

Indiana Invasive Species Council Public Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Eastern)
William Daniel Turf Center
1340 Cherry Lane West Lafayette, IN 47907

10:10 AM

1. Welcome, roll call and introductions: – IISC chairman Kris Krouse
 - Michael Warner, Owner of ArborTerra, representing industry
 - Dr. Aaron Hecht, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health
 - Kris Krouse, Chair, represent land trust and land managers
 - Phil Marshall, IN State Entomologist, Department of Natural Resources Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology
 - Steve Yaninek, Purdue University, representing the Dean of Ag
 - Bill Fielding, INDOT
 - Eric Fischer, IDNR, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
 - John Williams, Director of Indianapolis Parks Dept.
 - David Bausman, ISDA (showed up after lunch)

Others Present:

- Adam Witte, Purdue University, Entomology
- Kallie Bontrager, IDNR Nursery Inspector
- Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy, IN Chapter
- John Baugh, Purdue College of Ag.
- Megan Abraham, IDNR Compliance Officer
- Aly Wells, ISDA (showed up after lunch)

2. Adopt agenda & approve June 05, 2014 minutes
 - Agenda approved
 - Minutes
 - Phil M. makes motion to approve minutes. Steve Y. seconds.
 - Motion carries. Minutes approved.
3. Old business: Council Appointment Approvals
 - Kris- Had communication with the governor's office and had Michael and Heather Reynolds added. Heather will be representing research. All positions are filled. First time all positions are filled!!
 - Phil- do we have records on what we have for how long current positions have left?
 - Kris- If you believe your term is a certain period we can list it and keep better record.
 - Phil- June 30, 2017 is what my letter said.
 - Michael- Only on for next year since I replaced someone.
 - Eric- 2 expire in 2015 and 3 in 2017.
 - John Baugh- We have 12 members on an 11 member board.
 - Kris- I'm okay with that. If you have something documenting your term, please send that to me.
4. New business:
 - IISC Legislative Annual Report
 - Reauthorization Request
 - Sunsets in July 2015?

- Kris- Who might be interested in carrying a bill forward for the council Approach State Rep. Lehe. He represents the 25th district. He chairs the committee on agriculture and natural resources. Another meeting scheduled Oct 7 and get on that agenda to make a request to get the council reauthorized. Let's first get reauthorized.
- Funding and Budget
 - Kris- Let's first get reauthorized and make a soft case for funding if we can.
 - Steve- let's be honest about all our needs, but reauthorization is priority.
 - We need someone to carry the bill.
 - John B.- The summer committee cannot make recommendations that hasn't been authorized by the leadership. They had two charges, look at Deer Farms and Rails to Trails. Technically, that's all they can look at. Our legislation says we will report to the Natural Resources summer study committee. They're kind of stretching it a little but they think it's okay to let us give our report. That's all they can do is say we listened. That committee is not authorized to make action. What we're trying to do is fulfill our obligation and give the report. At the same time we will talk to legislatures individually about carrying a bill to reauthorize us. As far as asking for funding for position, send it to Ways and Means committee. They would pass it through, but strip the funds. Get a champion to work with and get funding in the end, that's where we want to be. Don't want to jeopardize the reauthorization with funding. -- "I think we came up with basically \$120,000 that is needed for IISC, which would be in addition to the 1.5% increase Purdue is already requesting. There won't be anything in the legislation in the line saying that \$120,000 for this position. That helps out for a couple ways. As we ask for inflationary increases in the future, we're talking about that whole line item that gives us the opportunity to increase that \$120,000 to help that position move forward." We also need to keep in mind IISC is not the only ones seeking additional money.
 - Amendment to the job description:
 - Minimum of a BACHELOR'S degree.
 - Phil M.- Council can request grant from feds through Purdue.
 - John B.- In-Kind is harder to match.
 - Michael- this would be a Purdue employee, who would make the recommendation for hire?
 - John B.-This council gets to have recommendation. In the end, the employee is a Purdue employee.
 - Steve- This is a hire for the council, not for the college. We could have more input with the right mechanism put in place.
 - Kris- we are essentially asking, but there are limitations.
 - Steve- John, can you look at the cover letter and make sure everything is in order, etc.
 - Kris- I will draft a one page summary of who we are and what we have done. Then state our request (reauthorization). An exec summary with references to the job description can also be added. It's noted we don't include a dollar amount at this time.
 - John- agreed.

