



# The Idaho Association of WEED CONTROL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

200 Fulton Street, Salmon, Idaho

April 6, 2016 8:00 a.m. MST

### In Attendance

**Vice Chair:** Terry Lee

**Sec/Treas:** Bonnie Davis

**Past Chair:** Alan Martinson

**Region 1:** Bill Hargrave

**Region 2:**

**Region 3:** Steve Anderson

**Region 4:** Kali Sherrill

**Region 5:** David Herter

**Region 6:** Jeffrey Pettingill

**Webmaster-Jeremey Varley**

**Others Attending:** Carol Young, alternate Region 1, Brad Bluemer-Bonner County, and Brian Wilbur-Ada County.

Meeting called to order at 8:12 a.m. (MST) by Chair Terry Lee.

### Reports

**Regarding Minutes Winter Meeting, Boise, Idaho:** Motion by Kali Sherrill to accept the minutes of the Winter Meeting 1/25/2016 as written. Seconded by Bill Hargrave, motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bonnie the final financial report dated 4-6-2016 dated 6: checkbook balance is \$6,877.87. Expenditures to date total \$1,798.44, remaining budget balance \$4,401.56.

Motion was made by Alan Martinson to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded by David Herter. Motion carries unanimous.

**IWCA Report-**Terry Lee and Alan Martinson reported there was no meeting held in March due to scheduling conflicts.

**IWCC Report:** Alan reported they are still working on getting the policy makers to the table.

**ISDA Communication-**Alan asked if they will change the time to meet with the director to spring again. Terry said this is in Bryce's court. Alan was thinking with the cytissus issue coming up it is important to meet. Terry agreed we do need to stay in better touch with them with the cytissus moving forward. We need to have support from IWCA, Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands and IWCC. Alan said the state and federal agencies have representation, we don't need support of them to get support from the IWCA board. Brad stated that Matt Voile indicated it would be a good idea to list all the broom species. Tim Prather suggested leaving the chamaecytissus out. Brad stated it is on the California, Oregon and Washington weed lists. The possible listing involves 760 species with the 3 species, if we include chamaecytissus it exceeds 1100 plants. Jeffrey stated the landscape association supports it but we must go back to them as we add more genus's. Brad explained the cytissus and spartium are the most difficult to tell apart. The other two are fairly easy. Another problem which exists is hybridization, we would be asking for all hybrids to be included. Alan suggested getting a letter of support from the landscape association. It was suggested we send letters to the following groups asking for their written support: BLM, IWCA, INLA, IWCC, Fish and Game, USFWS, Department of Lands, National Park Service, USFS and ITD. Alan suggests sending letters to both Region 1 and 4 of the Forest Service. Bill suggested seeking support from the university. Brad said the university does not engage in politics. Bill then suggested requesting a

letter that explains how invasive these plants are. Brad has emails from Tim Prather and Rich Old stating how invasive they are and the threat they pose. Alan suggested writing to Oregon and Washington Department of Ag since they already have them listed stating it is already on their list. Bill would like to see something that states if there is an effective bio agent. Carol Randall stated they won't establish up north and there is no real effective bio agent for it. Brad wants it on the eradication list. In Bonner County there is 300-350 acres of broom.

Jeffrey joined the meeting at this time.

Alan stated we need to make the formal request to ISDA now, before we have the letters. Alan said they will look at who we have support from and who we still need to get support from. Brad agreed to write the letter for our chairman to sign for ISDA.

**IWAC-** Jeffrey reported the week before Memorial Day will be Invasive Weed Awareness Week. There was a short discussion of when dues billing takes effect. The new state campaign should not conflict with the awareness campaign at all. Jeffrey stated ours will be professional not silly. The website will continue, the campaign owns it all now and they are not paying any royalties or anything like that.

### **Old Business**

**Cytisus Listing-see above during ISDA Communication.**

**Summer Executive Board Meeting-**Region 5 will host this year. David Herter reported the summer meeting will probably be at Bear Lake. He asked about needs of those coming such as tent sites, cabins, RV spots. They will do some checking and report back to the board. Terry let the board know he will not be able to attend as he will be out of town. They will have the information out to everyone by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Cost Share Update and Reps for 2017-**Discussion followed of selecting representatives. Chip will stay on for 2017, Mitch is done, 2016 was his last year. Aaron Hull is interested in serving. Kali explained this is a huge commitment as you review all proposals which takes 40 hours or more. You will receive the information a week or so before you meet in Boise for 2-full days of meetings which includes one day of interviews and one day to crunch the numbers. The following groups have representatives on the Review Committee: IAWCS-2, IWCA-2, IWCC-2, the feds have one rep which may cross over, Joey represents bio and there is one member at large. ISDA will reimburse your travel if you need help with that. Bill is interested in serving if Aaron is not able to.

