



# Invasive Plant Advisory Committee

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**September 9, 2010 meeting at the Efroymsen Conservation Center, Indianapolis**

**Attending:** Ken Collins (NRCS), Cliff Chapman (CILTI), David Gorden (Mark Holeman Landscape), Bob Eddleman (Hoosier Heartland RC&D, Plant a Million coordinator), Lee Casebere (Division of Nature Preserves), Kirk Larson (Hoosier NF), Tom Tremain (Southern IN CWMA coordinator), Ellen Jacquart (TNC)

**Summary:** Ellen reviewed the formation of the Invasive Species Council (ISC) and the Council's creation of the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC). IPAC was created to help the Council address invasive plant issues as they relate to the Council's duties. After reviewing the duties of the Council, the group listed both roles that IPAC could play and potential projects that IPAC could initiate if time and resources were not limiting, organized by the duties outlined in HB 1203. The group then voted for the projects they felt were both high priority and feasible to pursue. The full list is shown below, with the top three priorities highlighted and in bold-italic and with additional details on next steps.

## **List of Possible Projects Organized by Council Duties:**

**Duty 1: Recommending project priorities, funding, rules and laws to the appropriate entities.**

- ***Create an invasive plant list for Indiana***

While there are several ad hoc lists of invasive plants in Indiana (CAPS list, list from INPAWS invasive plant brochure, list from IPSAWG brochure) there is no complete, up-to-date, authoritative list created through a transparent, science-based process. IPAC can create such a list and bring it to the ISC for approval.

Next steps:

- Reconvene the Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG) to determine an appropriate protocol for establishing a list (preliminary idea is to use the IPSAWG invasive assessment process for plants in trade, and a simpler process for plants not in trade).
- At the same time, discuss and develop recommendations on any rule/law ramifications for the list; for instance, should any of the species in trade found to be invasive be banned from sale in Indiana?

- Bring the protocol(s) and preliminary information on rule/law ramifications to ISC for approval
- Finish assessing/listing invasive plants with recommendations for rules/laws as appropriate
- Bring finished list and recommendations for rules/laws to ISC
- Create new educational materials as appropriate to publicize the invasive plant list
- Provide the ISC with a state-wide view of current and emerging invasive plant issues in Indiana
- Develop an early detection – rapid response program for invasive plants at the state level
- Develop and fund a private landowner invasive plant control grant program
- Develop a green certification program to reduce the sale of invasive plants
- Review the potential for state-wide ortho photos to help map invasive plants through timing the photos appropriately (e.g. during Asian bush honeysuckle leaf out in spring)

**Duty 2: Recommending a lead state agency to develop invasive species inventories and data management systems for each taxon.**

- Recommend a state agency to ISC
- Develop a consistent protocol and standard for invasive plant data in Indiana
- Host a meeting for CAPS, PPDL, and other entities tracking invasive plant occurrences in Indiana and determine the feasibility of using an existing database system to hold all invasive plant occurrence information (e.g. NAPIS, EDDMaps, NISS, iMapInvasives)

**Duty 3: Communicating with agencies and organizations outside of Indiana to enhance consistency and effectiveness in invasive species work.**

- Use our existing invasive plant networks to stay current on invasive plant issues and keep the ISC informed.

**Duty 4: Coordinating education and outreach for invasive species.**

- ***Evaluate need for new invasive plant educational materials, the need for new dissemination methods, and how to meet those needs***

There is a huge unmet need for educational materials on invasive plants in Indiana. Existing materials should be reviewed to find the best print and web-based resources on why invasive plants are a concern; their prevention, early detection, identification, and management; grants for control programs, non-invasive alternatives to plant, and so on. Gaps in existing materials should be identified and filled. The existing workshops and classes should be reviewed

to find a template that best meets the needs of different audiences (e.g. private landowners, resource professionals, contractors). Next steps:

- Form a subcommittee to focus on this issue, focusing on agencies with an outreach mission (Extension, SWCDs, RC&Ds, DNR Div. of Forestry and Div. of Fish and Wildlife)
- Bring together the current print and web-based invasive plant materials for review; identify those best able to meet the needs of different audiences and make them available on the ISC website
- Determine the need for new materials and how such a need can be funded
- Review invasive plant workshops to identify those that have been most successful for different audiences and put a curricula template together that can be exported to interested groups
- Incorporate invasive plant information into existing resource curricula like Project Learning Tree and Project Wild
- Make the ISC website 'one stop shopping' for all invasive plant questions in Indiana through linking to other sites and creating pages as necessary, including
  - how to ID invasive plants
  - how to manage invasive plants
  - list of contractors who do invasive plant management
  - list of state resources available for invasive plant management (who will come out and look at a landowner's invasive plants and give recommendations, any grant programs available)
  - how to report invasive plants on the early detection list
  - is there a CWMA in my area?

**Duty 5: Convening or supporting an invasive species meeting at least once per biennium.**

- Assist the ISC in this duty by linking them to invasive plant meetings and workshops happening in Indiana
- Consider holding a multi-state invasive plant meeting (perhaps through Midwest Invasive Plant Network)

**Duty 6: Assisting government agencies in reviewing their invasive species policies and procedures and addressing any deficiencies or inconsistencies.**

- ***Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for government agencies to implement***

Providing recommendations for BMPs regarding invasive plants to government agencies would be a proactive way to address this issue. Templates for such

BMPs already exist in other states (e.g. Wisconsin) and can be adapted for Indiana. Next steps:

- Review existing BMPs for broad range of categories – forestry, recreation, landscaping, etc.- and develop a set for Indiana government agencies
- Pick two or three agencies to query on their current use of BMPs – ‘check off those you are currently using, and those you are willing to adopt; where you are not willing to adopt, please specify why’
- Use this information to refine the BMPs
- Bring the recommended BMPs to the Council for review and approval, with a goal of having the Council recommend that agencies adopt these BMPs.