- Invasive Species Advisory Committee (Power point presentation)
 - Invasive Species List Reporting Update – Ellen Jacquart and Tom Tremain
 - ReportIN was developed as a result of the EDRR conference. Worked with Chuck Bargeron to create our own state reporting system of invasive species.
 - Promoted at State Fair.
 - Two platforms for ReportIN: Computer and smartphone app (GLEDN app)—Data goes to EDDMaps database then goes to a queue to be verified. Once verified, it’s made public and leaves the queue. Small percent are incorrect or not credible.
 - Ellen provided a cheat sheet for how reporting occurs through the website. Putting on a training to use the website.
 - Can update your report on the website if inputted incorrectly on app.
 - 433 county reports have already been uploaded since the end of July to current. 42 point reports since July.
 - Now we also know Black swallowwort is in two new counties thanks to ReportIN. First known infestation of Japanese stiltgrass at McCormick’s Creek SP. First population of Japanese chaff flower north of the Ohio River counties (Lawrence). First population of plumeless thistle.
 - Lakes Country Cluster hosted by The Stewardship Network – Ellen Jacquart
 - Promotes the appropriate management of natural areas. This includes a lot of invasive species control. Started in Michigan, but has spread out to Ohio and Indiana. Administer small grants for small groups. We just put together a pulling together initiative grant for a north lakes cluster for early detection and control of certain species in that area. Reporting and mapping the species is going to be a big part so that is why I’m putting on this training.
 - Phil M.- on the negative data, is it verified?
 - Ellen- It’s based on credibility.
 - Eric- negative verifications aren’t made public on the website, but the data is kept.
 - Steve- How are we promoting this?
 - Ellen- we sent out a press release. Most active at the local level. Get areas to train their members on it. Local cooperative weed management areas. Sort of a soft release at this point.
 - Steve- do you think this platform could be used for eradication efforts in areas?
 - Ellen- you can add in “revisits” to your reports and document treatments, monitoring, and evaluation.
 - Ellen- Bulk uploads can be uploaded through the tech group at EDDMaps.
 - Megan- have you spoken with the state properties?
 - Ellen- I should do that. Ginger Murphy?
 - Phil M- Yes.
 - Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule Update – Phillip Marshall
 - A call in October.

- Megan- inspectors are out collecting. Not much info on Kyle's surveys. Found largest 30 nurseries. Assigned them to the inspector in that county. Looking at their plants if they are going to cause any problems with the new terrestrial rule.
- Phil M.- the rule is in draft form. We are gathering background information right now so we can put dollar amounts to the impact. Need to be able to justify. Economic impact of small business. Too large of a dollar amount will kill the rule. If INLA is on board with our results, we should be able to get it through.
- Steve- what's the rule again?
- Phil M- same as aquatic rule. Restricted plants and prohibited plants.
- Megan- restricted means they shouldn't be in trade. Prohibited would be black swallow for example. None can be allowed in Indiana.
- Kallie- difficult to get the info needed from these larger nurseries.
- Megan- the survey is a list asking about the number of plants you have on the list, the dollar amount associated with it, and projected economic impact.
- Ellen- essentially the list is the "high" ranked list on the IISC website. Get people to phase out the plants before the rule is implanted can result in a huge drop in economic impact.
- Ellen- how do we standardize the data that demonstrates damage done having these plants in trade?
- Phil M.- we can use that data if we can get it to make sense and relative.
- Megan- We can probably adapt the rule to remove plants that may help the rule passable then continue with outreach and eventually try to get the other plants.

Lunch 11:57

- Invasive Plant Assessment of Six Midwestern States – Ellen Jacquart
 - Came up with a project for undergrad, Amanda Berger, interviewed each state process.
 - Looked at six states
 - Asian bittersweet, Japanese barberry, Asian bush honeysuckle
 - Get a handle on the differences and similarities between the six states.
 - Minn WI and IL are doing these assessments only for regulatory purposes. Don't have high medium low ranks.
 - OH, IN, and MI all provide educational list.
 - Publication in the Weed Science Society of America?
 - Differences aren't due to tools used to assess invasive species, the goals are just different.
 - Hopefully published early next year.
 - One other project the Invasive Plant Advisory committee is working on is BMP's. 5 agencies have implemented BMPs based on our recommendations. Will put together a summary.
- Aquatic Invasive Advisory Committee – Eric Fischer

