WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2020 Annual Meeting – Maui, HI

Office or Committee Name: Legislative
Officer or Chairperson Name: Stephen A. Valenti
Date of Preparation (include year): 2/24/2020
Activities during the year Developed, maintained, and updated the contact list of state weed coordinators for the 23 western states, and 4 Canadian provinces that can provide updates on key state legislative issues, but specifically new laws and changes regarding the invasive and noxious weed lists. Contacted state weed coordinators by phone, email, vmail, whatever was needed. They were mostly individuals who participate in the Western Weed Coordinators Committee (WWCC). Not all states and provinces participate in this committee and not all states have state weed coordinators. Valenti participated in Science and policy Committee conference calls when able.
Enter committee or officer activities since the last meeting here.
Attended most Science and Policy Committee Conference Calls. I missed a few due to field activities and other job-related conflicts. In my absence Rachel Zugar will attend the Science and Policy committee meeting at WSSA/WSWS if her schedule permits.

Efforts were made to contact via phone calls, vmail, and or email, all state weed coordinators and equivalent personnel in the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan (where the contact information was accurate) in December through February. Most of the contact information was updated through various means, but it still needs work, and continual updating because of changing cell numbers, email, and personnel, lets keep updating.

Contact was made by Stephen Valenti and Rachel Zugar in Winter of 2020. **The goal was to ask the weed coordinators 3 questions and update the contact list.**

1) **Have there been legislative or administrative changes to the invasive or noxious weed lists in your states/provinces in the last year?**
2) **Do you know of other local weed control issues becoming more problematic?**
3) **How can WSWS be more of service to the WWCC?**

Budget Needs: None but need to appoint a person as a Liaison to the WWCC. If my memory serves me right that was approved from a recommendation made in 2018/2019.
Name of Person Preparing This Report: Stephen A. Valenti

Results of calls from Valenti and Zugar.

State	Weed Coordinators	Comments (2019)	Comments (2020)
New Mexico	**Unknown**	NTR = Nothing to report	NTR, Sent Email
North Dakota	**Richard Weisz**	May add Hounds Tongue to noxious weeds list. Leg. meets in 19	No new legislative actions in 19. Administratively added Palmer and Hounds tongue. Local Issues – Funding, Palmer is a big deal will require everyone to work as a team to manage. Mapping for noxious and Invasive weeds, sharing of information between states critical for success. Nothing comes to mind regarding WSWS
Oregon	**Tim Butler**	NTR = Nothing to report	Called 2/10, 2/18 w/vmail, email sent. NTR
Idaho	**Jim Varley**	67 weeds on noxious weeds list. No additions	Called 1/30, Called 2/18 with vmail, sent email. NTR
Alaska	**Dan Coleman**	NTR	Called 1/30, vmail, sent email. NTR
Arizona	**Unknown**	NTR	NTR
California	**David Kratville**	NTR	Called 2/10, no vmail, sent email. NTR
Colorado	**Steve Ryder**	May drop some legacy weeds such as bouncing bet from noxious weeds list. May add flowering rush.	Bill introduced to reclassify neonics as restricted use. Bill to repeal state preemption by local gov't. Palmer and T. Waterhemp may be declared as invasive but then what do you do with them if that is the case. Currently listed as a contaminate in seed. They have had rejected loads for millet. Locally municipalities are trying to eliminate the use of herbicides but then how do they eliminate the nox./invasive weeds. Misses extension out in the country.
Hawaii	**Becky Azama**	No revisions to noxious weed list. AIS a huge problem,	Hawaii Dept. Of Ag has no updates to the noxious weed and noxious weed list. Hawaii is a unique place with a lot of human movement into the islands, undesirable weed pests find there way to Hawaii. One weed of concern is Chromolaena odorata, Siam or devil weed on Oahu. The Department is considering biological control for this species. The Oahu Invasive Species Committee and the Oahu Army Natural Resource Program have been working to control CHRODO. https://pcsuhawaii.org/projects/oanrp/reports/2018/A3-6.pdf
Montana	**Jasmine Reimer**	NTR	No new legislative actions. By rule Ventanata was added to the noxious weed list. Palmer was petitioned to get in 2019. Their committee? said no to adding it as a noxious weed but it is on the prohibited weed seed list. Literature and research are hard for landowners to access.

