

Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC)

Meeting Notes January 18, 2024

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Place: Google Meet

Hosted by Department of Agriculture

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

Attendees:

Kenton Sumpter, MDA FPM	Jen Fisher, Anne Arundel County
Bud Reaves	
Basudev S. Pokhrel, MDA PPWM	
Samantha Lott, MD DNR	Cathy Stragar, MDA PPWM
Jaime Tsambikos, MDA PPWM	Judy Fulton, MNPS/MAIPC/UME MG
Deborah Hayes, MDA PPWM	
	Steve Bell, MDA PPWM
Megan Carr, Baltimore City Forestry	
	Loretta Jordan, Anne Arundel County
Susi Ponce, MDA PPWM	

Motion was made to begin the meeting. The motion was approved by a majority of attendees. Meeting began at 9:37 AM.

Comments by Facilitator: Please keep mics and video off when not speaking. Use thumbs-up emoji to show approval for votes. Use thumbs down to show disapproval.

Review and approval of October 19, 2023 minutes: A motion was made to accept with changes submitted by Judy Fulton and Jaime Tsambikos. The motion was approved by a majority of the attendees. Minutes were approved.

Membership: Samantha Lott and Jennifer Fisher attended their second meeting. A motion was made to grant them membership into MISC. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken to approve each person. Both votes approved membership for Samantha and Jennifer.

Alexis Mowery, Erin Collins, and Matt Pombuena each attended their first meeting.

IPAC Report: No updates. Most recent IPAC minutes can be found at https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx.

IOTM: Palmer amaranth IOTM will be posted to the website. New IOTM solicited without any takers.

Edits to species of concern: Proposal made by Judy Fulton to add Asiatic garden beetle (*Maladera castanea*), Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium niponicum*), and the hybrid "ghost" fern. Motion made to defer voting until the April 2024 meeting. Motion was seconded and the measure passed; voting on adding these species will be deferred until the next meeting.

Attendee/Agency Updates:

- Kenton Sumpter (MDA, FPM)
 - No update.
- Alexis Mowery (DNR, Chesapeake Coastal Service, Watershed Restoration)
 - Alexis and her colleagues are conducting invasive removals around Sandy Point, Tuckahoe, and Patuxent state parks. Current project targeting Corcoran Woods and Oxbow Lake.
- Basudev Pohkrel (MDA PPWM)
 - No updates.
- Bud Reaves
 - Supervising Loretta Jordan. Helping with Weed Warrior program. Passing the torch on to Jennifer Fisher. May return on contract to work for Anne Arundel County. Contacted by Sierra Club rep to testify to state legislature about status of certain invasive species.
- Catherine Stragar (MDA PPWM)
 - Hold on funding continues. Continued attempts to rear knotweed psyllid. Interviewing candidates for plant pathologist position at MDA HQ.
- Cybil Preston (MDA PPWM)
 - Yellow legged hornet trapping to be conducted at Port of Baltimore and BWI airport. Dogs worked November and December, are couch potatoes now while weather is bad. Attended Apiary Inspectors of America meeting in New Orleans for new invasive vespids and tropilaelaps “tropi” mites. Tropi mites may be a severe threat to US apiaries in the near future. Dr. Sammy Ramsey leads research on tropi mites.
- Damien Ossi (DC Dept. of Environmental Protection)
 - Invasive regulations are going to the mayor’s office soon. Possible changes to DC’s stance on invasive sales and planting. National Capital PRISM, led by Sara Tangren, moved to new program.
- Daniel Root (DNR Forestry)
 - Working with USFS and Nature Conservancy. MD Forest Health Restoration event on January 21st. Starting forest health data collection at Bohemia River. Wrapping up Baltimore vegetation adaptive plan.
- Deborah Hayes (MDA PPWM)
 - No update.
- Don Calahan (Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Oregon Ridge Park)
 - Creating master plan 2030 for Oregon Ridge Park.
- Eric Duce (Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection)
 - Performing required treatments of invasives. Treating mainly privet. Using Inject system with Garlon herbicide. Inject delivers herbicide directly into plant cambium and largely avoids leaving residue in soil.
- Erin Collins (DNR, Chesapeake Coastal Service, Watershed Restoration)
 - Same update as Alexis Mowery.
- Jaime Tsambikos (MDA PPWM)
 - No update.
- Jennifer Fisher (Anne Arundel County)
 - No update.
- John Krouse (SHA)
 - SHA is doing more permanent plantings. Moving away from temporary seed mix. Trying to avoid planting invasives. Corridor Vegetation Management Guide available in draft for review. SHA is soliciting recommendations for edits.

- Judy Fulton (Maryland Native Plant Society, Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council, UME Master Gardener)
 - Has heard that people are interested in Weed Warrior and PRISM type programs. Megan Carr related that Baltimore area PRISM is unlikely.
- Kim Rice (MDA PPWM)
 - Legislative updates.
- Mark Taylor (MDA PPWM)
 - No update.
- Matt Pombuena (DNR, Chesapeake Coastal Service, Watershed Restoration)
 - Same updates as Alexis Mowery. Always looking for volunteers to join field days.
- Megan Carr (Baltimore City Forestry)
 - Forest management plan in development, three new plans. Resuming integrative vegetation restoration around Windsor Hills. Trying to lower bar to entry for Weed Warriors. Baltimore City staff trainings underway.
- Natasha Shangold (Rockville Urban Forestry)
 - Rockville inspections ongoing. Joined MoCo forestry board. Working on zoning inspector test.
- Patrick Simons (MDA FPM)
 - Beech leaf disease (BLD) found on symptomatic material in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, and Washington counties. BLD thought to be spread by wind, animal, and human vectors. Asian defoliator traps all negative. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) fall project completed with great success. HWA treatments done for winter season in November. HWA biocontrol succeeding at Rocky Gap State Park, productive insectary. *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles collected and shipped to other counties and states. 19,000 beetles collected over last 3 years. Spongy moth on the rise on Eastern Shore and western Maryland. 30,000 acres to be treated using Btk.
- Sara Hilderbrand (DNR, Chesapeake Coastal Service, Watershed Restoration)
 - Identifying areas of interest for invasive removal and sources of volunteers. Promoting outreach efforts.
- Steve Bell (MDA PPWM)
 - No update.
- Susi Ponce (MDA PPWM)
 - New letters and charging documents. Hearings to be held at MDA HQ. Fact sheets in the works: Canada thistle (done), Johnson grass, shatter cane, water hemp.
- Victoria Spice (MDA PPWM)
 - Revamping database to be more efficient.

News and New Business:

- **Judy Fulton**
 - Tony Koop(Plant Pest Risk Analysis, USDA - APHIS) is looking for black swallow-wort status in each US state. Black swallow-wort has been reported in Maryland: Baltimore City, and Calvert, Kent, and Talbot Counties.

Announcements:

- **Addition of Asiatic garden beetle, Japanese painted fern, and ghost fern to be voted on next meeting.**

Next meeting: April 18, 2024 @ MDA HQ

Adjourn: 11:25 AM