, and then decided to move forward with the formation of an OISC Finance Committee comprised of Rian Hooff, Rick Boatner, Mark Sytsma, Dan Hilburn and Mark Porter. The committee will discuss the OISC annual operations budget, a potential new fiscal sponsor, the OISC Coordinator budget, ways to grow the Invasive Species Control Account, and will report back to the full Council at its June Prineville meeting. This committee will likely need to intersect with the Legislative Committee to discuss what might be required to use a portion of permit programs (AIS permit, e.g.) to fund Council efforts.

**Report-A-Pig Campaign**—The Council was informed about a tri-state campaign to inform landowners about feral swine and encourage them to report sightings to their respective fish and wildlife agencies, and Council members provided their insights and suggestions to campaign activities. Specifically, the Council asked that it make a presentation on feral swine at an upcoming State Agriculture Board meeting, that OSU Extension might be a good avenue to approach pork producers in Oregon, that the state veterinarian might be an excellent contact for feral swine issues, that Oregon review and evaluate other state’s strategies for feral swine, that Rick continue to pursue his efforts to convene other entities working on feral swine in Oregon (Rick currently has a meeting scheduled for February 28), and that contact be made with TNC’s preserve managers in central Oregon to discuss feral swine issues.

**Update on iMapInvasives**—Meg Wilkinson of iMap gave a webinar presentation on the newest features of *iMapInvasives*. Several organizations expressed an interest on receiving more information or training from the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (Lindsey Wise). Lindsey’s contact information is: [Lindsey.wise@pdx.edu](mailto:Lindsey.wise@pdx.edu).

**Standard Best Management Practices at Boating Access Points/Wash Stations**—Glenn Dolphin is assisting a national AIS task force under the direction of the State Organizations for Boating Access (SOBA) to develop standard BMPs that can be used at boating access points to help prevent the spread of AIS. Glenn discussed his new role. In addition, the Council discussed the issue of boat wash stations and their availability in the state. Glenn mentioned there is about \$0.5 million remaining in the AIS permit account from last year, and recommends that one-half of that amount be retained and rolled over as a program cushion, and that the remaining amount be expended on programs for aquatic invasive species. Glenn welcomed any recommendations from the Council for how the other half of the funds could be spent, and received several recommendations, including expending the funds on surveys, considering

transferring some funds to the Invasive Species Control Account, and spending it on the highest priority actions in the state aquatic invasive species plan.

**Pollinators**—Sarina Jepsen, Endangered Species Program Coordinator for the Xerces Society, works on the conservation of rare or declining species in their habitats. She discussed with the Council the Pollinator Conservation Program, and asked if the Council could be of assistance working with other states on the West Coast re: adopting regulations about commercial pollinators similar to Oregon laws. The Council will pursue discussing this issue with PNWER, specifically working with the Agriculture Advisory Group with PNWER to raise the profile of this important issue.

**Other topics**—The Council recommended having a summit in November of 2012 (after elections but before the holidays). Lisa reserved the Chemeketa Viticulture Center on November 16, 2012, and will ask Dan Rohlf of Lewis and Clark to present at the summit.

**Next meeting**—The next meeting of the Council is June 26-27, 2012 in Prineville, where a feral swine field trip will be held. Lisa will make lodging and meeting arrangements at the Inn at Cross Keys Station in Madras.