

MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
February 3, 2004
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, Maryland
Minutes

Call to order ~10:30, Bob Tichenor

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA	Jonathan McKnight, DNR, Wildlife and Heritage
Steve Bullington, USDA APHIS	Caroline Myers, MDE
Don Cober, MDOT MSHA	Ellen Nibali, MCE HGIC
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI	Bob Rabaglia, MDA FPM
Carol Holko, MDA	Don Robbins, MDA
Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries	John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Sylvan Kaufman, Adkins Arboretum	Bob Trumbule, MDA
Kerrie Kyde, USDA ARS, MA-EPPC	Joe Vorgetts, USDA APHIS PPQ
Mary Kay Malinoski, MCE HGIC	Bob Tichenor, MDA
Fred Mann, USDA APHIS PPQ	**Randy Westbrooks, USGS
Betty Marose, UM-IPM	

** guest speaker

Membership

Motion to accept Ellen Nibali as voting MISC member. Motion seconded and passed.
Motion to accept Steve Bullington as voting MISC member. Motion seconded and passed.

Approval of minutes from December 16, 2003

Add Steve Bullington
Joe Vorgetts not a new attendee
Motion to approve minutes as corrected. Motion seconded and passed.

Presentation: *Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for Invasive Species and Possible Role fo MISC as Pilot Project Partner*, Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Plant Coordinator, USGS, Whiteville, NC

- MISC is perfect in principle for partnership model. Communicating is the most important thing we do.
- "The power of partnerships is the power of connections."
- Giant salvinia passed around.
- Invasions - 1st line of defense - ports of entry; 2nd line of defense - EDRR (Early Detection/Rapid Response)
- e.g. Tropical soda apple - formed SE regional partnership using primarily biocontrol and eradication methods
- Handout: *A National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants in the United States, Conceptual Design*. Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds. Washington, DC. September 2003.
Phase I: Preparing the Conceptual Design (completed)
Phase II: Evaluation and Adaptation of the Conceptual Design (next step) - Development and Field Testing - State Invasive Species Partnerships - A National Call to Action; encourage states to form councils with subgroups for specific taxa, e.g. state weed teams, ANS panels, insect/disease teams, injurious wildlife teams.
- "Maryland is a great model" - suggests putting other states on our mailing list
- Functional elements
Early Detection

Identifying/vouchering
New record verification and archiving
Rapid assessment of confirmed new species
Rapid response

- Handout: *National EDRR System - Pilot Projects. Development and Field Testing. 2004* (see appendix A.); charges for MISC under "State and Regional Partners"
- Examples:
 - Vitex rotundifolia* - introduced to control beach erosion in South Carolina.
 - Glossostigma diandrum* (mud mat) - introduced in PA and NJ, probably via aquarium trade; native to New Zealand where first touted as a native alternative to exotic plants in aquarium trade; APHIS will not regulate
- Discussion:
 - How does plant assessment process work?
 1. Literature review
 2. Field data collection

Updates and Discussion Questions

Wildlife Issues: Jonathan McKnight

- Facilitator's note: Congratulations to Jonathan who was recently nominated to represent Chesapeake Bay Program Invasive Species Working Group on the National Invasive Species Council
- Mute swan - as result of settlement of lawsuit between US Dept. of the Interior and Fund for Animals, no permits will be issued to take adult mute swans or addle eggs; proceeding legislatively to change or re-interpret the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) under which mute swan has been protected; MBTA - involves three governments, Canada, Mexico and U.S.; DNR is committed to reducing population in wild
Discussion:
 - How do other governments. view under MBTA? Canada recognizes that effect doesn't reflect intent and has control programs for mute swan
 - Mute swan has driven black skimmer from Chesapeake Bay
 - Animal rights groups will be continuing issue in invasive species
 - Can mute swans be shipped out of the country? Can't get permit and not practical
 - Maryland Nutria Partnership
 - 1.) removed nutria from Blackwater wildlife refuge, i.e. demonstrated that it can be done and program could be expanded with federal funding; a perimeter has been built to contain the area
 - 2.) isolated reproducing population in Calvert County was eradicated in 1999 - no nutria found in 2004 follow-up inspection; this is the only successful nutria eradication program in North America
 - Zebra mussel
Outreach efforts: 1.) brochure has been printed with grant from Maryland Sea Grant, will be distributed with all boater registrations, 2.) grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust funded printing of signs to prevent transport into MD waters; will post at marinas, dive shops, etc. with contact number to report suspected introductions
Response options are limited unless introduced into confined area - key is prevention
Recommended zebra mussel as April Invader of the Month
 - *Corbicula fluminea* - Asian clam that exists here; group has proposed to introduce in *C. fluminea* into 90-acre man made lake in floats as bioremediator to remove toxins from water, has asked for DNR permit; if you have information on potential negative impacts of such an introduction, contact Jonathan, 410.260.8539, jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us

