



Maryland Invasive Species Council
Thursday, September 25, 2008
USDA ARS
BARC W, Bldg. 011a
Beltsville, MD

Call to Order: ~9:40 a.m., John Lydon, Acting Facilitator

Additions to the agenda

Introductions

Carole Bergmann MNCPPC
John Christmas
Brian Clark, MCE
**Chris Diogini, NISC
Anne Hairston Strang, MD DNR FS
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI
Lane Heimer, MDA
Carol Holko, MDA PPWM
Marc Imlay, AWS

John Lydon USDA ARS
Betty Marose, MCE
Bud Reaves, A.A. Co.
Pete Rupp, MDA
Matt Salo, Friends of Lower Beaver Dam Creek
Alan Tasker, USDA APHIS PPQ
Bob Tichenor, USDA APHIS
**Mary Travaglini, TNC

* indicates new attendee

** guest speaker

Introductions

Additions to the Agenda

- Lane Heimer, Wavy leaf basketgrass control in McKeldin section of Patapsco Valley State Park
- Carol needs someone to finish minutes when she leaves at 11:30. Al Tasker will help.

Approval of Minutes, September 2008 meetings

Held at Seneca Valley State Park

Motion to approve minutes as corrected. Motion seconded and approved.

Membership

Motion to accept Matt Salo as voting member. Motion seconded and approved.

Bud Reaves requests membership. Will be voted on at next meeting attended.

John Lydon still in Acting Facilitator status.

Presentation: Dr. Chris Dionigi, Assistant Director for Domestic Policy, Science, and Cooperation, NISC, NISC Management Plan Update¹

- Invasive Species Definition, Clarification, and Guidance white paper approved April, 2006, <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/council/isacdef.pdf>
- Update NISC members and staff
- 35 federal agencies, 40 federal laws
- ~\$1.3 billion / year spent federally on invasive species, based on federal budgets
- NISC Management Plan revision - refer to ppt???
- Invasive Plant Research and partnerships with Ornamental Horticulture and Natural Resource Management Workshop Report.

Discussion:

- Decisions need to be based on sound science, but information is often imperfect
- Risk assessment very important
- Costs of invasives hard to capture

Presentation: Mary Travaglini, Potomac Gorge Habitat Restoration Manager, TNC MD/DC, <http://www.nature.org/maryland>, Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) screening tool used by Australia and New Zealand¹

- Thresholds for “reject,” “accept,” and “evaluate further“
- 49 weighted, ranked, yes/no questions
- 90/30 correctly id invaders, incorrectly rejecting non-invaders, second screening increases accuracy
- In unofficial test, WLBG scored 25, “reject”
- ID'd gaps

Agency Updates

- MDA – Carol Holko, Lane Heimer, Pete Rupp
 - Weed Control
 - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
 - New detection in Charles County ~130 ft. from Prince George’s County line, ca. 2 miles south of EZ; MDA, APHIS are evaluating situation to determine how to proceed; detected in ½ mile radius survey around positive purple prism trap; only positive outside the project area (EZ and buffer)
 - 368 traps in W. MD all negative
 - ²Wavyleafed Basketgrass (WLBG) treatment. MDA working w/ Kerrie Kyde to prioritize control efforts on highly used areas. Trail management for hikers & horses a serious problem. Using Poast for Stiltgrass (SG) (annual) and Envoy for WLBG (perennial). WLBG harder to kill & needs good coverage. Spot-treatments less effective than broadcast w/ commercial equipment. Using Gators down trails, sometimes have to chainsaw wide enough passage to fit through. They don’t differentiate between SG & WLBG because often in mixed stands. Takes a while to see the control impact. Roundup treatment at least removes the stickiness from the seeds to reduce spread. But spraying a plant is unlikely to devitalize the seed. Carole Bergmann treated WLBG in Rock Creek park, commented seed viable occurs by mid August. Mary Travaglini of TNC commented on a couple WLBG finds in Northern VA. Tasker comments this is not necessarily all current rapid spread, but may be detecting infestations not previously known. Betty Marose has a study with various herbicides and rates on WLBG. Dry weather is complicating results. Hairiness of the grass requires a surfactant.
- DNR – Anne Hairston-Strang
 - Japanese Hops management document is near completion (note November 2008: pdf and ppt now posted on DNR Website, <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/rfbrestoration.asp>, scroll to bottom for links
 - Phil Pannill retired, he is moving to US FWS National Conservation Training Center, Shepardstown, WV to be site Invasive Species Manager.
 - The Forest Inventory and Regeneration projects on hold due to a position shift.
- APHIS – Al Tasker, Bob Tichenor
 - WLBG. Sharon Talley Post Doc with APHIS Center for Plant Health Science & Technology Ft. Collins, CO is working on WLBG DNA fingerprinting to clarify relationship to commercial and/or native related species or varieties to support the Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) PPQ CPHST has completed. This will determine whether WLBG meets the requirements of a quarantine pest to allow PPQ regulation. Also, she is looking at seed dormancy issues. We need further seed dormancy research.
 - Q-37 revision: Polly Lehtonen retiring in January. CIAO intends to retask her work to 3 or more others. Polly would like to have the regulatory workplan for the Not Allowed Pending Plant Risk Assessment (NAPPRA) category done before she leaves. Currently regulatory changes are on hold until a new administration is in place. This includes the Weed Regulatory revisions (including adding 7 new Federal Noxious Weeds (FNWs) and adding to the FNW list the 2 Lygodium spp. currently quarantined under Federal Order)

- China International Rangeland/Grassland joint conf in Huhhot Inner Mongolia, and the Mongolia Rangeland tour <http://community.webshots.com/user/avtasker> contains 12 folders from the Mongolia Tour, and 4 folders on Huhhot City in China and the tour of the Desert Steppe Research near Huhhot, Inner Mongolia.
- Al Tasker attended the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) annual meeting in Billings, MT. A point of discussion at the meeting was a new all taxa invasive species lobbying group to be called Healthy Habitats. High level, conscientiousness raising is the goal, around such topics as invasive spp. damaging the habitat, rather than individual pest species. They intend to look for members such as TNC, Wildlife Forever, NAWMA, and others to contribute. Developed as a result of the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week activities, and the desire of these groups to be more effective in forwarding the Invasiveness Species issue. Al discussed the agency OPIS (Overseas Pest Information System) monitoring program
- Bob Tichenor reported on ITAP meeting this week.
 - ITAP website handout. (see http://www.itap.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=19&tax_level=1&tax_subject=402)
- ARS – John Lydon
 - Will continue as acting MISC chair until ARS finalizes approval for being chair.

NEWS AND NEW BUSINESS

John Peter Thompson discussed ARS program issues around EDRR, landscape sustainability, and Systematics.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Holko, Recording Secretary,

¹ (posted on MISC Website, <http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/members/minutes.html>)

² Thanks to Al Tasker for taking notes after RS had to leave