

Maryland Invasive Species Counsel (MISC)

Meeting Notes: April 18, 2024

Time: 9:30AM -12:00PM

Place: MDA Headquarters

Hosted by Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD

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

Attendees:

Kenton Sumpter, MDA FPM	Donald Callihan, Gunpowder Valley Cons.
Maddy Williams, MD-DNR MPS	Jennifer Fisher, AA Co Forestry
Grace Nagle, MDA FPM	John Krouse, MDOT SHA
Cathy Stragar, MDA PPWM	Brian Mitchell, MNLGA
Deb Hayes, MDA PPWM	Erin Collins, MD-DNR CCS
Steve Bell, MDA PPWM	Ashley Bowers, BA City Forestry
Andrew Bowles, MDA Weed Control	Natasha Shangold, City of Rockville
Megan Carr, BA City Forestry	Bud Reaves, AAWR AAFB
Judy Fulton, MNPS, MAIPC, UME MGA	Aaron Shurtleff, MDA PPWM
Susi Ponce, MDA PPWM	Eric Duce, BA Co EPS

Introductions and sign in with affiliations.

Comments by Facilitator: Website update to come; likely by June.

Review and Approval of January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept, with changes submitted by Judy. Motion was seconded and minutes were approved.

Membership: Erin Collins is attending her second meeting. Maddy Williams: First Meeting attended. **Affiliation Change:** Don Callihan’s affiliation has changed to Gunpowder Valley Conservancy.

IPAC Report: Cathy Stragar (representing Kim Rice): Invasive Plant Legislation has passed. MDA awaits budget re: new personnel positions to be trained to run new weed risk assessment tool. All current Tier 2 invasive plants will be reassessed per a new protocol much like the NatureServe model which is being used by Delaware. All assessed plants deemed to be invasive will be banned from being sold at point of purchase. IPAC will sort out the details regarding the training of assessors, exempted cultivars, and the 1-to-2-year phase in period for potted and in ground nursery plants deemed to be prohibited.

Invader of the Month: Proposed topics for IOTM include Palmer Amaranth, tick population expansion, and the name change from Gypsy Moth to Spangly Moth. Contact Kenton if you wish to volunteer to submit an IOTM.

Proposed Additions to MISC Lists: Judy, via group email, proposed a vote to individually add 1 insect and 2 plants to MISC lists. (1) **Asiatic Garden Beetle** was added by group vote. (2) **Japanese Painted Fern** was added by group vote. (3) **Ghost Fern** was not approved and will be revisited during the next meeting.

Agency/Attendee Updates:

Maddy Williams: MD-DNR- Has put together a Parks Service guide to invasives.

Natasha Shangold: City of Rockville- H.O.A. work re: conservation easements and working on a native/invasive list for city residents.

Bud Reaves: AAWR, AAFB- AA County Weed Warriors are actively conducting invasive plant removals.

Grace Nagle: MDA-FPM- Surveys and trapping underway for pine commodity, Asian defoliator, ambrosia beetle, EAB (including parasitoid releases), Sirex, oak decline, beech leaf disease, elm zig zag sawfly, and spongy moth treatments.

Cathy Stragar: MDA-PPWM- A new plant pathologist has been hired (D.J.) and seeking available funds for new Japanese Knotweed psyllid.

Deb Hayes: MDA-PPWM- Large scale Rose Mosaic Virus inspections continue.

Steve Bell: MDA-PPWM- Nursery Inspection season is underway and issuing of phytosanitary certificates for interstate plant shipments including HWA resistant Tsuga varieties from the National Arboretum.

Andrew Bowles: MDA Weed Control- County weed Control program meetings, IPM webinars, and work on budgets for spray treatments have begun.

Megan Carr: BA City- Public outreach, Weed Warrior training, and forest pest management in Gwynn's Falls/Leakin Park.

Susie Ponce: MDA-PPWM- Working on County weed control agreements, Canada Thistle scouting, and a new enforcement process at MDA re: Palmer amaranth timelines, etc.

Don Callihan: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy- Planning and coordination among agencies for invasive removal in BA County/City parks.

Jennifer Fisher: AA County- County budgeting for invasive removal.

John Krouse: MDOT SHA- Highway, roadside noxious weed treatments.

Eric Duce: BA County- Public outreach re: stream restoration (homeowner contact and community meetings regarding invasive vine removal in riparian areas).

Aaron Shurtleff: MDA-PPWM- Trapping season has begun for EWBB, SLF, etc.

Brian Mitchell: MNLGA- From Manor View Farms, Brian is attending to represent nursery growers and MNLGA.

Erin Collins: MD-DNR- Experience with state forestry projects, restoration areas, invasive removals, stream restoration and shoreline improvements.

Ashley Bowers: BA City- Attended a major cities convention in Miami, FL to discuss invasive species removal, legislative changes, etc. Also referenced the forest fire that occurred in Gwynn's Falls/Leakin Park during the Spring of 2023 and the witnessed changes to the environment in the aftermath of the fire.

Announcements: Matty Williams referenced the upcoming Earth Day event at Gunpowder Falls State Park.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned by Kenton Sumpter.