**IAWCS Website/Facebook-**Jeremy reported things are going fine. If there is something we wish to have on the website just let him know. Jeremy shared with the board our website will need renewed prior to March 24, 2017.

**Realtor's Association-**Jeffrey reported the conference will be held in October in Coeur d'Alene. It is thought last year's booth fee was \$300. It was discussed that we can take formal action on this at the summer meeting. Brad asked about info to display. Jeffrey said it's not about killing weeds. It's about being stewards of the land. What you can do as a realtor to help with this, he remains very generic in the newsletter articles he writes. We can do one day or two days with the booth. Jeffrey will get the actual costs to us soon. Bill Hargrave stated Kootenai County will commit \$50 to help with the booth fee. Motion was made by Kali Sherrill to do the booth in Coeur d'Alene., seconded by Jeffrey. Motion carries unanimous.

### **New Business**

**2016 Annual Meeting Evaluations-**The board reviewed the evaluations from our annual meeting. It was determined that Jim McNall, ICRMP is very popular and will be on the agenda for 2017. One of the things the members would like to see him cover is hiring young people, those under 18. Ask him to talk about the Department of Labor's point of view, and have him cover the liabilities. It was suggested to have him speak for two hours with a break after one hour. NPDES updates were requested. It was requested he speak for one hour giving updates on renewals/changes. Notice of Intent (NOI) will need renewed this year or next.

Speaker's requested for 2017

1. Jim McNall, ICRMP for 2 hours
2. NPDES Updates-Dirk Helder

IAWCS Spring Exec. Board Meeting, Salmon, ID. 4-6-2016

The meeting location was discussed. Jeffrey asked about restricting the meeting to superintendents only, no staff. It is thought we can get by with this location and the current attendance at this time. Lunch has been sponsored by Dow the last 2-years. Some complained about pizza but the board feels this is fine and easy to deal with.

The evaluations suggest that Dan Chadwick, IAC be left off the agenda next year. Maybe invite IAC every other year. He did not seem prepared to speak. We do want to keep this relationship alive but his presentation is stale. Several years ago a survey was done of the weed sups and it was requested this be done again. It would address things like do you wear more than one hat. Alan feels it is more important to have a good program than being a fulltime superintendent.

**Fall Executive Board Meeting**-Region 2 will be hosting this meeting. Possible locations include Riggins or Grangeville. Connie and Alan will work on this. It was pointed out the fall steelhead run may be occurring.

**LIA Nominations**- Bill Hargrave and Steve Anderson are interested in attending in the future. Jeremy suggested we approach new weed superintendents. Discussion of new weed superintendents getting settled in before attending. The issue that occurred with the Owyhee County sup a few years ago was noted.

Our policies adopted 10/8/14 reflect the following guidelines:

*Financial assistance for Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA)*

- A. *Requests for financial assistance should be made in writing to the IAWCS Chair, preferably by the spring Exec Board meeting, and should include the reasons for wanting to attend LIA, and how attending LIA will benefit the applicant and IAWCS. Also include any other financial support requested and a letter of support from your commissioners.*
- B. *Applicant's County must be a current dues paying member of IAWCS.*
- C. *Weed Superintendents shall have 1<sup>st</sup> priority, with preference given to Exec Board Members.*
- D. *The Chair will bring the request to the Exec Board, who will make a decision on granting financial assistance no later than the summer Exec Board meeting.*
- E. *The amount shall be no more than one half of the LIA tuition amount.*

If Aaron Hull is not able to attend, David Herter will request assistance to attend LIA at our summer meeting.

**Weed Superintendent of the Year**-The nomination process was touched upon and a gentle reminder these will be due early December so be thinking. Remember the written nomination that must be sent, not just a sentence or two.

