

MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
June 2, 2003
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, Maryland
Minutes

9:45 - Call to order Bob Tichenor

Changes/additions to agenda. None.

Dick Bean, MDA PPWM
Carole Bordelon, USDA/ARS/USNA
Dave Clement, UM HGIC
*Susan Douglas, MDE
William F. Gimpel, Jr., MDA PPWM
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI
Carol Holko, MDA PPWM
Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries
Carol Jelich, MNPS
Richard Johnstone, Conectiv Power
Kerrie Kyde, USDA ARS, MA-EPPC

John Lydon, USDA ARS
Jonathon McKnight, MD DNR
Mary Kay Malinoski, UM HGIC
Caroline Myers, MDE
Don Robbins, MDA-PPWM
*Sean Sipple, MDE
*Jil Swearingen, National Park Service (NPS)
Al Tasker, USDA APHIS
Sarah Tasker
Bob Tichenor, MDA FPM
Bob Trumbule, MDA PPWM

* indicates new attendee

Minutes

Approved as noted and changed. Passed.

Presentation: Integrated Vegetation Management and Partnerships, Richard A. Johnstone, System Forester, Conectiv Power Delivery

- Website: www.vegmgmt.com
 - Conectiv comprises former Delmarva Power and Light, Atlantic Energy, and PEPCO
 - Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) = IPM for Plants.
 - In utility rights-of-way, anything tall is a weed, i.e. will interfere with the power lines.
 - Vegetation management in rights of way are considered a national security issue - grid stability.
 - Mowing has been the primary management tool in rights of way, but presents problems such as ruts, oil/gas pollution, excessive regrowth, and eliminating both good and bad plants, leaving little cover for wildlife.
 - IVM uses herbicides combined w/mowing, controlled burning, other?, i.e. "manage" v. "mow".
 - Goals include: long term herbicide use reduction, environmental stewardship.
 - Conectiv costs have decreased with IVM implementation.
 - Partnerships to share access, equipment, data with others with common goals.
- Examples include:
- National Park Service
 - State agreements, eg. Maryland bird census studies.
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service.
 - Universities (Rutgers) - use rights of way for education and research.
 - Industry - gas and oil pipelines.
 - Proposed IVM Partners, use existing (e.g. NJ Pinelands) regional models: Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Depts. of Agriculture, CropLife America, others.
 - Video available: Integrated Vegetation Management: Principles and Practices for Rights-of-Way, order on Web site, www.vegmgmt.com.
 - Q&A, Discussion:
 - Why isn't BGE more involved? BGE is a separate company; IVM is a big change from

mowing; PR issues (need to meet with community leaders and consumer groups); speaker is meeting with all MD utilities tomorrow, June 3.

Are underground lines a solution for the future? Problems - Need to be encased in oil to keep cool, not environmentally sound; impractical to install in hills, mountains, rocks, wetlands, etc.; extremely expensive, 10x the cost of overhead lines managed with IVM; lightning will track underground and blow the line; damage is hard to find leading to longer outages.

Entomologists should be included as partners to review bud inhibitor effect on bark beetle complex.

Is purple loosestrife managed, or documented? More prevalent closer to homes, don't actively target but will treat.

While native plants move back in naturally, what about other invasive species waiting to take over? With IVM, invasive species are managed with herbicides, spot treat w/in 2 years; prescribed mowing is not as effective because it is non-specific and not as frequent.

What about low growing, area covering species such as *Microstegium*, garlic mustard that are not managed as a threat to overhead power lines? FICMNW looking for regional projects.

Costs figures calculated for 7000 acres on Delmarva.

Are savings passed on to customers? No rate increase in 8 years.

Does Conectiv monitor for negative effects of herbicides? Yes, for both herbicides and mowing.

Is biocontrol used as a component of IVM? Would consider if appropriate.

~BREAK~

New MISC Web Site www.mdinvasivesp.org: Tour and Demo, Carol Holko

- Members can contribute information to cholkko@mda.state.md.us - news, legislation, calendar items, images, links, etc...
- Members page can be accessed directly at www.mdinvasivesp.org/members - cannot be accessed from within the site - contains minutes, calls for action.

On-going Projects and Activities - Updates and Discussion

Invader of the Month

- June - group was given opportunity to choose another invader, Council decided to go ahead with mute swan.
Cygnetts are out now, will be around for several months
Jonathon will research "before" and "after" picture for Web site. Whom to contact?
Jonathon McKnight, DNR.
- July - Mike Naylor says water chestnut is mostly under control; Council decided to go ahead as a success story; Jonathon will continue to try to coordinate with Mike Naylor for text.
- August - fire ant, Bob Trumbule will write (with a little help from his friends.)
- September - Japanese stiltgrass, Kerrie Kyde.
- Discussion:
Monthly Invaders do not need to be on the MISC list.
Daylily will be Invader next Spring, when symptoms will be obvious.
Zebra Mussel status, Jonathon McKnight - Likely to show up in Deep Creek Lake. No reasonable response yet planned.
Email suggestions for invaders of the month to Bob Tichenor,
tichenra@mda.state.md.us

Web site Development

We need to add metatags, which are keywords and content descriptions used by search engines to find Web sites - send suggested text to Bob Tichenor, tichenra@mda.state.md.us

Risk Assessment/data base committee will meet today, after this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Bean - New caterpillar, *Pryeria sinica*, found defoliating euonymous in Glen Burnie
- Information on MISC Web site, http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/pryeria_sinica.html.
MDA wants to know distribution; damage is obvious right now.
No webs, leaf feeder only - contrast to similar species that spin webs.

Don Robbins - Giant Hogweed Workshop
Mostly local attendance - parks and recreation personnel...
Six suspect giant hogweed samples submitted to date - 1 positive at Antiedam (RS's note: this diagnosis has since proven negative), 1 positive in DC - will be sprayed Monday, June 9; others were bamboo, devil's walking stick, cow parsnip.
Gary Clement (SPHD, PA) is regional contact person for giant hogweed.

Fire ants were intercepted in Maryland on palms from Florida - be on lookout in palms planted in containers or in the ground. Need follow-up on companies that may be overwintering palms in warehouses in Maryland.

Next printing of NPS/USF&WS publication, Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, can be ordered directly through the printer. More information will be posted on the MISC Web page under Current Events, In the News.

Next Meeting

August - probably 1st week; Beltsville, John Lydon will arrange for meeting room in Beltsville; final details will be posted on the Web site.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Carol Holko, Recording Secretary.

Requesting voting membership in MISC:

Jil Swearingen, National Park Service
John Lydon, ARS (former MISC member)