

WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2023, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Microsoft Teams online

Attending: Roger Canfield, Breanne Chavez, Theresa Knutsen, Jeff Van Lierop, Dan Meier, Richard Roozen

WSDA: Scott Brooks, Benita Matheson, Brad White, Lara Massey

Guests: Maria Marlin – Washington Invasive Species Council, Alison Halpern – WA State Conservation Commission, B’Elanna Rhodehamel – WA State Conservation Commission, Richie Steffens – Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, Mike Coussens – Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden, Scott Harper – WSU CPCNW

Meeting opened: 9:05 am

Welcome & NAC term renewals

- Scott introduced Maria Marlin from the Washington Invasive Species Council.
- Scott reviewed the NAC roster and the terms expiring in 2023.
 - WSDA will work with Breanne to fill existing vacancies on the committee for Fruit Tree Nurseries, Flower Growers, Independent Retail Nurseries/Garden Centers, Vineyards.

Fee Increase Rulemaking Update

Scott reviewed fee increase effective June 2, 2023. Fee increase worksheet displayed on Teams.

- The Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) was completed in February. It shows the fee increases to be below the minor cost threshold for small businesses.
- Stakeholders being notified by Listserv message in March
- Public Hearing on April 25 at 10:00am-11:30am
- May 2 is the adopted date of the rule change, and 30 days later it becomes effective
- June 2 is the effective date of the fee increases.
- Dan requested a copy of the fee increase sheet.

Riparian Plant Propagation Program – [WA State Conservation Commission](#)

B’Elanna gave a rundown of the new Riparian Plant Propagation program.

- Requests for proposals have already gone out to conservation districts. Next to nurseries.
- WSDA Plant Services will be sending out a notice on our Nursery listserv about this funding opportunity.
- Breanne will also send out notice to WSNLA membership.

JB Expanded Quarantine Update

Benita provided a rundown of JB trapping and quarantine history. Pictures of JB finds, damage to flowers, etc. can be found on WSDA’s Flickr account: [Insect Pest Trapping | Flickr](#)

2022 continued trapping and began treating quarantine area.

- Caught 23,000 JB in 2022 trapping season - 3016 traps. Also 100 beetles found in Wapato, 1 in Richland.
- ER rule to expand boundaries went into effect immediately and lasts for 120 days. May be extended while permanent rulemaking completed. Currently collecting consent forms for this season's treatment. Hope is that numbers will decrease further in this year's trapping.
- WSDA hired a specialist for completing outreach to nurseries at the borders and within the quarantine.
- Received funding for another year to continue surveillance and eradication.
- Nurseries within the quarantine area are now required to have compliance agreements in place for shipping. So you may see new certificates indicating compliance with the JB quarantine from nurseries within the quarantine boundaries.
- Breanne asked about future funding beyond this year. Benita and Brad shared WSDA has to apply every year for state funding, so no definite answer, but can confirm that for both USDA and WSDA the goal is eradication, not management.

Online Enforcement Update

Scott gave an update on WSDA's online enforcement efforts funded through a USDA APHIS grant.

- Tristan Carette-Meyers has transitioned to a full-time nursery inspector for Seattle. Still assisting, but bulk of online enforcement has been taken over by another project employee, Anthony.
- Ongoing surveillance work will continue by program field staff and supervisors after federal funding ends June 30.
- WSDA is planning to collaborate on a training video and downloadable outreach material for online plant purchases that will be shared with other Ag departments from other states. Indiana DNR contacted and will collaborate with WSDA.
- Scott shared the numbers of contacts made with online plant shippers and potential quarantine violations halted over the funding period.

Mahonia Trial Progress Report

Scott gave a short history of this NAC funded project at South Seattle College. Richie Steffen and Mike Coussens of the [Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden](#) provided an update on the current status.

- Richie shared a little about the Miller Botanical Garden and their main educational and outreach effort, [Great Plant Picks](#).
- Showed a presentation of the project so far, with pictures of some of the Mahonia and the plot itself.
- College campus and the plot was locked up during Covid so maintenance was not kept up. Water also shut off, which helped indicate those varieties with strong drought tolerance.
- Miller Garden staff came in, and working with SSC staff, cleaned up plot, completed pruning, etc.
- Left water off to continue to assess drought tolerance while evaluating plants. Will turn water back on this season as evaluation is completed.
- Some specimens in this trial are already on the USDA rust-resistant list. Recommendation evaluations for those for their Great Plant Picks program will begin soon.
- Currently taking cuttings and propagating some specimens with potential for forwarding to USDA for rust resistance testing. Showed pictures of two varieties showing commercial potential with compact, colorful growth: SS-039 and SS-038 are showing commercial potential with compact, colorful growth.

- Dan asked if DNA testing has been done on any of the specimens. Richie shared no DNA testing has been completed, but agreed the two with commercial potential don't appear to be straight *M. repens*.
- SSC has future plans for the planted area, so Miller Garden hopes to have rooted cuttings for most of these by end of 2024. Will report in the future on that.

Financials

Scott reviewed the NAC financials from the current biennium.

FY24 Proposal Review

This year's proposals up for review. Notification letters of committee's decisions will go out in two weeks to applicants.

Continuing projects:

Project Title	Principal Investigator(s)	Request
57640-23-4-02 yr 2 Controlled Environment Production of Fruit Tree Planting Stock	Nathan Tarlyn - Qualterra, Inc.	\$ 38,000.00

New Projects:

57640-24-1-01 Annual Tree Fruit Funding for CPCNW Operations	Scott Harper - WSU CPCNW	\$ 162,476.00
57640-24-2-01 Reclad the CPCNW public fruit tree screenhouse	Scott Harper - WSU CPCNW	\$ 100,000.00
57640-24-3-01 Prohibited Plants and Seeds Education Outreach - Raising Awareness	Justin Bush - WISC/RCO	\$ 36,000.00
57640-24-4-01 Evaluating New Stone Fruit Cultivars for Western Washington	Per McCord - WSU IAREC	\$ 7,728.00
57640-24-5-01 Cryptostroma corticale survival and sporulation	Gary Chastagner, Joseph Hulbert, Marianne Elliott - WSU	\$ 29,186.00
Late submission: Advancing Puget Sound Native Plant Propagation	Jon Bakker, SER - UW Native Plant Nursery	\$ 10,200.00

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Next meeting date TBD