**Aquatic Proposal**-Brian Wilbur, Ada County Weed & Pest shared they are trying to identify weak areas in their program and aquatics is one of them. They do not participate in legislative activities their attorneys handle those things. The attorney's won't even talk to Brian about this matter without the support of this group. They directed him to our organization, and once again he has come to this group to solve this matter. He does not have answers but needs our assistance. He presented an overview of how Ada County handles aquatic matters and why he has problems. They receive a tax levy and he does a revenue estimate each year. Revenue is very important and they must collect the funds or people get laid off. He must have the cash on hand to back his budget or he doesn't get to spend it. He asked if anyone has ever had a weed notice appealed. Brian has had one repealed as did Terry Lee. They developed a land management plan with the landowners with goals, maps of where things are in the comprehensive Ada County plan. It lists controls, watering practices including proposed timelines. They then developed a contract that must be signed at an open commissioner meeting. This particular landowner has their own attorney that goes to the Ada County meetings. Ada County does verbal and signed complaints which must include their name, contact information etc. The Ada county attorneys are very conservative won't let Brian go in until they receive the card the landowner has been notified. He typically gives them two weeks (14) days. One he didn't receive anything back for 77 days. Brian can post but he must cooperate with the Ada County attorneys who are not happy. He waited on one for over a year. He even complained to the US Postal Service. He then talked about enforcement liens. He sends the bill to the landowner, 60 days from the date of the bill they prepare a lien, this goes to the Board of County Commissioners, the lien is then recorded

and a copy is sent to the owner. If they do not pay it, it's put on their taxes. If you call and ask Ada County to treat it becomes a material man's line. They send the bill, 60 days from the date the work is completed, if they don't pay the lien notice the same process begins again. In four months Brian sends the 2<sup>nd</sup> demand letter for payment, if not paid the prosecutor's office files a lawsuit because the lien expires in six months. Silver Lake Enforcement-the lake is three big gravel pits which now has about 40 acres of water. The irrigation ditch opens and goes through three ponds then into the lake. The overflow goes to Boise drinking wells, golf course and vineyard. Many land parcels own out into the water. These are expensive homes, townhouses and a business complex. Brian worked with the canal company to shut the water off. One landowner had four attorneys present, 2 landowners held aquatic application up for 3 years. In preparation for treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil they posted very 200 feet, published public notice in the newspaper. His area of notification expanded greatly. The Idaho Athletic Club members have swimming privileges in this body of water. He had to notify each member of the club. He was able to reduce the list by 25%. He notified 645 people and the health club did their own notifications. He had to notify both landowners and renters, he hired marshals to knock on doors. DEQ and ISDA were involved. He stated every ditch is different. Some have Homeowners Associations, some own to the middle of the ditch others do not. Developers may leave a no man's land which is land locked places along waterways they can't get to. Property owners often don't let Brian's department have access. This particular HOA has aquatic management on staff, but won't treat Eurasian Watermilfoil because they will kill the algae. They won't do it as part of a contract as it's too controversial. The lake is owned by the HOA. 80% are good to work with, the other 20% are a nightmare. This whole process took so long, Brian's revenues ran short and the cost of all of this is unknown to date. Brian has to pay for attorneys out of his budget which averages \$25,000 per year in fees. Brian is working with the development people to change the right of way setbacks etc. If people make a legitimate complaint Brian must act. There is an agriculture field with a patch of Canada thistle, the irrigation company told Brian they would press trespassing charges and sue him if he crossed the property. The state came in and helped him with the lake issue. They said you will do this which occurred in 2006. Brian is concerned with the new additions to noxious weed lists especially aquatics. He is not doing his job and not controlling it. He thinks irrigation laws suggest they take care of noxious weeds and make it a requirement. Brian is looking for suggestions and is there anything this group can do? They are going to try to go to legislators and get them on board. Kali asked why the city of Boise can't take more responsibility. Legislators told him if he doesn't get IWCA and our support they won't talk to him. He failed with us before regarding the nuisance ordinance. He can write this up his way. The board asked Brian to write up a proposal and bring back to this board. Steve Anderson said in Payette Lake they use a dredge pump and budget \$25,000 per year for milfoil control. Ada County did have some folks hired to hand pull milfoil. Ponds are becoming an issue statewide. David Herter said it's easy to deal with the developer but tough when it's sold and you are dealing with 650 landowners. This summer he is going to do a legislative tour around these areas to show them what he is dealing with. Terry advised him to move forward with the proposal and bring back to us. Brian will be in collaboration with his attorneys to write this.

### **Other Business**

The Boise District BLM updating their herbicide list was announced. IWCA supports IPM and wants to see this list updated. It is very important for us to comment on this matter. It was noted the Salmon office has started this process also. Motion was made by Jeffrey to write a letter of support to Boise, Salmon and other BLM offices that may come up in the future. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kali Sherrill, motion carries unanimous.

Motion was made by Jeffrey Pettingill to adjourn, seconded by Bill Hargrave. Motion carries unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Immediately after the meeting Jeremy Varley, Lemhi County Superintendent did a drone demonstration outdoors for those who wanted to stay.