

WWCC in Denver, CO meeting minutes. December 2-3, 2025

12/2/25

Dan Takiela
Rebekah Wallace (EDDMapS)
MyKayla Spencer
James Jackson (TX) Allegory
Scott Erthum
Shannon Clark
Derik Sebastian
Aaron Eagar
Becca Winston
Jake Dick
Carol Randall
Jasmine
Emilie Justen (MN online)
Hilary Smith
Trevor Johnson (NB online)
Anthony Sowers (online)
Matt Baur (regional IPM)
Lindsey Woodward
Brenda Witkowski
Erika Edmiston
Kim Wahl
Michelle Cox
Aaron Foster

Minutes passed unanimously with a few edits for name misspellings.

Financial Review: Jasmine sent the WWCC Ledger.

Agenda review

WWCC Board Report – no letters of support. The board did start discussions with the WSWs to combine the meetings. WSWs typically meets in March. For 2026, we don't know what next year will look like, but we might have a reduced meeting next year and then meet at the WSWs meeting in CA in March 2027. We would have a day of our meeting and then participate in the WSWs meeting. We want to be strategic on when our meeting will mesh

with theirs. MIA and Carol Randall will be working on the WWAP. Dashboards are in the works and there is grant funding to get them done.

Dan – Annual discussion of trends: 5 questions for the WWCC Survey. Refer to ppt for specifics. The whole point of having the dashboards is to convey the accomplishments of our collective group. The cost of doing nothing – the agricultural loss (not sure who was speaking) regarding the economic impact analysis. Need a link for accomplishments to bring it back to the WWAP on the WWCC website (Becca). This is a way to aggregate economic analyses and make it more powerful – or at least use the model.

Carol/Becca – WWAP: Overview of the WWAP – chapters 1-3. Probably good to split the chapters more so that the “pretty” document isn’t so long. Funding is available to get dashboards done and these can be customized.

Biocontrol Update: Melissa presented on the CABI Weed Biocontrol Update via Phil. Aaron presented on the trickle-down impacts of those losses. Trying to avoid WY counties losing interest due to a lapse in funding.

Workshop planning/discussion: See Dan’s presentation. Patty: CO is struggling with the length of their list. How to take/add species from the list. Lots of requests to add species. Need to talk to industry (seed and feed). They have law in their statutes too. Some states have a cap on the size of their list. Looking to streamline the process.

State Weed Coordinator Alliance Meeting:

Vote for Secretary and Treasurer:

Secretary – Jake Dick. Joey moved and Carol seconded

Treasury – Jasmine Chaffee offered to stay in that role.

True Grit award: Carol Randall! See slide for summary.

WSWS Vote: This meeting would be the first week of November which might overlap with other state meetings. Motion to have a combined WSWS WWCC meeting in CA that requires a modification to the usual meeting and format. Motion to accept by Aaron Eagar, seconded by Jake Dick. Caveat: keep the trend data Dan presented going forward. Vote passes by majority, but not unanimously.

McKayla Spencer – IInSRRT: Refer to presentation – this is a fantastic opportunity to engage in the DOI side of the house to respond to new invasions with an intent to eradicate them. There are still specifics to iron out, but they hope to be live in July of 2026.

Jaycie Arndt: IMAGINE: Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems. Jaycie took the program over for Brian. Have conducted several workshops and virtual webinars which are available on the website. Virtual webinar will be in April. Several publications have been completed.

Michelle Cox: Invasive Species and Firefighting Operations – Prevention via understood pathways. Understaffed. Presentation will be made available to the group.

Rebekah Wallace: EDDMapS Update – See the presentation. Lost their FS advocate. New training page.

State Updates:

Trevor Johnson (NE) – awarded funds to areas that had interstate compacts. \$355k for this year and next year. There was a request to give the money back to the legislature. Created a pamphlet to provide identification and reporting resources for species of concern. Modify seed regulations. Those were approved by the governor. Seeing a lot of turnover with county weed superintendents.

