

Indiana Invasive Species Council

Wednesday 15 February 2023. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

1. Call to Order (M. Kraushar)

2. Roll Call (M. Kraushar)

- **Council Members Present**

Matt Kraushar, (IISC Chair), Roadside Maintenance Specialist, representing Indiana Department of Transportation, mkraushar@indot.in.gov

Alicia Kelley, IN CAPS State Survey Coordinator, representing Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University (Secretariat), ajkelley@purdue.edu

Megan Abraham, Director, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, representing Department of Natural Resources, MAbraham@dnr.in.gov

Eric Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, efischer@dnr.in.gov

Rick Haggard, Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, representing industry, haggard.rick@att.net

Heather Reynolds, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Biology, Indiana University representing research, hlreynol@indiana.edu

Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist, representing Indiana State Department of Agriculture, kasanders1@isda.in.gov

Joe Schmees, IN Freshwater Strategy Manager, The Nature Conservancy, representing land trusts, joseph.schmees@tnc.org

Kelli Werling, Director of Swine Health Programs, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health, kwerling@boah.in.gov

- **Non-Council Members Present:**

Stephanie Schuck, Executive Director, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), stephanie@sicim.info

Robert (Bob) Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, rbruner@purdue.edu

Ellen Jacquart, President of the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS), Chair of the Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) initiative

Dawn Slack, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), Project Coordinator / (Chair) IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, dawn@sicim.info

Steve Yaninek, Professor of Entomology, yaninek@purdue.edu

Sarah Brackney, Extension Educator - Agriculture & Natural Resources, Daviess County, sbrackne@purdue.edu

Phil Marshall, Forest Health Specialist, Division of Forestry, pmarshall@dnr.IN.gov

3. Adoption of Agenda (M. Kraushar)

- Discussion

- S. Yaninek reminds M. Kraushar to include an update on the position for the representative of the Dean of Agriculture

- Motion: R. Haggard

- Second: K. Sanders

- Vote: Motion passed

4. Review and approval of minutes from prior meeting (M. Kraushar)

- Discussion

- H. Reynolds sent editorial revisions.

- K. Werling notes that her email address is not correct. (kwerling@boah.in.gov)

