

**Minutes from
Indiana Invasive Species Council Meeting
March 4, 2010**

Indiana State Museum, 10 am to 3 pm

Steve Yaninek welcomed all and introduced himself as representing the Dean of the Dept. of Agriculture on the Invasive Species Council (ISC). The other five council members introduced themselves - Phil Marshall, State Entomologist; Doug Keller, Aquatics Invasive Coordinator; Bill Fielding of Indiana Department of Transportation (IDOT); Sara Slater of Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA); and Sandi Norman of Indiana State Board of Animal Health (ISBAH). Council appointment nominees in attendance included Rick Haggard representing INLA, David Isaacs from Aquatic Control and president of Midwest Aquatic Society, and Ellen Jacquart representing Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG). Also attending - Lynn Dennis of The Nature Conservancy and Jodie Ellis of Purdue University (list of attendees with email addresses are at end of document).

Steve noted that the Governor's office called late yesterday to ask him to cancel this meeting since the governor hasn't made the appointments yet. Steve declined, given the late hour and inability to reach those planning to attend, but suggested that the ISC not elect a chair or make other decisions until the appointments are made.

Agenda:

1. Elect a chairperson if a quorum – tabled until appointments are made.

2. Determine meeting frequency and mechanisms for communications – Steve's office is serving as point of contact for the ISC.

Website – where could the ISC website be housed? Perhaps the DNR website for invasive species (<http://www.in.gov/dnr/3123.htm>), though it is a rather clunky design. At least it could be used to post the HB 1203, Task Force report, meeting notices, etc. Perhaps it could be linked to Purdue University websites, where there may be more flexibility in design and content. Rick notes that we should send meeting notes to National Archive as a permanent record (INLA does this).

3. Review of Task Force Findings and Recommendations- Ellen Jacquart. There were seven recommendations from the Invasive Species Task Force:

1. Improve coordination and communication between agencies and affected stakeholders through creation of an Invasive Species Council.

2. Develop and share information resources to target management in a cost-effective manner.
3. Coordinate with other Midwest state governments as well as regional and federal agencies and other relevant organizations on common invasive species issues to increase consistency and effectiveness of programs.
4. Work with agencies and organizations to coordinate a comprehensive education and outreach effort to share new information and best practices, including convening or supporting invasive species meetings.
5. Improve the consistency and efficiency of state agencies' invasive species policies and procedures.
6. Allocate appropriate resources to invasive species efforts to improve prevention, early detection, and control and management in Indiana in a cost-effective manner.
7. Amend statutory language to allow more effective implementation of invasive species regulations.

Ellen discussed each of these, and how each went forward (or not) through the legislature. See pdf of powerpoint for details.

4. Review- HB 1203. Steve Yaninek. Went through the HB 1203 legislation section by section and discussed. See pdf of powerpoint.

5. Agency reports.

ISDA – Sara Slater

ISDA has no specific programs dealing with invasive species, but they work with USDA and SWCDs, who have invasive control funds and programs.

Concerns –

- invasives in hardwood stands (they have staff person working on hardwoods)
- Invasives affecting wildlife habitat for ETR species in CREP programs
- Noxious weed issues
- Certified Livestock Producer Program – could have relation to invasive issues.

Ellen noted that SWCDs have become very active in invasive plant issues and are providing an important education function with landowners. Steve suggested having presentations from agencies on their structure and organization at future meetings, so

we have a clear understanding of each. Lynn suggested that we may also want presentations from other agencies, including those originally recommended by the Task Force for the ISC since they also have a strong vested interest in invasive species.

IDOT – Bill Fielding

- IDOT has no invasive species policy, but they deal with Noxious Weed Law on a regular basis.
- In the last 6 months have tracked costs by acre and species - they have spent \$232,000 in 6 months; interestingly, all but \$5000 was for thistle and Johnson grass.
- IDOT chipping equipment has been certified by DNR for EAB restrictions.

Ellen asked about timing of mowing – do they time mowing to avoid spreading invasive plants that are in seed? Bill replied that mowing is delayed in southern Indiana districts until after Sept. to avoid impacts to monarch butterflies – they are not timing mowing to decrease spread of invasive species. They do have machine cleaning protocols to keep weeds from one site from being moved to another site.

