

## Pollinator Health Task Force Meeting Minutes

12/9/2019

21 North 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Conference Room 238, Yakima, WA 98902

Chair: Katie Buckley, WSDA

Meeting Start at 10:00 am

### Introduction

Katie began the meeting by introducing herself, and the bill that created the pollinator program for the WSDA and the pollinator health task force: SSB 5552. The bill acknowledges the importance of pollinators and is responsible for creating a pollinator health program within the WSDA, creating a task force that will give recommendations to the legislature, adding pollinators and pollinator habitat to the list of things state land managing agencies must consider in their land acquisition and management, as well as authorizes municipalities to create community gardens and urban agricultural zones.

Recording of the meeting was started.

0:00:00 to 0:15:15      Introductions by attending people

**State agencies presentations:** What we currently do regarding pollinators, and give an example of something we think we could do better (Department of Natural Resources representative was not available)

0:16:43                      Washington State Department of Agriculture

0:30:36                      Conservation Commission

0:37:55 – 0:52:44      Break

0:53:01                      Department of Fish and Wildlife

1:03:23                      State Parks and Recreation Commission

1:06:42                      Washington State Department of Transportation

1:24:44                      Noxious Weed Control Board

**Participating pollinator related organization presentations:** What do you do? What expertise do you offer? How do we help each other?

Note: The video and the audio diverged at this point. It appears that shared screens are not recorded on the video part of the recording for some reason. For the following presentations, please see attached accompanying files.

1:44:50                      FieldWatch

2:09:46                      Xerces Society

2:33:07                      Bee Informed Partnership

## **Minnesota as a great example**

3:02:20 Presentation on what Minnesota did, and how they did it (Minnesota reports and recommendations are suggested reading), and how we may want to adapt that to Washington

## **Discussion**

3:10:12 - 3:54:19 Discussion of how we will conduct future meetings

It sounds like most people prefer centralized meeting locations. The bill requires the task force finish their recommendation report to the legislature by December 31, 2020. It was advised that the report should be given to the legislature by November 1 if we wish for meaningful action during the 2021 legislative session.

It was recommended that we adopt a charter to have guidelines for participation of task force members. That will be sent out for review soon for editing. The charter will be adopted at the beginning of the next meeting. Voting members should attend all meetings. Experts should be invited to give presentations at meetings. Please encourage participation by people you know are interested! (Keep Katie in the loop if people want to give presentations or attend in person.)

WSU researchers will be kept in the loop. The new WSU bee research center will probably be available to host meetings after March.

A work plan and timeline will be sent out (with the charter) by Katie for when voting needs to happen, presentations and recommendations by subcommittees needs to happen. People present also signed up for their subcommittees. People not present should email Katie with what subcommittees they want to be on. Subcommittees are as follows:

Habitat

Pesticides

Education & Communication

Managed Pollinators

Research

Subcommittees will be responsible for putting together an outline and proposals for their topic. Katie will be responsible for each subcommittee's facilitation and scheduling WebEx meetings. Proposals put forward by the subcommittees will then be discussed and voted on by the whole group to push forward as a recommendation to the legislature. See attached subcommittee list (which will be subject to change.) We will use Google Docs for subcommittee planning, and WebEx will be available.

The goal is to make recommendations to the legislature, to get bills passed and projects funded. Focus on what is achievable, what is achievable now, and what will make the most difference.

Next meeting will be held in late February and will be decided by Doodle poll. Katie will send out Doodle polls for the next 5 meetings. The first meeting will discuss Pesticides and Education & Communication (see work plan for schedule.)

Accompanying files from first meeting: SSB 5552, Minnesota Pollinator Reports from 2017, 2018 and 2019, Minnesota Pollinator Task Force Recommendations to the Legislature, Work plan, Charter, Subcommittee list, FieldWatch, Xerces Society, and Bee Informed Partnership presentations