Discussion about how county weed sups requirement vary by state.

Scott Erthum (NE) – biocontrol.

Jenn Andreas (WA) – a slide with updates. 168 weeds on the weed list. 43 class A, 70 class B, 55 class C. 49 on the monitor list. *Orobancha cumana* – sunflower bloomrape is a root parasite of sunflowers. 60 year seeds. 1st known occurrence in NA.

Emilie Justen (MN) – grant to fund weeds was not funded, but funds were given to support the noxious weed law. ToH showed up 2 months ago.

Shannon Clark (Envu and WSWs) – there to support both feds and non feds. Have updates for chemistry recommendations. Assisting local BLM offices with rejuvra (imazapic). TrueRange – with EPA has to go through an endangered species review. WSWs – invasive plants committee – will be a permanent committee by next year.

Seth Flanigan (BLM) – hiring freezes and budget cuts. Not much to report besides we did not lose a lot of people at the state level. Anthony Sowers was hired behind Richard Lee.

Operating under a CR – 33% will carry us through the end of January at which point we'll know more. Looking at a 10% reduction off the 2025 appropriation.

Matt Baur (Wester IPM Center) – discussion session on weeds and wildfires for the WSWWS in Tucson. Attended NAISMA in Lake Tahoe. Linking information between the various levels of management. Plant right effort – this has been an effective effort to look at invasive traits of plants. Grant program is accepting applications through Friday. Funding levels are at about \$40k per year for one year grants.

Dan Tekiela (FS) – a lot of change with very little update. Don't have an invasive plant coordinator at the national level. Have kept the regional coordinators but will be consolidated. Not sure how that looks. From a regional standpoint, nearly all of the funding is being distributed (region 2). Lost about half of their personnel.

James Jackson (Allegory) – public awareness and tech support. Generic products with folks in the field.

Patty York (CO) – hired mapping and data specialist. Hiring interns, one will focus on a potential economic impact study. Found an 80 acre patch of rush skeletonweed. Budget cut by 37%. Still able to award 24 grants. 2026 grant cycle will have about \$500k. Did receive SPF grant for about \$580k. Working with NAISMA and to update their website. Did a “show me” float on the Yampa. New Conservation Division Director wants to do a field day. Went to Boulder County and looked at med sage.

Lindsey Woodward (WY) – fires were very devastating. Got almost \$50m for grass work – seeding and treatment. Expecting more money on the prevention side. They have Ventanata established and it's sparse. Did not add cheatgrass to their list. They're going to try again next year. WY voted to cut property taxes by 25% and this is the base funding for weed and pest districts. Will vote again this year.

Aaron Eagar (UT) – added 2 aquatics. 2025 budget was the same. 2026 will be \$1m less due to pulling for another program. Palmer amaranth and ToH have been noticed by the public. Neither are on the list. Biocontrol was strong this year. Able to maintain it and increase it by 6%. Moved to doing videos and a lot of marketing to the CWMAs because they can't lobby. It's a bottom up approach.

Becca Winston (MIA) – a lot of development this year. Dashboards – working on CO's and hoping to have that developed in the next week or two and then moving on to MN and NV.

Also working on the WWAP. Looking for ways to feature specific pillars and actions. This is a way to let folks know those resources are there.

Jake Dick (NV) – medusahead mapping project with UNR using drones to map 4 sites. Making progress with shared stewardship groups. Found Ventanata in Washoe County. Found rush skeletonweed in Winnemucca and Washoe. Andrea has been doing great with biocontrol. 3rd annual coordinator's meeting.

Carol Randall (retired FS) – still running the quarterly biocontrol call. Has been using Bugwood Connect to manage emails.

Jasmine Chaffee (MT) – War on Weeds podcast with extension agents. Weed listing meeting is looking to petition Japanese Yew. Moving tansy ragwort and scotch broom up the list (there's less of it). Separating aquatics and terrestrial weeds. Down to one biocontrol researcher in MT. AmeriCorps is helpful for their program.