- Motion to approve with corrections: K. Werling

- Second: K. Sanders

- Vote: Motion passed
5. Member Reports/Updates
- Research (H. Reynolds)
 - No updates
 - Indiana State Department of Agriculture (K. Sanders)
 - Last time we talked about Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants and that 13 of 16 proposals were awarded. Eight of the grants were relating to native plant or invasive species control; grants totaled \$300,265. One was for SICIM for \$50,000. Pulaski county was awarded \$60,000. Fulton county was awarded a larger grant; \$10,000 portion was for pollinator habitat; some for invasive species removal, native plants and rain gardens, and to build capacity for running a CISMA in Jay/Blackford counties.
 - D. Slack: The \$50,000 for SICIM was awarded for which funding cycle?
 - K. Sanders: It's for 2023 funding cycle.
 - Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) (R. Haggard)
 - We had a record number of registrations for the Green Expo and many walk-ups. There is a strong interest among different groups and employees of INLA about invasives. Several people are catching on to this issue and they are advised to use EddMaps and report anything they find. Also, we did have a booth for the IISC but the email went to Mike Warner.
 - M. Kraushar: We did get the email about it but we didn't have much materials.
 - R. Haggard: No problem. We will always have a booth available for IISC near the DNR booth. I did interview with student at University of Georgia about IISC and gave her an update.
 - D. Slack: I want to add that I presented at Green Expo and the room was packed. There was a lot of great questions. Bob and Vince Burkle also had talks afterward. I am happy to sit at an IISC booth next year.
 - M. Abraham: We expect more interest as nursery stock regulations are changing in response to spotted lanternfly (SLF). We will need more information on that subject.
 - R. Haggard: I just got a notice through our NLAE group that New Jersey is now quarantined due to SLF.
 - Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (M. Abraham)
 - This time of year we're doing a lot of outreach events. Green expo, Indiana Arborists, Home and Garden show. There is lots of interest from outdoor enthusiasts. Flower and Patio shows are coming up next and we will be there. This time of year we are also doing SLF egg scrapings in Huntington. In one day they removed 4,200 egg masses. Bob and Vince have scheduled several outreach events in Huntington to inform the public about SLF.
 - Through the National Plant Board I've been put on a SLF working group that will decide the future of SLF control for the next five years. There is dissention on where resources should go. What they decide will greatly impact Indiana because we are on a leading front of the infestation. This insect is different than previous invasives in that we can't control the material that it moves on, we don't have a lure yet, and it lays eggs on just about anything. The bottom line is that there are not enough federal funds to deal with this insect. There are arguments on whether focus should be put on management, research, or outreach. Most of the Midwest is in the same boat as Indiana, where we are expecting to find this in more locations. West Coast is presenting a zero-tolerance policy on moving any materials that may have an egg mass on it. Capacity of staff to inspect on this level is not possible. There is a lot of question on what we are able to do. We can scrape egg masses and apply chemicals, but it is difficult to know where eggs are. The two times we have found it has been through social media and emails, but this is the tip of the iceberg. The rest of the Midwest has started to get reports as well.
 - The USDA has apportioned about 3 million for management. This is not much when one state contracts treatments at \$300,000/year. At the very least we need to make extension offices aware of what is going on because it will become more frequent and people will be calling.
 - We are able to access a few other funds through Farm Bill. We are setting up more surveys, kudzu treatments, and an additional spongy moth treatment for a fish and wildlife area in Northern Indiana. We also have staff turnover in Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology.
 - J. Schmees: Are inspections done on receiving end out west?

- M. Abraham: It depends. If there is a phytotoxicity issue, we do the inspections here. We also do disease free certifications for seed exports. California has agricultural stations to inspect all trucks coming in, and they check for permits certifying they are free of pests and diseases. Areas such as North Carolina are having difficulty getting their materials through those border stations because they don't have certificates stating they are free of SLF. This is expected for moving live plant material, but products that shouldn't necessarily present a problem, such as science kits and boiled peanuts, are being stopped and the inventory is destroyed because they lack a permit certifying they are free from SLF.
- The SLF Summit is March 1-2. It's a free virtual webinar.
- **Action item: M. Abraham will share SLF summit information.**
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division Fish and Wildlife (E. Fischer)
 - DFW setting up for shows and presenting on invasive species at booths. I was also at the Green Expo and saw some of the invasives species tract.
 - We are going into contract work for aquatic invasives. I have Federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant; \$285,000 for starry stonewort treatment starting in June, which is one of our bigger plant control efforts. We have another \$100,000 in contracts for obligate wetland invasive plant control. We're also looking for European frog-bit; other states are increasing their outreach efforts to locate this species.
 - We got the Governor's proclamation for Invasive Species Awareness Week. We will have two weeks of effort to highlight invasives on our social media pages.
 - Mid-year I'll be working on getting volunteers for annual Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz. We get help from F&W staff, Sea Grant, and a lot of volunteers, and we gather on boat ramps for one-on-one interactions.
 - E. Jacquart: Is Asian jumping worm on your radar at all due to their potential to be spread as bait?
 - E. Fischer: We became aware of it but it is not fully realized how extensive their range is.
 - E. Jacquart: We still don't know the extent of it, but it seems most of the rural areas in Indiana have them. So, if people are digging for worms to use or sell as bait, there is potential for them to move that way.
 - M. Abraham: It also moves around in the nursery trade, and if we find it we can regulate it (stop or destroy plants). The issue is that once it's in an area, it's very difficult to get rid of. There are some off-label products that have some early data for efficacy against jumping worm, but they're not labelled for that use.
 - E. Jacquart: It definitely appears the nursery industry is the main source of spread. The only treatments available are damaging to the soil (solarization), so prevention is the best control we have.
 - J. Schmees: Are they intentionally used in compost?
 - M. Abraham: No. Some large industries use them for bait, and people throw them in their backyard when they don't use them. There is awareness in the nursery trade but there is still discussion on how to regulate soil and who is going to implement it.
 - R. Bruner: One of the challenges is also that people can't differentiate them from European earth worms and use them in vermiculture (composting with worms). That's how they got to the ISU community garden.
 - M. Abraham: We are doing outreach when we can.
 - D. Slack: Eric, will you share the schedule for the landing blitz and I will distribute to CISMAs.
 - K. Sanders: I will share it as well.
 - **Action item: E. Fischer will distribute landing blitz schedule to the council.**
- State Board of Animal Health (K. Werling)
 - Update on highly pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI): Indiana had its last case of HPAI diagnosed in 2022. It is still spreading elsewhere in the USA, so it is probably not over, but we are working to prevent reintroduction. We are continuing to respond to cases as they get diagnosed.
 - Rabies diagnosis update: We keep records of bats that test positive because there is often companion/domestic animal exposure and subsequent owner exposure. 12 total bats tested positive in

