

Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC)

Meeting Notes October 19, 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: * ATTENDANCE LIST IS INCOMPLETE*****

Kenton Sumpter, MDA PPWM SLF	Jen Fisher, AA Forestry
Bud Reaves, Anne Arundel Parks and Rec	Stanton Gill, UMD Extension
Basudev S. Pokhrel, MDA PPWM NI	
Samantha Lott, MD DNR CCS	Cathy Stragar, MDA PPWM Biocontrol
Jaime Tsambikos, MDA PPWM NI	Judy Fulton, MNPS/MAIPC/UME MG
Deb Hayes, MDA PPWM NI	
Ashley Bowers, Baltimore City Forestry	Steve Bell, MDA PPWM NI/Ginseng
Heather Disque, MDA FPM	
Megan Carr, Baltimore City Forestry	Aaron Shurtleff, MDA PPWM Survey
Andrew Bowles, MDA PPWM Noxious Weed	Loretta Jordan, Anne Arundel County Forestry
Susi Ponce, MDA PPWM Noxious Weed	Deborah Landau, TNC

Motion was made to begin the meeting. The motion was approved by a majority of attendees.

Introductions and sign-in with affiliations.

Comments by Facilitator: Samantha Lott and Shawna Robbins attended for 1st time in July but were not in attendance for October.

Review and Approval of July 2018, 2023, minutes: A motion was made to accept, with changes submitted by Judy. The motion was approved by a majority of the attendees. Minutes were approved.

Membership: Jessica Boyles attended for the first time. New membership coordinator needed; Cathy Stragar will cover this for now.

IPAC Report: No updates. Meeting in November. Update will be available for January meeting.

IOTM: Andrew Bowles and Victoria Spice completed a writeup of Palmer amaranth. Elm zigzag sawfly, star of Bethlehem, and longhorned tick have been proposed as future IOTM's.

Attendee/Agency Updates:

- Kenton Sumpter (MDA PPWM)
 - MISC website has been updated with invasive of concern.
- Steve Bell (MDA PPWM)
 - Vascular streak dieback / certifying ginseng.
- Jamie Tsambikos (MDA PPWM)
 - Under 2k license issued / 70 unlicensed who have been licensed before / sending first time letters / inspection – surveying – nursery bundle survey (SLF and beech leaf disease included) – 4 positives for

VSD – destroy positive plant, took sample which came back negative – not fully understood – destroy and monitor/ box tree moth, attended meeting and field visits / Notes from Kim-SLF have been found in Chicago and Nashville.

- Ashely Bowers & Megan Carr (Baltimore City Parks and Rec)
 - Manage priority 1 forest / new conservation management software, helping to build program and manage land / overseeing Weed Warriors program, trained (went well 30 to 60 attendants) / forest management plans for parks – not completed yet / Stream construction projects in Baltimore. In paper, working on environmental protection with public works - long term agreement to oversee ecological management. Of construction project. Revise plan to minimize disturbance. / Herring Run western branch is 3 acres of forest, they are trying to stop removal – 80 acres across the city. / SLF communication with neighbors, teaching folks on how to identify and remove egg masses.
- Judy Fulton (Maryland Native Plant Society, Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council, UME Master Gardener)
 - Working with people about invasive plant legislation / increasing amount of concern about spread of invasives / hearing a lot about English ivy killing trees, public concerned about damage to trees and forests/ Japanese stilt grass concern among the public/ deer help invasive plants by eating native plants, the competition
- Susie Ponce (MDA PPWM)
 - Field season is wrapping up / re-inspecting / county crews are still spraying, done by end of the month / Washington is done / 1st field season, lots of learning / issued ~ 500 notices, 250 were from WA Co. / Lots of data entry / would like to update website, adding photo gallery (for public), would like to create database with a GIS mapping component / changing comply process, hold hearing at MDA to quicken pace / in winter, committee meeting in each county regarding field season, budget, staff, issues, etc.
- Deborah Landau (TNC)
 - Treated ash stand with Heather / ash trees is not making seeds / about to burn stand in Alleghany, which contains TOH, worried about that / asked about funds regarding TOH removal for public
- Noah Adamo (MDA PPWM)
 - Not a lot of symptomatic material / UMD found Pierce's disease. Causing problems in vineyards.
- Loretta Jordan (Anne Arundel County Parks and Rec)
 - Weed coordinator, volunteer coordinator – set up parks and rec public approach / capital gazette about mission / outreach regarding goals / spreading invasive species awareness.
- Bud Reaves (Anne Arundel County Parks and Rec)
 - Vines in trees along road, public asked about it, which lead to county executive approving funds to treat said vines / trained some about how to treat vines (English ivy / wisteria / bittersweet) / training and goals were put in paper / meeting yesterday with agencies and stewards to address English ivy concerns. / Coordinating efforts to remove English ivy / public is upset with IPAC procedure for certifying tier I or II species – specifically want English ivy as tier 1 / retiring at end of the year / public hazard caused by dead trees, killed by vines (kudzu) – county roads made progress, AA Co exclusively.
- Jen Fisher (Anne Arundel County Forestry)
 - Will be IP rep after Bud Reaves / nothing new to add.
- Heather Disque (MDA FPM)
 - Beech leaf disease (BLD) – have not found in permanent plots / outside of permanent plots, parking lot, they have found it. / Point surveys, 10 per county, done 300 / have found symptoms, took samples and submitted to NA / BLD positives – Harford (54 point surveys), southern corner – Allegany, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Washington, and Cecil, / waiting on non-symptomatic but nematode positive samples from AA (Gambrills) / all other counties have no symptomatic leaf material / last year took 280 samples. With no positives / going from nothing to a lot very quickly/

