



Maryland Invasive Species Council
March 20, 2008
George Washington Carver Center
Beltsville, MD

Call to Order: ~9:30 a.m., John Lydon, Acting Facilitator

Additions to the agenda

Introductions

Gary Barkman, Mont. Co. Weed Control
*Jo-Ann Bentz-Blanco, USDA APHIS PPQ
Carole Bergmann MNCPPC
Brian Clark, MCE
Ernest Delfosse, USDA ARS
*Alan Dowdy, USDA APHIS
Eric Duce, SHA
Robert Feldt, MD DNR FS
Anne Hairston Strang, MD DNR FS
Lane Heimer, MDA PPWM
Mike Hemming, Eastern Shore Nurseries
Carol Holko, MDA PPWM
Marc Imlay, AWS
Sylvan Kaufman, Adkins Arboretum
Patrick Kelly, AA Co.

Kerrie Kyde, MD DNR
John Lydon USDA ARS
*Bonnie MacCulloch, DDA/DISC
Mary Kay Malinoski, MCE
Betty Marose, MCE
Ellen Nibali, MCE
Phil Pannill, MD DNR FS
Pete Rupp, MDA PPWM
Julie Slacum, USFWS
Jil Swearingen, NPS
Alan Tasker, USDA APHIS PPQ
John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Bob Tichenor, USDA APHIS PPQ
Marek Topolsko, MD DNR
*Matt Travis, USDA APHIS PPQ

*indicates new attendee

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes, September & November 2007 meetings

Motion to approve minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

Membership

Matt Travis and Brian Clark request membership. Marek Topolski and Dick Bean (pending memberships) not present. Will be voted on at next meeting attended.

Presentation: *It's Good to Stop Being Bad – a proposal to stop planting invasive exotic plants on State projects in Maryland, Phil Pannill & Kerrie Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources*

- Invasive Species Matrix Team draft proposal for State of Maryland policy for planting of invasive exotic plants on State lands or State-funded projects
- DNR will implement, other sister agencies may or may not follow suit
- Want MISC reactions to proposal and list
- New Jersey implemented similar policy in 2004
- Two options:
 1. Encourage natives, prohibit invasive exotics – burden on user to make determination. List will change.
 2. List-oriented approach. More prescriptive.

Discussion:

Need input from industry.

What about existing plantings? No budget for renovation. Logical next step.

Need middle area between options.

Add reasons native plants are important. Will be in preamble. Replace “as suitable” with “as a first choice”? Would refocus policy from non-invasive to native. Add resource

list (sources of natives, information about...) Definition of "native" is multi-dimensional. Climate change - what is native at carbon levels of 300+ ppm? Add mechanism to review the list, time interval. Criteria for listing /delisting not in scope of document.

Contracting requirement? Yes, on state lands.

List may be picked up by municipalities, planners. Many currently use USDA, Interior lists.

May potentially lead to other action. We need to be ready. Need industry input now.

Consensus of group leaning to Option 2 – Don't limit list to primarily species that people would be likely to plant. Need comprehensive list to be inclusive.

John Peter and Carol will work with Phil to reach out to industry, MaGIC.

Contact Kerrie or Phil, p pannill@dnr.state.md.us, for copy to review. They will take MISC's comments back to the DNR ISMT.

Motion to support in principal the concept of a draft policy on invasive exotic plants on State lands and to continue development of this policy for future consideration. Industry votes "present." Motion carried.

Presentation: *National Park Service proposal for an Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System for the mid-Atlantic region*, Jil M. Swearingen, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Center for Urban Ecology, Washington, DC

- Proposal submitted Feb 08 for 3-yr funding through NPS starting FY2010 (Oct. 1 2009) to develop regional EDDMapS
- University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (CISEH) will do the work.
- All invasive exotic species (insects, plants, fungi, etc) affecting natural ecosystems will be included.
- Based on Southeast EDDMapS for invasive plants developed by CISEH in 2007, available at <http://www.se-eppc.org/eddmaps/> and demonstrated by Jil
- Proposal under review; funding approvals will be made later summer 2008
- Data can be entered by experts, volunteers and other individuals with some quality control checking by system managers.

Discussion:

How different from plants.usda.gov? Concentration of EDDMapS is on invasive species affecting natural areas.

Dueling databases is an issue. Has UGA has been coordinating with others in East to assure conformity, etc.? ISAC can coordinate nationally. Can't have one mega-database, need to be able to mine and link databases so that user will have seamless interaction.

Invader of the Month, review of species and author list

- Handout attached (Attachment A).
- Suggestions? Snails, *Akebia*. Email suggestions to Kerrie, KKyde@dnr.state.md.us

Update on the invasion of Wavyleaf Basketgrass and the bio-control committee of the mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (MA-EPPC), Marc Imlay, Anacostia Watershed Society

- Request MISC input on MA-EPPC Biocontrol Committee
 - Goals include 1) Providing land managers practical up-to-date information how now to obtain bio-controls, 2) Obtaining the latest information on current distribution of bio-controls and success of the bio-controls in controlling target non-native invasive plants at the established sites, 3) Potential or actual impact of non-target plants at these sites.
 - Contact Marc, marc@anacostiaws.org, to please join this committee at whatever degree of contribution is convenient
- Wavyleaf basketgrass
 - Great opportunity for EDRR
 - AWS – 7 sites that they work on regularly
 - Article upcoming in Bay Journal
 - FWS will survey refuges