- 2022; 6 of those cases included domestic animal exposure. BOAH provided counsel to owners on next steps. Exposed humans were referred to state/local health department for symptom monitoring.
- Equine disease totals for 2022:
 - West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2022: 2
 - Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE): 3
 - Conducted foreign animal disease investigation to rule out rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus II in two pet rabbits.
 - Much of the last quarter has been spent at outreach activities in the prevention of disease incursions, specifically for poultry and HPAI, and also in swine industry because of the potential threat of African Swine Fever.
 - M. Abraham: My kids would like to know if chickens are going extinct.
 - K. Werling: We hope not, but unfortunately there have been a lot of chickens depopulated as part of the response to HPAI (over 52 million birds affected).
 - M. Abraham: How widespread is it?
 - K. Werling: It's in 47 of 50 states. USDA has announced it as the biggest animal health outbreak in history. We also see it in wild birds, which is concerning because they are difficult to control and can spread to domestic birds. Something different about this virus is that wild birds are experiencing mortality events from HPAI.
 - J. Schmees: Is the detection in wild birds only from mortality events?
 - K. Werling: There is also routine surveillance of migratory flyways, but mortality events are where we want to test to see if it is HPAI.
 - D. Slack: Any updates on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?
 - K. Werling: We still haven't found it in wild or captive deer populations. It is all around us, so we suspect it is here but that we haven't detected it yet. We are hopeful that we are in fact disease-free in Indiana; but we are continuing to survey for it. We did have a trace investigation on a deer that was sent to Wisconsin and died while there, but it originated from an Indiana herd. All tests have come out negative so far.
 - D. Slack: How many farms do we have?
 - K. Werling: About 300.
 - R. Bruner: Does BOAH track white nose fungus in bats?
 - K. Werling: BOAH does not; I believe DNR checks for that.
 - M. Abraham: We have a bat expert who monitors it.
 - Purdue University College of Agriculture (A. Kelley)
 - A. Kelley newly appointed as IISC representative for the Purdue Dean of Agriculture by the Interim Dean. Current extension efforts in the Department of Entomology are focused on SLF outreach. Bob can share more on these efforts as the Exotic Forest Pest Educator.
 - R. Bruner: I primarily focus on outreach to citizens and businesses, and right now SLF is the biggest topic. I've presented at several events including the Green Expo and Indiana Arborists Association. Coming up we are going to be at the Flower and Patio show, and distributing materials to the Deer, Turkey, and Waterfowl conference. I also host a YouTube channel with talks on invasives. Recently I took over from Steve as the Invasive Species Working Group coordinator, and we are working on a program to help Hoosiers understand invasive species and assist with identification and management. Sarah Brackney is also a part of this group.
 - S. Brackney: I am working on the Invasive Species Signature Program to help extension educators identify, manage, and report invasive species. We hope to roll that out this year.
 - R. Bruner: The idea behind the modules is that not all extension educators are experts on these topics. We want to give them toolkits so they can confidently teach people or reach out to experts.
 - S. Yaninek: The materials are going through peer review and development of appropriate evaluation tools as well. It's been a slow process but it will be worth it. A lot of care has been put into making these documents meaningful for the target audience and contain useful information.
 - S. Brackney: Another thing about the signature program is that it is important to keep updated and have regular yearly maintenance.

