

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

11 September 2012
Salem, Oregon

Council members present included Mark Hitchcox, John Cochran, Dominic Maze, Judi Sanders, Glenn Dolphin, Vern Holm, Sam Chan, Rian Hooff, Dan Hilburn, Wyatt Williams, Rick Boatner, and Mark Sytsma. Lisa DeBruyckere (OISC Coordinator) and Robyn Draheim (Special Assistant to the Council) were also present. Council members absent and organizations not represented included Doug Daoust (US Forest Service) and Mark Porter (Wallowa Resources). The BLM seat remains vacant.

JUNE 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Decision Item: Council members approved the meeting minutes from the June 2012 meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

Wyatt Williams introduced himself as the new Invasive Species Specialist at the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the replacement on the Council for Rosemary Mannix.

OISC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Tunicate Committee** – Lisa and Sam shared information from US Forest Service' Bruce Hansen re: the status of tunicate surveys. Bruce noted that the dive team sampled the Umpqua Triangle on four occasions (September 2010, May 2011, October 2011 and May 2012). The next scheduled sample date is October 23, 2012. At each sampling, they examined the north jetty and the mooring lines associated with the Umpqua Aquaculture operation. They picked a random starting point and conduct a systematic sample to uniformly cover the sample area. In October 2011, they started line intercept surveys on the mooring lines and a relative abundance band survey on the jetty to quantify the changes in abundance seen since beginning the surveys and to separate seasonal changes from any overall increase/decrease of cover. *D. vex* has been detected on the jetty and mooring lines each time we have sampled. The majority of the negative sites are in shallow water at the ends of the transects. When present, there is a definite band in the water column where it occurs. A full report is due to ODA by 12/31/2012. This will include surveys through 10/2012 and the line intercept data.

Decision Item: Council members decided the tunicate committee should reconvene in January to develop a 2013 sampling plan that has the support and input of the Council.

Bruce also provided information on Yellow Floating Heart - For three years the Rogue-Siskyou Nat. Forest has been using a weed cloth barrier to control an infestation of Yellow Floating Heart on Little Squaw Lake. The dive team has been involved for the last two years, covering newly infested areas with weed cloth and recovering areas where the cloth has shifted. Bruce believes this effort is working, but complications arise if there is any current to shift the weed cloth (or folks pulling it up) and problems w/ complete coverage where there is downed wood. They have not estimated costs for this effort. The Forest Service states that they will try this for up to five years.

It was also noted that Horseshoe Lake in Albany has yellow floating heart – a field site visit will occur on September 26 or 28.

- **Squeal on Pigs Campaign** – Lisa shared progress in receiving reports from the Swine Line Hotline from three states, including photos of feral swine taken by a trail cam in the Portland metropolitan area. BLM commented they have an assistance agreement with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services to aerial gun feral swine in central Oregon; APHIS staff are seeing more feral swine each time they conduct aerial gunning. **Action Item:** Lisa will contact Dave Williams of Wildlife Services to ensure he is receiving the feral swine hotline reports.

- **Science Committee** – Wayne Lei of Portland General Electric gave a presentation on the status of the Arundo project. OSU just published a paper on Arundo (http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hermiston/sites/default/files/arundo_-_carbon_implications_-_final_5.pdf) being a carbon-neutral biomass product. PGE is in the process of assessing the agronomy of Arundo, and are studying 18 materials that they will be torrefying, including Arundo (the 2014 test burn will require more materials than the Arundo they have on hand). On September 19 at 11am, there will be a field tour of Arundo at the Hermiston Experiment Station. ODA also announced it is moving forward with a proposed rule on Arundo, and it has hearings October 30 at 11 am at ODA in Salem, followed by an October 31 hearing at 4pm at Hermiston Experiment Station. The comment period closes November 9. The proposed rule includes a million dollar bond, a \$2/acre assessment to cover monitoring, and a proposal to phase out wild Arundo from nursery sales but continue to allow variegated varieties unless the Weed Board declares it a noxious weed. PGE is now providing a better estimate on the number of acres of Arundo that would need to be in production to meet its energy needs – somewhere in the range of 50,000-80,000 acres, likely in the 60-70,000 acre range.