can kill understory in 2 years / 6 to 10 years for severe symptoms and mortality/ no good treatment as of now, lots of research, currently doing soil amendments, not trying to take out nematode, just trying to flush the trees immune system. / Could be spread via birds. / If you see symptoms, brush off your feet, do a lite spray of alcohol on boots so that you do not spread. / Walnut twig beetle, Cecil, Baltimore (city and county), St. Mary's all previously positive and continue to be. Positive moved out of previously known area in Baltimore. / Evidence of beetle activity in Cecil but the walnut seems healthy, trees shed infected branches and continue to thrive / believe plant protection is going to recent quarantine of walnut twig beetle / no sirex found this year / Asian defoliator survey, traps are down. Still processing them / after this week all other traps will be in lab for results / EDRR, nothing new / southern pine beetle, lower numbers across the state / spongy moth defoliation – 20k of defoliation, was some in western Maryland but it was not mapped because they couldn't find pilot / doing egg mass survey for spongy, 9k acres that qualify for suppression, should be done in November / EAB suppression, lots of tnz properties done, retreatment and treating new tree, Wicomico county is now positive EAB. Waiting on Worcester / UM is continuing EAB parasitoid recovery work, were able to recovery them in Baltimore County / Doing it on the shore including tuckahoe / released at 8 new site, recovery work won't be seen for another 2 years. / Elm zigzag sawfly found in Garrett & Allegany counties, - consumed slippery elm in Cumberland, first seen defoliation / no evidence on the Eastern Shore. / Laurel wilt, permanent blots, ambrosia beetle, nothings seen. / oak commodity, no new oak pests – / saltwater intrusion flight – map forests that are affected by salt water intrusion, 50k acres mapped, saw increase in tree death – want to see if this is flooding issue or a salt intrusion issue / farther north than they have ever seen before, doing soil samples to be tested / frost damage 24k acres, in and around Greenridge State Forest, has recovered - / stream batting all sample negative / hemlock woolly adelgid – on the middle of treatment program for fall, treated over 1,200 trees in a week, in New Germany State Park – predator beetles are coming up, collecting and moving around the state. / Success of the beetle is not necessarily tracked, looking at presence and are able to recover them pretty well. Cumberland, Hagerstown, and northeast have great recovery for the beetle / cannot stop treating as of yet, despite the presence of the beetle.

- Deborah Hayes (MDA PPWM)
 - Eastern shore – compliance agreement with boxwood / working on those inspections, have possibly run into boxwood blight/
- Catherine Stragar (MDA PPWM)
 - Rearing and release knotweed psyllid – long term funding, which backed out in June / the program is in the air / still continue to grow and release / release 1,800 this year at 2 sites / need funding to continue to do so / pursuing funding / 3 grants in the works / new strain, that is a field collected strain, seems to be more effective, would like to pursue growing that and releasing it this year, contingent on funding. / Greenhouse, huge part of MDA / major upgrades to the greenhouse, increase safety and energy efficiency / replacing HVAC system in greenhouse.
- Aaron Shurtleff (MDA PPWM)
 - Exotic wood boring beetle / no target found / soybean – no target found / fire-ant survey, only found 1 instance, it was treated / apiary update – currently finishing honey bee survey, monitoring, no instance found / start up the year fielding less murder hornet inquires, since a new invasive hornet that has increased, we have found no instances / swarm traps around Baltimore, 3 swarms caught, all of which were eradicated / found some around FedEx and amazon compounds, no instances found / disease dogs are getting ready to start working
- Andrew Bowles (MDA PPWM)
 - Getting committees done / decided to do 1 meeting per year in the winter / St. Mary's County getting another job done / crew night spraying / finishing fact sheets about palmer, thistle, Johnson grass.

- Stanton Gill (UMD)
 - Trials around nurseries about SLF – testing various chemicals to see effectiveness against SLF – netted area, dead within a couple of days – publish results this winter – Altus, Mainspring, metarhizium had success. / National biological control in March in new fancy, expensive building.

News and New Business:

- Pest Portal – forest pest management has a forum – must fill out a form and then submit it. On Onestop and MDA website.
- Judy Fulton
 - Funding – more funding – talking to MD legislators about funding –
 - Contacted by National Wildlife Federation about proposed federal legislation: Recovering American Natural Wildlife Act, how would it be funded? The idea is to provide over \$1 billion dollars for state governments, nonprofits, to help with native plants and fighting invasive plants.
- Kenton, Deborah Landau
 - Adding links to iNaturalist and/or EDDMapS to website.
 - Adding as a resources link on MISC website – taking a vote – (unanimously yes)
 - Add a description to allow the public to make their own decisions.

Announcements:

- Judy Fulton – Request for suggested changes to the MISC “invasives species of concern” list
 - Calling for additions or deletions of species for the list – to be considered and voted on at the next meeting.
 - An MISC listserv email will go out before the meeting requesting input.

Not related to the MISC lists, the Maryland Native Plant Coalition is creating a survey to ask for input on what the most problematic invasive plants are at this point.

Next meeting: January 18, 2024 @ MDA HQ (rescheduled to Google Meet)

Adjourn: 11:00 AM