- K. Sanders: As I've heard everyone discuss SLF, I want to suggest to share all this information from Purdue Agriculture with our resource specialists who could help amplify your message in our counties.
- R. Bruner: Purdue runs the ReportINvasives website, and it would be a huge help for your resource specialists to share that across your social media.
- The Nature Conservancy/Land Trusts (J. Schmees)
 - J. Schmees recently started a new position as the Freshwater Strategy Manager with the Nature Conservancy (TNC). There is a lot of invasive species work that TNC does on their property and in coordination with partners. TNC now has a Volunteer Coordinator; if there are efforts where volunteers are needed, TNC can help with that.
 - Indiana Lakes Management Society Board did an invasive plant management workshop on primarily wetlands and around lakes. The Lakes group coordinates and sponsors various workshops and are open to aquatics topics. The ILMS has a lot of homeowners as well so it is a good avenue to reach landowners.
 - IDNR Division of Forestry (P. Marshall)
 - Currently looking for Beech Leaf Disease which is in northwest Ohio about 30 miles from the Indiana border. Through the BIL law there are some grant funds for invasive species management. WI and MI and IN have a project together to test trees for BLD. Another disease we are surveying is Laurel Wilt disease which invades sassafras. We are working to identify its presence in the state.
 - In conjunction with finding SLF, we are working on finding where all the Tree-of-Heaven is.
 - We are still looking for Oak wilt.
 - Still conducting surveys for Walnut twig beetle.
 - A current pest on the east coast we are beginning to search for is Zig-zag sawfly. This is a sawfly that defoliates elm trees.
 - We still watch for hemlock wooly adelgid, beech bark disease, and sudden oak death.
 - For extension educators, if they need assistance, I am available to diagnose tree diseases via the phone or photos.
 - We are getting ready for spongy moth; we have concerns in LaPorte County because we've had two years of defoliation there. We're working with a local county committee who wants to do management. It's primarily a nuisance concern from all the caterpillars.
- Indiana Department of Transportation (M. Kraushar)
 - We have a number of acres contracted for invasive species treatments for several targets.
 - Several acres of Callery pear being mulched.
 - J. Schmees: Are you replanting mulched areas?
 - M. Kraushar: Sometimes, depends on what the infestation is. Revegetation is recommended to prevent soil erosion in some cases. For woody vegetation, it's often not necessary because the seed bank regrows after treatments.
- Indiana Plant Advisory Committee and SICIM (D. Slack)
 - Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)
 - We have about 40 CISMAs representing 50 counties, working in 72 counties
 - We've completed approximately 1100 landowner surveys; about 36,000 acres provided with land management plans
 - Completed over 400 weed wrangles in 50 counties
 - Training & Outreach
 - Planning for 8 plus regional training 2023: regionally located based on SWCD regions
 - Quarterly Lunch and Network: tomorrow featuring Vince Burkle (SLF and Fountain grass)
 - Hoosier Hardwood Festival, Green Expo, National Interpreter's Association, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalist, etc.