- Patch of WLBG at the 1,000 acre Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Howard County expanded from an original patch about 2 m x 2 m in 2004 to two adjacent patches measuring 3 m x 4.5 m (the original patch) and 1.5 m x .75 m in 2007 before being removed
- Generally 75% should be sprayed, 25% mixed with natives, need to be pulled
- Kerrie coordinating Central area, Marc coordinating P. G. County - need champion north of Baltimore
- Had to leave Little Paint Branch Park because seeds were starting to stick – 2 ½ month fruiting period
- MD Chapter of Sierra Club, MNPS participating
- Contact Marc to be on WLBG Task Force
- WLBG poster, developed by Betty & Kerrie, posted on DNR Website:
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/download/wlb_g_poster011108.pdf

NEWS AND NEW BUSINESS

Carol Holko

- MDA spraying 100K acres for gypsy moth, mostly Bt, some Dimilin
- EAB eradication and survey activities ongoing

Kerrie Kyde

- Bill to study methods and feasibility for reducing accidents due to deer, HB 1255 (legislation of interest to MISC is posted on Website)
- Fisheries – public hearings on regulations, includes regulation change to prohibit use of rusty crayfish as bait in Monocacy River and headwaters of Monocacy
- Maryland may start “Master Naturalists” program. Could help to get EDRR system in place. Needs volunteers to get involved, teach segments, etc...
- Plans to resurrect committee on MD Invasive Species Response Plan

Lane Heimer

- Wrapping up county meetings

Bob Tichenor

- New home at APHIS PPQ PHP – specializing in biocontrol, review permits and develop policy, international review teams
- Nasty weeds like yellow star-thistle; biocontrol may be only hope

Anne Hairston-Strang

- Applied for funding for Japanese hops
- Targeted inventory for woodland invasives

Bonnie McCulloch

- With DDA, representing Delaware Invasive Species Council (DISC) coordinates outreach
- Visiting to better understand what neighboring states are doing

John Peter Thompson

- ISAC trip to Alaska – Look at EDRR and environmental impacts on invasive species
- Helping to write landscape standards for Sustainable Landscaping initiative, <http://www.sustainablesites.org/> – plant choice including invasive species, unintended consequences
- ARS meeting held at USNA - Conservation and nursery industry participants helped to identify researchable issues on cultivars, impacts of climate change, systematics and technology,
- Working with Dr. Raven on documenting cultivated flora of N.A.

Jil Swearingen

- New fact sheet on Chinaberry posted on Weeds Gone Wild Website
- Attending Cooperative Weed Management Area Conference

Marc Imlay

- Yellow starthistle biocontrol agent not allowed on certain areas because of TES considerations
- Research on snails – will consider writing IOTM

Sylvan Kaufman

- Data request for Weeds Across Borders Conference – needs examples of programs that promote native alternatives, data on sales of native plants, anywhere, anyone. Contact Sylvan with information skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org.

AI Tasker

- Invasive Plant Mgt. Journal of WSS, Issue 1, contact AI for copy
- PTI – meeting April 1 for project selection

Matt Travis

- Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs – issues related to protecting our borders; climate change
- CITES – increasing all permitting fees
- Spice with foreign rice seed denied entry
- *Ipomea aquatica*, water spinach– seized in D.C. from ethnic market
- Snails into port primarily on tile, recently containers coming through New Jersey

John Lyden

- Waiting permission from ARS to be facilitator, then group will vote

Betty Marose

- Need case studies for WSS Invasive Plant Mgt. Journal, contact editor, Joseph DiTomaso
- Invasive Plant Short course upcoming mid-September, will send info when available

Ellen Nibali

- HGIC new edition of Master Gardener handbook, will include invasive species chapter and invasive information in weed chapter

Julie Thompson

- Late May early June – Corps of Engineers will release draft of EIS on introduction of Asian oyster, need to let NGO's know draft is coming out
- Finding Chinese mitten crab in Bay, NY, DE – Task force will put out new alert

Brian Clark

- Entomopathogenic nematode research, including one targeting scarab beetles
- PG County Master gardeners have asked the County Council to remove the Bradford pear as the designated County tree

Next Meeting – Tentatively May 23, BARC W, Bldg. 005, John will check on availability

Adjourn ~12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Holko, Recording Secretary

2008 MISC Invader of the Month -- Possibilities					
Month	Species	Author (* =proposed)	Plant	Animal	Disease
January	Water lettuce	Kerrie Kyde	x		
February	NONE				
March	Whirling disease parasite	Susan Rivers			x
April	Chestnut blight	Robert Strasser*			x
May	Robinia/Catalpa/Coralberry	Kerrie Kyde	x		
June	Gypsy moth	Bob Tichenor		x	
July	Didymosphenia geminata	Lisa Gutierrez or other DNR	x	x	x
August	Kudzu	Lew Ziska's grad student*			
September	Lespedeza cuneata	Sara Tangren*	x		
October	Common carp	Alan Heft* or Fisheries Biol.		x	
November	Euonymus alatus	Land manager? NPS?	x		
December	Beech bark disease complex	Steve Tilley*			x