



Maryland Invasive Species Council
November 16, 2007
National Agricultural Library
Beltsville, MD

Call to order: 10:00 a.m., Bob Tichenor

Additions to the agenda

Introductions

Gary Barkman, Montgomery County
David Clement, UMD, MCES-HGIC
Rob Feldt, MDNR, Forest Service
Mike Hemming, Eastern Shore Nurs.
Larry Hurley, Behnke Nursery Companies
Sylvan Kaufman, Adkins Arboretum
Chris Luckett, MDE
Betty Marose, UMD Coop Extension
Phil Pannill, MDNR Forest Service
Mark Smith, MDA Weed Control
John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Sarah Widman, MDNR

Carole Bergmann, MNCPPC
Eric Duce, MD SHA
Anne Hairston-Strang, MNDR Forest Service
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI
Jay Kilian, MDNR
Kerrie Kyde, MDNR
Mary Kay Malinoski, UMD HGIC
Fredrika Moser, MD Sea Grant
Pete Rupp, MDA Weed Control
Bob Tichenor, MDA FPM
Robert Trumbule, MDA Plant Protection

Membership

None

Approval of Minutes September 2007 meeting

Draft minutes posted on website; no vote taken, will change/approve at next meeting

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Dionigi, Assistant Director, National Policy and Programs, NISC

John Peter Thompson introduced Dr. Chris Dionigi, of NISC, who gave a short history of NISC and its operations. Feds spend 1.3 billion on invasive species annually, have the lead in international involvement, port inspection. In the case of Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR), where natural processes are compromised, it makes more sense to address on a local or regional basis, as infestations cross jurisdictional boundaries. Twenty-two states have groups with structures similar to NISC.

Dr. Dionigi requested that MISC consider what mechanisms would work to form a regional group to address invasive species issues. Given that no one jurisdiction can be prepared for every contingency, he suggested that emergency management be shared among states in a defined organizing unit, such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed states, or the Mid-Atlantic states. He asked if MISC would take the lead on convening such a group to discuss how to design a structure to set management priorities and allocate funding to those priorities, as well as suggest funding mechanisms. He gave examples of such successful regional efforts as IPANE, the Center for Invasive Plant Management, the Great Lakes Panel of the ANSTF, and various Exotic Pest Plant Councils.

Discussion of this idea followed.

John Peter Thompson: There is a need for a national invasive species center, with regional centers reporting back to it.

Bob Tichenor: Dubious about EDRR (“erratic detection, reluctant response”) efforts, because local agencies are inefficient at contracting. If Maryland’s EAB effort fails, it will be in large part due to our inability to hire people quickly enough. Determining commitments from each state, setting priorities and guidelines for management could be done on a regional basis.

Fredrika Moser: The Mid-Atlantic Panel (regional body linked to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force) is developing a model plan for EDRR for use by each state in writing its own plan; it covers terrestrial as well as aquatic species

JPT: We need a report as an outcome from such a meeting or workshop, to use as support for funding requests from legislative bodies

Fredrika Moser: MAP is using the Incident Command System as a system to build on and address a single issue, but state personnel and ISC representatives need to be involved.

Chris Dionigi: What mechanisms could you design regionally that would allow for rapid funding? NISC can help with venues, agenda, list of attendees

JPT: planning a 2-day conference on gaps of knowledge in this field, to be held at the Arboretum the last week of February 2008; this would be a similar effort and I could do the bulk of the administrative work

Kerrie Kyde: Can we come up with a list of 2-3 people in adjoining states that do what each of us does, and outcomes or goals that would help you if they were regionally administered or funded?

Carole Bergmann: Supports the idea of a regional planning meeting. We should “just say yes” and do it.

Chris Dionigi: How would you set priorities for shared work? How would you disperse funds if they were available?

Betty Marose: IPM centers have a process by which they set priorities and vote on them

The group agreed to consider the idea of organizing a workshop or meeting to discuss management of invasive species priorities and funding on a regional level. Kerrie will send an email requesting input on what our goals or outcomes would be and who should be included in such a meeting.

Updates and Discussion Topics

MDA: Mark Smith, Bob Tichenor, Bob Trumbule

- There were two new bump outs of the EAB survey area, contracts are being let now for ash removal
- Gypsy moth: Expected to survey 150,000 acres of priority woods; ended up surveying between 130,000 and 140,000. Two-thirds of that acreage is west of Frederick. Easily the worst infestation in 10 years.
- *Rhinoncomimus latipes*, an Asian weevil, was released in Howard County park locations this year to combat Mile-a-minute weed, *Persicaria perfoliata*. Three generations were found since July, indicating that the weevil has gotten established, an encouraging result

DNR: Jay Kilian, Kerrie Kyde

- MD Biological Stream Survey teams found rusty crayfish for the first time in the state, in the upper Monocacy watershed in Frederick County, in Marsh Creek, which dips down into Maryland across the PA state line. Large populations, grading to virile crayfish and then natives as you go south. DNR developed a monitoring protocol and working with Hood College and the Appalachian Lab, did baseline surveys of 14 major tributaries of the Monocacy, over 15-20 river km from the Mason-Dixon Line. Rusty crayfish also found above Conowingo Dam. PA inspectors have known about this for 10 years – here is where regional communication would really help. Rusty crayfish will be moved from the “Prohibited to bring in” regulatory list to the “Prohibited to move” list, as we are

concerned about anglers who may move bait from one watershed to another. Regs are now being drafted to outlaw live crayfish as bait. This is almost entirely a bait issue, not a pet shop issue. Red swamp (also invasive, but already in MD) is the crayfish most frequently found in pet stores. Little to no chance of control of the rusty as the Monocacy is an open system, but next year's survey will show spread rate so we can estimate arrival in Potomac and warn VA. Ruth Hanessian suggested that we need a key to be able to tell the difference between species. Jay said that one is in preparation.

- The NFWF purple loosestrife control grant has been extended until February to allow us to complete equipment purchases, including a boat for biocontrol agent release and collection. Bob Trumbule – MDA beetle production has been moved from Cheltenham to the Annapolis facility where Richard Feeny and Shelley Hicks, respectively, have been in charge of beetle and host plant rearing.

Mid-Atlantic Panel: Fredrika Moser

- MAP funded several projects this year, including one on rusty crayfish demographics and spread, and another on identifying characteristics of PL invaded areas that make biocontrol more effective. Other projects funded were for "Clean Your Boat" signs for PA streams, and a workshop in PA to design an EDRR system for the state. A new RFP will be issued in January. MAP also put together recommendations for the national ANSTF's annual meeting.

Mike Hemming: Note billboards on Route 50 directing Governor O'Malley to "Save Our Swans". Suggested that members write or call to let the Governor know the other side of the issue. Several people noted that this was already being done.

Next meeting: January 24, 2008, Location to be arranged

Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.

John Peter Thompson generously arranged a tour of the special collections unit of the NAL, led by Head of Special Collections Susan Fugate and her staff, who put together a fascinating and beautiful display of some of the holdings related to invasive species. Thank you, JPT!