- [*Caught up new members on aquatics rule*]
 - Clarified a few small definitions in the rule.
 - Part of the rule package is now to define “dead” due to the controversy of transporting iced fish that are later rehydrated to sell in market.
 - Maybe draft a letter for the amendments to the state rule and have it approved by the council.
 - Installed a chain link fish on eagle marsh property. The marsh overflows from both ways and the fence was installed to prevent invasives from passing over. Creating a berm and replacing the current fence to improve the barrier. Won’t be completed by the end of this year. Contracted the property another year to maintain the fence.
 - Recently, INDR along with other great lakes DNRs applied for restoration initiative grant to develop “A comprehensive program for detection and tracking of new invasive species in the Great Lakes.” (Federal grant). Cooperation like last spring. Develop a rapid response plan and interstate aquatic species plan.
 - Ellen- Who is the lead?
 - Eric- the Aquatics coordinator of each state.
- Updates from Working Groups
 - Tactical plan update – Phillip Marshall
 - Nothing
 - Communications, and website – Steve Yaninek/Adam Witte
 - Invasive list: Agreed on wording. Adam needs to upload new document.
 - No need to save recordings.
 - Update the Council members.
 - EDDMaps needs put on somewhere
 - Check list and see if it includes everyone who attended the EDRR meeting
 - Get a printout of email list. Talk with AGComm.
 - Ellen- Can I send out the draft agenda to my invasive species stakeholders?
 - Phil M.- yes.
 - Steve- propose making a small group to organize these list servs. Adam, Steve, and Ellen.
 - Data collection and management - Larry Bledsoe
(consensus of committee that this topic has been satisfactorily addressed)
 - Phil M.- Might need to look at continuing with developing this. EDDMaps helps get the data in. But we need a way to coordinate databases. EDDMaps gets data in, then we need to access that data in any way that we can. Various databases exist.
 - Ellen- EDDMaps does have a distribution map function. It will only tell you what’s in the database, but it has linked to other larger databases, except for MapUS. If MapUS would get linked up with EDDMaps, we would have virtually all the data on invasive species distribution except for the private databases we have.
 - Education and Outreach portfolio
 - Steve- we should be embracing more on all of our invasive species outreach.
 - Ellen- we should upload events to the calendar so we know what everyone is doing.
 - Kris- Aaron, along with Michael, will take over this role.
- Emerging Invasive Species Issues and Update – Phil Marshall (demonstration on computer)

- Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut
 - Fungus found in Indiana, but not the beetle. Surveying is continuing.
- Kudzu Eradication Program Update
- Gypsy Moth Eradication Update
 - Have a few trap counts around West Lafayette

Michael Warner

- Michael- natural resources conservation services USDA, the only federal agency that provides any cost share dollars to private land owners for invasive species control, they call it Brush Management. I served on their advisory committee in 2012-13 because of some of their rules and priority changes, we were pretty much out of the invasives game. In 2013, their advisory committee apply for a variance to D.C. to allow us to make our own rules and utilize their cost share program through EQUIP to attack invasive species. So now we are back in the game in Indiana having cost share dollars available to land owners. I asked if we would be in the game again in 2015 at our last meeting and they said only if we ask for a variance again. I would recommend that we have a letter from our group to the state conservationist to encourage them to pursue that variance and place a high priority on invasive species control. I could draft that letter and it could come from the chairman of this group.
- Phil M- I like this idea. We need something for EAB and tree removal.
- Steve- I think this is a good idea. This council is designed to help leverage assistance from the state. We can help write a letter in regards to NRCS's support for invasive species activities.
- Phil M.- We never really included NRCS and need to start doing so.
- Michael- new forester coming in who could be a good asset to this group.
- Kris- Send out a letter of support. Michael, draft something up.

5. Updates or Announcements from the Council and Public

- Ellen- Want to send out a survey to the council to assess what information is important to you that needs to be featured on the massive brochure handout. 20-30 species with information will be featured on the new brochure.

6. Proposed next meeting date

- Steve- may want to have a teleconference with the reauthorization coming up. This way we can meet for an hour and not have to meet again year before spring.
- Phil M.- Public meeting in March.
- Kris- Meet in March and have smaller meetings with the working groups.
- David- If we have it closer to the State House.
- Ellen- TNC works still.
- Steve- if there's an opportunity, we can walk over and visit
- Phil M.- if they are receptive, that might be a good idea.
- John B.- Be careful, you're not a lobbying council. As individuals, you would be okay to sit down and talk with your legislatures.
- David- there's nothing wrong with inviting them to come.
- Phil M.- I think we need to start thinking about looking at having another meeting like the EDRR again in the future (past the renewal).
- Phil and Steve- spring or fall of 2016. Spring would be preferred.

7. Next steps/action items

- Kris- If you have something documenting your term, please send that to me.
- Steve- propose making a small group to organize these list servs. Adam, Steve, and Ellen.
 - Check list and see if it includes everyone who attended the EDRR meeting

- Get a printout of email list. Talk with AGComm.
- Invasive list: Agreed on wording. Adam needs to upload new document.
- Update the Council members.
- EDDMaps needs put on somewhere
- Michael draft a letter
- Eric will draft a letter of the rule
- Ellen- send a survey
- Kris- send out our annual report

2:47 PM - Adjourn