Steve asked about districts – are IDOT districts the same as other state agencies district boundaries? No, each agency has their own district boundaries.

Aquatic Invasive Species – Doug Keller

- Aquatic invasives enter the state primarily through ballast water, water gardens, aquarium trade, and recreational boating and fishing.
- First aquatic invasive in US – common carp.
- Fish invaders - round goby, lamprey eel, snakeheads (Arkansas facility got snakeheads before it was listed as injurious by Lacey Act, then couldn't sell them so put them out on a levee to die. They did not die; now invading river near potential Ivory Billed Woodpecker site).
 - Strategies for invasive fish management: education, eradication – though very few eradication efforts, as there are few tools available for this and they are not selective.
- Snails – Chinese mystery snails, zebra mussels, quagga mussels
- Diseases
- Plants – purple loosestrife, phragmites, Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaved pondweed are all common. New plants – Brazilian elodea and hydrilla.
 - Strategies for plants – used to just map and watch them expand; now using education, eradication where they can find funding – it is expensive, but they have demonstrated success.

- Needs – authority to black list (only loosestrife, elodea and hydrilla banned) and white list. Have developed these lists and would like to have them considered by the ISC. Will go through rule-making process of DEPP.
- Add'l needs – risk assessments for fish, mollusks, other taxa; stable funding; rapid response war chest; add'l staff focusing on invasives.

Doug also discussed invasive vertebrate wildlife species:

- Birds – mute swans, Starlings, Sparrows, Rock pigeon, House finch
- Mammals - Feral hogs, armadillos, nutrias (the last not here yet)
- Herps – wall lizard, river cooter, 3-toed box turtle, chytrid fungus spread by bait salamanders
- Needs? Sounds like DFW may be revising rules on feral hogs in the near future to better restrict possession and transport.

Ellen commented she's confused on status of hogs in IN (4 known populations in IN versus MI DNR says there are hogs in 68 counties in their state- is there a difference in the way things are being counted?); possible discussion of feral hog mgmt by DFW/APHIS/ISBAH at future ISC meeting.

Steve asked about use of biocontrol beetles for purple loosestrife in IN; Doug replied that they are being used, and they have decreased loosestrife populations significantly.

Steve asked about relation between aquatic invasives and T&E species, where perhaps USFWS funds could be used to address the problem. Doug says there is overlap where invasives are impacting T&E species; Steve notes that this is another avenue for action/funds.

ISBAH – Sandi Norman

- Office of the State Veterinarian is responsible for animal health in IN; 11 member board, 129 staff members
- Board of Animal Health responsible for animal health, food safety, emergency preparedness
- 31 million animals in IN (pets, livestock, livestock)
- 10 field vets/ 4 livestock inspectors
- Foreign animal diseases very important; all 14 district staff are trained FADDs.
- National Animal ID System – being dropped nationally, but IN intends to keep this program in the state (state law mandates it).
- Invasive Concerns – pathogens [foreign animal disease (esp. foot and mouth), several other diseases of concern, like rabbit hemorrhagic disease and monkeypox]; parasites [screwworms which infest all warm-blooded animals]; feral pigs [which transmit brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies to domestic

hogs as well as impacting natural habitats and cropland]; snails [like Giant African Land Snails – 3 snails smuggled into FL in 1966; ended up with 18,000 snails there and cost \$1 million to eradicate]; raccoon strain of rabies (a new version of rabies we do not yet have in IN)

- Summary – lots of surveillance going on, multiple agency jurisdiction can be challenging, diverse industries are impacted.

What could ISBAH use? Perhaps ISC could be a forum for discussion of relevant agencies re. data mgmt/information sharing about feral hogs.

Steve asked about coordination between states – Sandi replied there is good coordination with our neighboring states on shared invasive issues.

Doug asked about TB in deer; found in captive IN deer populations which may have come with Nebraska. But no TB in wild deer populations in IN (it has been found in MI deer populations).