Report on January Project Working Group (PWG) Meeting: Kerrie Kyde

- Reviewed original stated priorities; only one completed was the "list"
- Data collection already occurs by individual agencies; it would be redundant to have another

- data base for invasive species and we have no maintenance system
- Risk assessment across all taxa - too big a job for us as we are now - systems already exist
- Networking is MISC's main attribute - suggest that we compile database of current projects, i.e. species, people, places, habitat, etc. and it make available on Web page and develop survey mechanism to collect that information
- MISC needs to become legal entity to secure funds to support ongoing efforts and paid employee - *motion to refer to Organizational Committee*
- Discussion:
 - Why formalize? Have reached limits of what can be accomplished with volunteers; need ability to get funding; dedicated paid employee to help MISC move forward
 - How? Incorporate; MOU between partners; set up a structure such as a Board, officers without incorporating
 - What's the down side of formalizing? Loss of consensus building; policy conflicts with agencies; lose the power of the individual (from discussion on SB151).

Amended motion that the Council ask the Organizational Committee to convene before the next general meeting and evaluate the available mechanisms for MISC to become a formal organization and bring their recommendations to the next general membership meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update: Dick Bean

- to date MDA has removed 55 outplanted trees in Maryland; PA removed 4, VA removed 12; 15 positive in Maryland
- still verifying locations
- April 1 target date for destruction of all ash outplanted from the nursery
- 500 degree days, base 50 for adult emergence
- MDA will set out B&B sentinel trees to be monitored through 2004 season
- MDA will use PR campaign to find trees that were sold without documentation
- all ash will be removed within ½ mile buffer around nursery
- burn permit has been requested from PG County to burn stumps remaining in nursery from 388 trees removed

Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2. Dick Bean, Carol Holko.

- introduced on plants from Guatemala in late 2003
- shipped into 41 states, including 10 greenhouses in Maryland
- MDA has cooperated with growers and USDA to destroy over 10,000 plants according to PPQ guidelines
- this is the second introduction in 2003, 1st was from Kenya.
- suggested that *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 be added to MISC list - will vote at next meeting

HB 151 adding mile a minute to MD noxious weed list. Don Robbins.

- MDA opposes the legislation
- Hearing to be held Feb. 11, 1 p.m.
- Discussion:
 - Why does MDA oppose? scope - m/m is in 23 counties on private and public lands; MDA doesn't want to have to impose criminal penalties on ordinary citizens; Secretary already has power to declare any plant a noxious weed; areas hard to access; biocontrol questionable; expensive
 - MDA is willing to: advise and consult with universities, other agencies, etc. to develop practical plan, work with chemical companies to list mile-a-minute on labels, consider management law that doesn't include criminal penalties, propose regulation for invasive species in general
 - John Peter Thompson - industry will actively oppose bill, concerned about potential for other species to be listed if law is opened
 - DNR will oppose because of public lands issue

Does MISC want to take a stand?

Not appropriate.

What is MISC's function?

Who would sign policy letter?

Take advantage of fluidity of independent members of group?

Invader of the Month: selection for February. Bob Tichenor

- *Miscanthus* more appropriate in late summer when in bloom
- Garden catalogs as pathway - Industry would not support this concept in general
- John Peter will discuss garden catalog approach with MNLA, perhaps to use a subset of species on our list in garden catalogs

Motion to nominate English ivy as Invader of the Month for February. Motion seconded and passed.

Larry Hurley and Bob Trumbule will write article; Kerrie will ask Carole Bergmann to be contact person.

- Future Invaders

Emerald ash borer - March

Zebra mussel in April (see discussion above)

Japanese honeysuckle - June when in bloom

Miscanthus in late summer

NEWS AND NEW BUSINESS

Motion to create subcommittee to look into details of MISC being pilot project partner with USGS project discussed in presentation. Motion amended: "that the Council ask the Projects Working Group to look into details of MISC being pilot project partner with USGS project discussed in presentation." Motion seconded and passed.

Kerrie Kyde and Bob Trumbule will work on this.

Future meeting dates and locations

early April - MDA unless other suggestions. Bob Tichenor will check on room availability

Adjourn ~ 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Holko, Recording Secretary.

Appendix A.

National EDRR System – Pilot Projects. Development and Field Testing. 2004.

National Partners - USGS and FICMNEW

- # Verify National Records
- # Develop Assessment Guidelines
- # Assess New National Records
- # Develop Volunteer Training Curriculum
- # Provide Technical Support for Rapid Response
- # Establish National EDRR Website – Reporting System

State and Regional Partners

- # Promote Interagency Collaboration
- # Develop State and Regional Watch Lists
- # Establish Volunteer Detection Network
- # Conduct Detection Network Training
- # Designate Botanists for ID and Vouchering
- # Conduct Rapid Assessments / Surveys
 - # Provide Survey Data to USGS
- # Create State Invasive Species Website
 - # Telephone and Web Reporting System, Alerts, etc.

Local Partners

- # Detection Volunteers; Active Surveys
- # Public/Private Land Owners; Weed Management Areas