- Sentinel Program Partner
 - Feb 20th, Indiana Invasive Species Week
- Invasive Species Conference – June 29 in Noblesville, IN
 - \$25/person (includes lunch)
 - In Person event at Hamilton County Fairgrounds
 - 3 Tracks (Professional/ Research, CISMA, Novice)
 - Continuing Education Credits
 - Local field events will be included
- Indiana Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC)
 - Assessing terrestrial plants for inclusion on the state invasive species list
 - Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)
 - Bamboos (*Phyllostachys* spp.)
 - Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*)
 - Siebold viburnum (*Viburnum sieboldiana*)
 - Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)
 - Siberian squill (*Scilla siberica*)
 - American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
 - Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)
 - Golden raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculate*)
 - English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
 - Wine raspberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)
 - Five-fingered aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*)
 - Chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*)
 - Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*)
 - Fountaingrass (*Cenchrus alopecuroides* syn. *Pennisetum alopecuroides*) and *C. setaceus*
 - M. Abraham: Isn't American holly native?
 - D. Slack: Its native range is under evaluation. It's not here in Indiana. We have a couple of sites that have pretty heavy infestations. We are still trying to understand if it is a problem or not.
 - M. Abraham: So, these evaluations are still very early in the process?
 - D. Slack: That is correct.
 - M. Abraham to R. Haggard: How many of the species on the list are still in trade?
 - R. Haggard: At least five: Fountaingrass, Viburnum (wayfaring tree, Leatherleaf, siebold), some American holly.
 - D. Slack: Are they still growing chocolate vine, heavenly bamboo, or golden raintree?
 - R. Haggard: Not chocolate vine or heavenly bamboo. Very little golden raintree.
 - P. Marshall: I know a lot of forests where there is American holly, and several properties that have it in their yards.
 - D. Slack: In one of the areas we have, I have not been on site to determine if we have American or European holly. We're working to make sure we have the right species identified.
 - R. Haggard: A nursery in southern Indiana grew American holly for years, but hasn't done so in awhile.
 - P. Marshall: There is a lot of variety of holly in the Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest.
 - M. Kraushar: Can we have a quick update on the fountain grass you have been seeing?
 - D. Slack: I'm aware of another new site in Gibson county, and now we're up to a total of 4 sites infested with it. Landowners are reaching out about how to stop the spread, remove their pasture animals from the field, and revegetate the pastures. We've reached out to multiple states about how to stop the infestation from spreading.
 - R. Haggard: Have they assessed where the hay came from?

- D. Slack: No, I have not been able to find an answer on the introduction point in the pastures.
- K. Sanders: Would you remind me how it causes problems in pastures?
- D. Slack: It's not grazeable and its nutritional quality is low.
- M. Kraushar: And it spreads like wildfire.
- D. Slack: The literature right now is indicating the seeds are viable for 7 years. It looks like glyphosate is the best chemical control, but that is not a good option for pastures.

