

## Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC)

Meeting Notes July 20, 2023

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: MDA Headquarters

Hosted by Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, Maryland

The meeting was called to order by Kenton Sumpter, MDA Meeting Facilitator.

### Attendees:

Kenton Sumpter, MDA PPWM SLF	Michael Calkins, MDA Assistant Secretary Plant Industries
John Krouse, MDOT SHA	Kim Rice, MDA PPWM Program Manager
Basudev S. Pokhrel, MDA PPWM NI	Shawna Robbins, visitor
Samantha Lott, MD DNR CCS	Cathy Stragar, MDA PPWM Biocontrol
Jaime Tsambikos, MDA PPWM NI	Judy Fulton, MNPS/MAIPC/UMEMG
Deb Hayes, MDA PPWM NI	Marc Imlay, Sierra Club
Natasha Shangold, City of Rockville	Steve Bell, MDA PPWM NI/Ginseng
Heather Disque, MDA FPM	Mark Taylor, MDA PPWM NI
Megan Carr, Baltimore City Forestry	Aaron Shurtleff, MDA PPWM Survey
Andrew Bowles, MDA PPWM Noxious Weed	Loretta Jordan, AAWR
Susi Ponce, MDA PPWM Noxious Weed	Deborah Landau, TNC
Grace Nagle, MDA FPM	Rachel, Chesapeake Conservation Corp

**Introductions and sign-in with affiliations.**

**Comments by Facilitator:** Kenton's first-time facilitating meeting, this meeting is recorded.

**Review and Approval of April 20, 2023, minutes:** A motion was made to accept, with changes submitted by Judy. Motion was seconded, and minutes were approved.

**Membership:** Susie Ponce and Grace Nagle are now members. First time attending for Samantha Lott and Shawna Robbins.

**IPAC Report:** No updates.

**IOTM:** Recently completed-CMBS by Bud Reaves and mock strawberry by Marc Imlay and Jil Swearingen. Future IOTMs include EAB/spongy moth/elm zigzag sawfly by Heather Disque, palmar amaranth/thistles by Andrew Bowles and Noxious Weed Team. Looking for someone to do an IOTM on the longhorned tick.

### **Attendee/Agency Updates:**

**Mark Taylor/MDA** – Reports seeing a lot of fall webworm on the lower shore.

**John Krouse/SHA** – SHA did increase the budget for noxious weed control this year. Question about funding for biocontrol. This is an ongoing discussion.

**Basudev Sharma-Pokhrel/MDA** – Reports seeing abundance of rose sawfly and damage in his territory.

**Samantha Lott/DNR** – Recently hired as watershed restoration crew leader, invasive removal, living shoreline project, can request their work for state lands-send her an email. Work related to anything that helps improve the health of the bay.

**Jaime Tsambikos/MDA**– Two trace forward events-one with tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) and the other with *Phytophthora ramorum* (PRAM) eCommerce site out west, one big incident with rose mosaic virus, two new incidents of vascular streak dieback, all above mentioned incidents/sites handled accordingly. One invasive warning letter sent out and issue was resolved, bundle survey traps out now, routine inspections are ongoing.

**Deborah Hayes/MDA** – Inspector for Talbot through Cecil, SLF nymphs in Crape myrtles-just seeing nymphs so far. Question about public/industry interest in SLF- reports that some are interested, and some are not so serious until something happens, and they must deal with it.

**Susie Ponce/MDA** – New hire covering western MD/ central MD, involved with County weed programs, thistle mostly right now-mapping for it, plan to do pre-season letter to landowners next year. Other weed mapping. Mostly good feedback from landowners.

**Natasha Shangold/City of Rockville** – Invasive ID for site in preserved park, reports that third treatment did well. Looking for supplemental plantings to control invasives. In charge of forest conservation easements as well. New planner hired. Interested in learning about BioBark.

**Megan Carr/Baltimore City**- SLF hot zone in city, no treatments but instead focused on education of citizens. Currently developing forest management plans and expanding IPM network. Gap between contracts-looking for new one to start this fall. Warned about five fingered *Aralia* gaining ground-testing possible controls, suggestion to document and report where it is found and question about where it came from.

**Deb Landau/ TNC**– Not much to report, stand of ash in AL Co being treated soon with FPM assistance.

**Loretta Jordan/AAWR**– P&R reached out for invasive plant ID training for weed crew so currently working on this.

**Andrew Bowles/MDA** – Southern MD, approval to treat on state roads, county brochures for noxious weeds with contact info, Palmer taking off on shore with 10-15 notices in one day in the territory.