Nebraska	**Mitch Coffin**	Nothing to report. Leg. Meets in Jan 19. Japanese and Giant Knotweed added to the nox. weed list.	Nothing new legislatively or from an administrative standpoint regarding invasives or noxious weed list. Palmer is not on the noxious weed list. No new local issues. Nothing comes to mind regarding WSWS.
South Dakota	**Jeremy Phelps (new to position)**	NTR	Nothing will come out legislatively until March. No local issues to report on. Palmer is an issue but not enough to be a state-wide noxious weed.
Nevada	**Sean Gephardt** President of WWCC 2-year term through 2020	Weeds added to noxious weeds list. Flowering rush, Desert knapweed, Curley leaf pondweed, Buffle grass, Ventenada, Barbed Goatgrass, Jointed goatgrass	Proposed some new statues to include penalties and more teeth for enforcement. Make the WSWS more local.
Washington	**Dana Coggon** (changes coming in office). Comments from Mary Fee Executive Secretary WA State Weed Control Board	153 species of concern.	1 Class A addition to the state noxious weed list, South American Spongeplant, found in Pacific County. It is an aquatic possibly released from an aquarium that forms a dense mat on the water surface. There is one known infestation in Washington and very difficult to control. Also, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has been working on recommended changes to RCW 17.10, which is the primary weed law. The recommendations have been heard by Senator Warnick and Rep. Dent as Senate bill 6401, and House Bill 2697 and are currently in legislation. "I don't believe either bill will make it through legislation this session, but we might see it next session. The changes to RCW 17.10 are primarily technical changes to improve the ability of the state noxious weed board, county noxious weed boards, and WSDA to carry out their duties and authorities assigned under this chapter. More detail to find in the link https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/whats-new.
Wyoming	**Slade Franklin**	23 weed and pest districts, can act independently, resolution from the Wyoming board of ag to add 4 weeds to the noxious weeds list, they include: medusa head, Yellow star thistle, Ventanata, Common mullein	New Governor initiated an invasive committee to improve on management. 2 bills to be introduced to increase funding for invasives in rights of way and enforcement language to push the major landowners in the NE to manage Medusa head and Ventanata. From a political and national perspective in the Omnibus Transportation Bill came a request for funding from Senator Barasso's office, this is Senate Bill 2302 for funding for invasive weed control. Democrats pushed back because of the butterfly's need for a pollinator corridor. They want to know how this interferes with the corridor as weeds are controlled.

Kansas	**Scott Marsh**	Legislatively, sweeping revisions to the weed law. Updated the regulations to reflect the changes. They did pull the noxious weed list out of legislation and placed in regulatory. Developing advisory committee to make changes, to weed list dated 04'	5 years of work on the weed law in Kansas now statute. Noxious list moved from statute to regulation. Scientific approach to adding weeds rather than emotional. 13-member advisory committee working on the noxious list with oversight. Palmer considered native and will not be added to the invasive noxious weed list. Local issues with 2 species of invasive Caucasian and Yellow bluestem from the dustbowl days. Not on the list because they are to far behind the 8 ball. Creating a new list will remove pignut and Indian rush pea. Teasel can be a local issue in eastern Kansas.
Oklahoma	**Unknown**	NTR	NTR
Utah	**Robert Hougaard**	NTR	Called 2/10, Called 2/18 w/vmail, email sent.
Texas	**Unknown**	NTR	NTR
Saskatchewan	**Clark Benzil**	Left message	Called, left message,
Alberta	**Chris Neeser**	NTR	Via email.No changes to the Weed Control Act in the immediate future. However, a review of the noxious /prohibited weed regulations is planned to start soon. Invasive weed that are a growing concern are Phragmites (increasing number of locations), Ventenata dubia (present in neighboring jurisdictions), and glyphosate resistant kochia (rapidly spreading).
British Col.	**David Ralph (ret.)**	**NTR**	Retired, didn't know replacement, however British Columbia's invasive weeds board have David Ralph as the contact.
Manitoba	**Andrew Lewis (new)**	Revising the Noxious Weeds Act. 3 tiers Tier one weeds eradication eg. Orange hawkweed, Tier 2 eg. L.spurge, Tier 3 eg. kochia	Tier 1 Noxious weeds to include Palmer and Tall Waterhemp and require total eradication. Tier 2 managed according to the size of infestation. Tier 3 include weeds such as Kochia, Common and Giant Ragweed, Thistles, and Lambquarter's and must be controlled if the weeds uncontrolled growth has a negative impact on the economy, environment, or the well being of residents near-by. Utilize early detection rapid response to combat new invasive threats before the problem spreads.

State Weed Coordinators (Invasive/Noxious Weeds)–2019/2020 (Updated From 2018/2019)

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