6. 5 Minute Recess – 11:42

7. Old Business

- Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - Proclamation request submitted and M. Abraham circulated proclamation 2/6/2023
 - Will coincide with the National Week: 20-26 February
 - M. Abraham: There will be daily posts on DNR facebook page
 - Action Item: A. Kelley will update Joe Schmees's email address on the listserv.
 - M. Kraushar: I am interested in capturing the group's social media handles to help spread of information
 - Action Item: Everyone should send their social media handles to M. Kraushar, and M. Kraushar will share with the group so that everyone can share each other's posts.
 - M. Abraham: Communications staff in the DNR is often willing to share things that we have done, but they push back against sharing another agency's content. For proclamation week, we will have daily posts about invasive species.
- Biennial Report (M. Warner)
 - M. Kraushar believes the report was submitted.
 - Action item: M. Kraushar will reach out to M. Warner to verify that he submitted the report.
- Legislative Working Group: SICIM/IASWCD Legislative Proposal (D. Slack)
 - Clean Water Indiana (CWI) budget proposal submitted to Governor's office as part of Next Level Conservation funding request. We asked for an increase to existing line item; we asked for \$8.6 million for healthy waters, healthy soils, invasive species, and funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).
 - We got an update this morning. Governor's new budget does include an increase of over a million; but it's still going through the process. We are still continuing to ask for the full \$8.6m. About 50% of the money would go into the CWI grant funds; 23-25% would go directly to SWCD staff for raises; 17% would go to hiring technical assistance who would work within 2-3 counties to help with invasive species management; 9% would go to III funding.
 - J. Schmees: The general fund line item went from \$970 to \$2.6m. There are still a lot of conversations about why this funding increase is important.
 - E. Jacquart: Is the funding increase as a direct response to the requests being made?
 - J. Schmees: We started our request with ISDA and asked if it would be added to ISDA's budget. ISDA suggested to double SWCD funding from \$10,000 to \$20,000, which would be an additional \$920,000 total. That is what ISDA did submit in their budget. Additionally, in 2021, as part of the pandemic budget, the part of the CWI budget that came from the cigarette tax budget was cut by 15%. Unlike most budgets, CWI did not get that 15% back because the ISDA ended up getting funding for food banks. My impression is that the additional \$800,000 is a return of the 15% that was cut from CWI.
 - D. Slack: That's correct. The two million increase is a return of the 15% taken from CWI in 2021, and SWCD funding going from \$10,000 to \$20,000. They haven't really given us the increase for invasive species management that we asked for.
 - E. Jacquart: But some of the increase could potentially be for invasives?
 - D. Slack: Potentially, because invasive species is in line with the vision of the state.
 - J. Schmees: If you go to the CWI page, you can see previous and existing projects. CWI can also be used by outside conservation partners as well.
- Terrestrial Plant Rule (TPR) additions (M. Abraham)

- This has not moved yet. I am aware everyone is upset about it. Unfortunately, it is difficult to give attention to this with everything else going on. We have also had a lot of turnover in our legal department. It is a matter of getting the time to focus on it; it is on my list to get done. One thing that will help with that is that Ohio has banned Callery pear and the response there has been neutral. My one concern, now that we have this list of new plants, is if we should be looking for some of these species in the nursery industry.
- D. Slack: I think so, yes. We can work together on that. It would help us assess the plants too.
- M. Kraushar: One of the assessment questions is if it is active in trade, so being able to quantify that would be helpful.
- M. Abraham: Then we can have the inspectors look through this. They have gone electronic, so adding that data to our digital tools is easier.
- E. Jacquart: Given the recent publicity of Ohio and their ability to ban Callery pear, there have been more questions of why haven't we gotten the ban. In 2 months, Callery pear is going to be in full bloom. Multiple counties will have billboards and promotional campaign to remove and replace these trees. Is there is something you can have ready by the time it is in bloom to outline the timeline of the TPR?
- M. Abraham: Yes I can pull something together.
 - Action item: M. Abraham to provide timeline for the proposed plan by Mid-March.
- S. Schuck: I have had many people come to me who are angry about the Callery pear ban. I use it as an opportunity to educate them on what the process is, who regulates, what's on the list, why is it there, and what the process is. Their next question is who do they talk to.
- M. Abraham: Send them my way. I also support the continuation of these campaigns to educate people on why Callery pear is bad, which will reduce the demand for it.
- E. Jacquart: If you need people to talk to legislatures, we can get people to talk to them if you need help. Our Native Plant Society Facebook group (42 thousand people) were passionately discussing the ban and Indiana's inability to do what Ohio has done.
- M. Abraham: All the State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs) in the Midwest were waiting to see what happened in Ohio. We're still waiting to see how regulating it in the nurseries goes. I'm guessing the biggest issues will be with big box stores, as it is with us right now. But that will also help us in the future, because if the retailers know they can't send them here, they'll send different stock rather than letting us destroy Callery pear when it gets here. Those stores have had some experience now with us destroying plants that are on our list not to sell, which costs them money.
- E. Jacquart: Ohio is a great example because the rule was actually five years ago, and the delay eliminated economic impact.
- M. Abraham: My preliminary talk with the legal team at the National Resource Committee (NRC) is that we can try that messaging as well.
- Recodification of IISC (M. Kraushar)
 - M. Kraushar: The most up to date information I received this morning from our Legislative Affairs Director is that there is an amendment included in Senate Bill 412. It is likely to be heard on Tuesday by the NRC.
 - M. Abraham: The extension is supposed to be until 2031. I have heard that the bill was held up on a different issue and they were hoping it would pass by next Monday.
 - S. Schuck: I was at the hearing last week. The committee seemed positive on getting this through.
 - S. Yaninek: Purdue College of Ag attorney confirmed it was added and there might be some changes to other parts of the bill, but his impression is that there won't be any issue going through.
 - J. Schmees: Bill 412 is a DNR bill, and in the current committee there are some legislatures that have opinions about how the DNR conducts business. I asked if there are concerns about anti-DNR committee members holding up the bill. I was told there is support for the amendment on both sides, but the process is uncertain. However, the recodification could be added to another bill down the road if necessary.
 - M. Kraushar: Time will tell and we will continue to work through our various channels.