Terrestrial Invasive Species – Phil Marshall

- DEPP is in charge of plant health and apiary health in Indiana.
- 11 nursery inspectors, 1 apiary inspector. Main focus is on plant disease.
- All growing nurseries must be inspected 1/year and have license to grow. Dealers get a different license in order to sell plants.
- Not charged with inspecting all apiaries in IN, but paying more attention to them given colony collapse disorder.
- DEPP handles responsibilities traditionally handled by state ag agencies in other states.
- Gypsy moth one of big invasive issues, and how Phil first got involved in invasive species. 14,000 traps go out each year in IN; main population is in NE part of state. Slow the Spread program successfully slowing the spread of gypsy moth into the state through monitoring, pheromone flakes, and Bt.
- EAB a recent invader affecting ash. Now generally infested in NE part of state; quarantined counties where it has been found throughout the state. Griding traps in SW part of state for trapping. Orange Co. is very heavy hit; second worst is Huntington. Fort Wayne pretty bad, Pigeon River showing lots of mortality. 3-5 years until detectable (through dead trees). Jodie Ellis at Purdue University is information coordinator on gypsy moth, EAB. Paid for through state funds and federal grants.
- Many smaller pests – bark beetle, chafers, Asiatic garden beetles, granulate ambrosia beetle – mapping, but no action
- Not yet here – ALB, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, 1000 Cankers Disease of Black Walnut

- Kudzu project – 124 locations in IN; Ken Cote leading effort to identify, map, and eradicate kudzu from IN. About 1/3 of the sites have been treated.
- Lots of other species are on their radar. CAPS website is a good resource for a list of all types of invasive species in IN (<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS/>).

Introduction of visitors who joined us late – John Baugh, legislative rep from Purdue; Micah Vincent legislative rep. for ISDA, and Gary Hanes, ISBAH liaison and legal counsel. John noted that he's heard the governor's office hopes to make appointments by end of month. They are apparently looking for agriculture nominees – if you have suggestions provide to Ellen or Sara in ISDA.

6. General discussion about emerging invasive species issues - tabled.

7. Discussion about Council priorities and what's next -

- at some point, the Council needs to start creating advisory committees to assist the Council in its duties (like ISBAH has committees focused on particular issues)
- need an inventory of existing databases, existing invasive groups that could serve as advisory groups, affected industries
- specific committees can be created to work on particular invasive problems
- need to elect a chair
- need ad hoc group to be responsible for report (due July 1, 2011)
- need ad hoc group to be responsible for state-wide invasive species meeting
- need website
- aquatic white list/black list project well poised to be considered and vetted by Council with action taken by the time the report is due next July.
- agency/organization presentations on structure, mission, organization (e.g. Purdue Univ. presentation on all the different invasive species efforts going on there)
- data inventory/management committee to address that portion of the ISC mission; start with determining status of invasive data in the state.
- Need to set next ISC meeting as a conference call 6-8 weeks out. Invite appointees to the call if we have them at that point; if there are no appointees decide on next steps.
- Develop Indiana Invasive Species Strategic Plan
- Purdue Extension needs to be represented in education/outreach discussions
- Steve noted there is already a lot of momentum on particular issues so we are not starting from scratch.

- CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) is an excellent program that needs to be involved in the data management/inventory discussion as they handle the NAPIS (National Agricultural Pest Information System).

Summary of Priorities:

- Getting appointments made – supposed to happen by end of March
- Setting next meeting in mid-April as a teleconference – **April 14 at 2 pm was chosen**
- Need to establish subgroups –
 - o Report group
 - o Conference group – all taxa? Stand alone or as part of another group? By July 1, 2011? What partners can help organize/fund (IN Academy of Science could be an important partner)?
 - o Communications group

8. Establish working groups – tabled until next time.

Who else do we need in the room? More industry reps. Should we brainstorm a list to invite? That list may come out of the next teleconference.

April 14 afternoon will be the ISC teleconference. Ellen will send draft notes and pdfs of powerpoints to all, and suggest times for the call (have since decided on 2pm).

March 4, 2010

Indiana Invasive Species Council Meeting

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