- **Legislative Committee** – The following are potential legislative concepts/bills OISC is supporting in 2013:
 - **Reinstating the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force** – Action Item: Lisa will find out from Senator Dingfelder the status of the request the Council made for her to support reinstatement.

- **Amending legislation that would allow volunteers to inspect boats** – Mark Sytsma and Glenn Dolphin talked about the phone conversation they had with Oregon Bass Federation Leaders, and decided a key next step would be to hold a mock aquatic invasive species emergency event in central Oregon so that OBF members could participate and understand how an emergency would play out relative to tournaments and boat inspections. At this point, there is uncertainty whether any changes in legislation would be needed.
- **Sea Planes** – Lisa updated the Council on her work with sea plane organizations (national and regional) and is working toward the Sea Plane Association website hosting the invasive species information currently displayed on the Columbia River Sea Plane Pilot Association website. After this is completed, Lisa will contact Chuck Turner to update him on efforts.
- **Finance Committee** –
 - Rian Hooff discussed his agency’s experience talking about a potential 319 grant for feral swine outreach, and the need for all natural resource agencies to be on the same page relative to key messages about the importance of invasive species issues. Lack of alignment in this particular instance resulted in lack of DEQ staff support for feral swine outreach funding.
 - Lisa reviewed the Attorney General’s opinion on the use of highway trust funds to support invasive species work along Oregon’s highways. **Action Item:** Lisa will send the document to Paul Mather, Will Lackey, and his supervisor, and ask about next steps.
 - Finance committee: Lisa and Helmuth Rogg discussed issues associated with attempting to convene industry representatives on supporting funding for Japanese beetles in the state. Helmuth noted there are 2 isolated populations in Oregon – at the entrance to the Portland airport, and at a Portland golf course. ODA has made the decision to conduct foliar and/or soil applications of pesticide next year at these sites. In post-treatment monitoring in Cave Junction, no Japanese beetles have been found this year. Another year of survey will confirm the success of the eradication program there. A single Japanese beetle was found at one additional site in Troutdale. Trapping in 2013 will continue to monitor that site, as well as other risk sites in the state.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- **PNWER Action Plan** – Mark Sytsma reviewed the action items developed from the July Saskatoon PNWER meeting and discussed next steps to prioritize action items and assign leads and timelines.
- **Asian Gypsy Moth** – Nicole Brooks from Customs and Border Protection gave a presentation on Asian gypsy moth interventions at ports of entry, and the work they

are doing internationally and in the Pacific Northwest to prevent the introduction of this species.

- Support for Existing Program – **Dan Hilburn voiced the need for OISC to make support of existing program budgets a legislative priority. Helmuth Rogg and Tim Butler discussed challenges related to declining general fund support for ODA’s insect and noxious weed programs. Rian commented that support for the ballast water program was recently increased by .5 FTE. Funding for the aquatic invasive species program at the Marine Board and ODF&W comes from the new permits and has increase since the program was initiated.**

HOT TOPICS

- **EDRR of quagga/zebra mussels** – A Bureau of Reclamation laboratory in Denver, Colorado is providing inaccurate results for the presence of zebra and quagga mussels in western lakes. **Action Item:** The Council will write a letter to the Secretary of Interior commenting on this issue and recommending this issue be resolved immediately.
- **Canola** – John Cochran discussed the permitting of canola in the Willamette Valley, and that has triggered legal action by a segment of Oregon’s agricultural industry.
- **Sea Grant RFP** – Oregon Sea Grant will be announcing a request for proposal soon focused on “coastal science serving people.” This will likely include funding for \$200,000 projects over a 2-year period. The nature of the projects will likely research a problem, have strong societal relevance, and communicate science.
- **City of Portland lawsuit** – The City of Portland is being sued by a citizen’s group, and the Invasive Species Program in the City is named as part of that lawsuit. The lawsuit contends that weed control activities are in contravention to City activities, with the primary objection being how the program is funded. City bureaus have raised their rates over time, and there is concern by citizens that the projects being funded may not align with the mission of the bureaus.
- **Boat inspections** – Oregon has conducted 3,300 boat inspections this year (to date), and intercepted a total of 15 infested watercraft. Nine of the 15 were a set of floatable barges headed to Astoria, where they were intended to be cleaned and decontaminated before being painted and reused. ODFW and Oregon Marine Board are discussing expanding the inspection stations next season, increasing from 9 to 14 staff, with more locations and staying open longer hours. There has been good support from law enforcement agencies this year, with more enforcement activity resulting in citations and warnings.
- **Native Plant Society of Oregon** – NPSO is updating their statement on herbicides, and commented on a new patch of wild Arundo in an irrigation ditch in southern Oregon.
- **USDA-APHIS** – USDA-APHIS: A new terrestrial snail *Xerolenta obvia* (European Heath Snail) with a massing behavior was recently detected outside of Belt, Montana. USDA-APHIS estimates this large infestation (over 20 square miles) has been there for several