8. New Business

- Hybrid meeting
 - Allowable with the adoption of an electronic participation policy consistent with IC 5-14-1.5-3.6
 - Council Members: Review electronic participation policy and provide any comments; it will be presented at the next meeting
 - J. Schmees: We don't need to specify which meeting needs to be in-person, as long as members are in-person for at least one meeting
 - K. Werling: consider adding clause that if governor declares another emergency that it would bypass the in-person requirement
 - J. Schmees: It is already a part of the open-door law
 - J. Schmees Appointment
 - M. Kraushar confirmed that J. Schmees can continue to serve in his appointment while representing TNC.
 - S. Yaninek is retiring and vacating his position on the council.
 - Open Door Law
 - During the last meeting, there was a question regarding in-person quorum requirement for hybrid meetings
 - M. Kraushar confirmed we are able to do hold hybrid meetings, but the IISC must adopt an official policy as it relates to hybrid meetings. Policy document was sent to the council for review.
 - J. Schmees: Did they say we do fall under open door law?
 - M. Kraushar: We do, but it's not the same as the county level, so it's not required to have 50% of members present. Our requirement is 30% or 4 people.
 - J. Schmees: A part of the policy states the July meeting is required in-person; I think we should change that to an in-person requirement for at least one meeting and leave it open as to which meeting.
 - Council confirmed there is a clause in the code that a Governor's proclamation of a public health emergency would supersede the in-person requirement.
 - M. Kraushar is seeking volunteers to serve as the chairperson of the council for the next year.
 - Next Meeting dates for 2023:
 - Proposed: 17 May
 - 16 August (pending recodification)
 - 15 November (pending recodification)
 - Location options
 - INDOT
 - TNC
 - Purdue University
 - Fish and Wildlife Office
 - Action Item: M. Kraushar to circulate a poll and identify a meeting location for 17 May by mid next week.
 - P. Marshall: We have a grant proposal under the BIL law to work on vascular streak disease on redbud. There's another disease developing on *Carpinus caroliniana* in the Allegheny National Forest I'm learning about as well. I'm also working on trying to develop surveys to find where invasive plants are. I'm wondering if we can work with CISMAs to generate survey data which will give us a basis for requesting management funds.
 - D. Slack: Yes, several groups are interested in this. Let's touch base.
9. Review of assigned action items.
- M. Abraham will share SLF summit information.
 - E. Fischer will distribute landing blitz schedule to the council
 - A. Kelley will update J. Schmees's email address on the listserv.
 - Everyone should send their social media handles to M. Kraushar; M. Kraushar will share with the group so that everyone can amplify each other's content.
 - M. Kraushar will reach out to Mike to verify that he submitted the biannual report.

- M. Abraham to provide timeline for the proposed TPR plan by Mid-March.
- M. Kraushar to circulate a poll and identify a meeting location for 17 May by mid next week.

10. Adjournment

- Motion: M. Abraham
- Second: J. Schmees
- Vote: Motion passed 12:47