**Heather Disque/MDA** – EDRR traps are up and down-all samples with bark beetle specialist in GA. **Southern pine beetle** traps up and down-populations are low except one site in AA Co. **Redbay ambrosia beetle** traps-nothing seen so far. **Laurel wilt** permanent plots will start this year. **Exotic Asian defoliators**-8 different species - traps set up around Chesapeake and out west at rail yards and along canal targeting around bay and transportation corridor. **EAB** confirmed in Wicomico Co, nothing in Worcester-may do destructive sampling, continue with treatments-ran out of chemicals, all EAB parasitoid sites approved for this year, UMD is doing the work to see if establishment is occurring. **Oak commodity survey**-all negative. **Sirex** traps up but none found. **WTB**- traps up, currently in AA, Balto., Cecil, St Mary's Co.- delineation beginning, most not moved more than 2 miles. **PRAM** stream bait survey- 3 samples at nurseries in spring, all samples at Penn state, three more in fall. **Oak decline** still taking requests for surveys. Begun **BLD** surveys-found in several counties in MD but unconfirmed in BA, HF, and FR because the nematode is not abundant this time of year, more samples this fall. **Elm zigzag sawfly** in GR, AL confirmed and reports that Siberian elm seems to be hit hard in other states. **Elongate hemlock scale** treatments occurring. **Lingering ash** survey is public on Survey 123. **Spongy moth** suppression treatments were successful this year and fungus was observed.

**Rachel/Chesapeake Conservation Corp member** - Visiting/observing-no updates.

**Grace Nagle/ FPM**- No further updates from FPM.

**Mike Calkins/PPWM**-New assistant secretary for Plant Industries. Here to observe and learn.

**Kim Rice/PPWM** – No updates. Cybil Preston (State Apiarist) could not make it, but updates include working on national honeybee survey, giant hornet inquiries are much less this year, swarm traps are up at port-2 swarms picked up this year and currently working with USDA to ID swarms. Apiary inspectors are busy but canines on vacation because of the heat and bees are active.

**Cathy Stragar/PPWM** - Biocontrol update- reports good early season in May with several thousand psyllids released, funding ended from SHA, very little funds remaining, closing out program. Taking remaining psyllids to release at sites.

**Judy Fulton/ECoplant Consulting** - Asiatic garden beetle report but this is not new, asked if SLF should still be reported and Kenton responded yes, asked about updates to website, ECoplant Consulting is her new business and she reports business is picking up with people calling her for help with invasives on properties.

**Marc Imlay/Sierra Club**- Asked for more information on knotweed from Cathy Stragar, garlic mustard with powdery mildew found and approved as a biocontrol by USDA. Asking for some powdery mildew to apply to patch in local park. If you see something say something.

**Steve Bell/PPWM** – Continue to work on compliance with nurseries posting tier 2 signs for invasive plants sold, reports seeing no SLF in Southern MD, ginseng program moving forward as usual with no new updates, routine inspections are on-going.

**Aaron Shurtleff/PPWM** – Usual surveys this year-exotic woodboring beetle-no targets found, started soybean commodity survey-nothing so far.

**Kenton Sumpter/PPWM** - Update for Dr. Noah Adamo in Plant Pathology lab-many abiotic factors affecting trees/woody plants this past year, rose mosaic virus issue, BLD, VSD-fungus associated but not causing-not calling it a pathogen at this point.

Kenton's SLF update-First reports of adults BA City/Co and out to FR Co-time of year for adults, some third instars, please report it, TOH/grape still primary host with black walnut close second, maple and willow also preferred, white pine also. Shift of population reports from last year-unsure why but population seems to have declined in those areas previously heavily infested. BA is heavily infested. Changed up operations from last year. Egg mass treatment applications and scraping over winter mostly around vineyards in BA Co. Negative impacts on trees/grape vines have been seen and focused on limiting this impact. Focused on front of invasion, trying to determine borders of where SLF is currently, pesticide applicator's license for entire SLF crew. Job advertisement is up but good amount of help right now. Satellite populations with treatment agreements are the focus right now. Proactive surveys-trapping is going on now-more liberal about deactivating traps where SLF is known to occur and move them to new areas. Possibly found in St Mary's. Focus on outreach to trade organizations to join permit program-quantity over quality at this point. Public outreach via internet and billboards. Contact SLF group if you want outreach material mailed to you or your group. Recent article published, some biocontrol work/trials happening. Research is ongoing.

**News and New Business:** Question about single platform for the public to report finding invasives-should one be chosen to direct public to use? Three platforms currently used. Kenton suggested putting all three links on website. Most important to report it. Motion was made to discuss further about having one site to report invasives at the next meeting.

**Announcements:** MISC is looking for a new scribe to take meeting notes. If there are no volunteers, updates will be sent via email and put together in the meeting notes format before sending to the group. Or no minutes will be posted. Also, need to figure out membership.

**Next meeting: October 19, 2023 @ MDA HQ**

Adjourn: 11:00 AM