years. Mark Hitchcox also commented on pest risks associated with increasing imports of organic soybeans arrived into Oregon with infested pests and noxious weeds. When local inspectors put pressure on companies to find pests and seeds in these shipments, the companies simply bring their product into a different port, which may not have sufficient resources to inspect and ensure compliance. The end product still ends up at the intended destination. Mark is exploring a regulatory mechanism to address this issue. Mark also discussed the Asian Longhorned Beetle Citizen Scientist survey, a cooperative effort to survey urban forests to look for presence of invasive woodboring pests. State and federal entomologists will begin offering training and detection survey events this fall. To increase the effectiveness of the survey, all participants will be given training and will test their observation skills on a mock beetle infestation “obstacle course”, currently being established.

- **ODA** – ODA is hosting its second round of firewood rule hearings September 26 at 11am. They are changing the proposed rule to treat firewood at 60 degrees C for 60 minutes. Dan Hilburn also noted that one gypsy moth was found in Eugene this year, and there have been no new noxious weed species discovered this year.
- **Marine Debris Emergency Act of 2012** – The House has passed the MD Emergency Act of 2012, which would provide over \$4 million for West Coast states to deal with marine from the Japanese tsunami. There is talk that the amount of funding will be increased to \$10 million. Regarding marine debris, the Council talked about ways it could be helpful to marine debris efforts, and discussed the existence of the Science Advisory Panel, which could be a potential place to fit into the Incident Command Infrastructure. OISC could help evaluate the risk, provide contact information, and link to taxonomic experts, e.g. **Action Item**: Lisa will work with Robyn Draheim to coordinate with ODFW’s Caren Braby to discuss ways to coordinate and collaborate and make a recommendation for the Council to serve on the Science Advisory Panel.

NOVEMBER 16 INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT

The Council discussed the agenda for the November 16, 2012 invasive species summit, and decided on a theme of prevention. The Council decided to invite 5 speakers from outside the state/region to provide information on the economic and environmental effects of Japanese beetle, feral swine, a noxious weed, quagga/zebra mussels, and firewood. It was also suggested to invite a keynote speaker for the luncheon, and recommendations included Oregon’s governor, and key legislators such as Walden, Merkeley, and Wyden. There was discussion about the state agency panel and key questions that would be asked of that group. **Action Item**: Lisa will incorporate all edits and suggestions to the November 16 summit and provide a new version of the agenda for Council members.

Additional items of discussion included an emphasis on thinking of new ways of getting things done versus supporting the status quo, and communicating the fact that there are links among the agencies that are synergistic and additive. It was suggested the Council

consider re-establishing the momentum of The Silent Invasion campaign by introducing a new statewide campaign, perhaps focused on water quality.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Dan Hilburn would be the new chair of the Council in 2013, and that four seats would become vacant – John Cochran, Vern Holm, Vacant BLM seat, and Glenn Dolphin. It was suggested that Glenn Dolphin approach his director to ask if there was interest in the Oregon Marine Board becoming an ex-officio member, concurrent with the suggestion that two additional seats be created for industry representatives. **Action Item:** Pursuant to OISC bylaws, Lisa will send the request for Council seat nominations to the general public in the coming month.

Other Council Business

Next meeting date and location—February 12, 2012 at the CCBI building on High Street in Salem, Oregon. The suggestion was made to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Council awards by inviting all prior award recipients to this event.