

Maryland Invasive Species Council
Behnke Nurseries
April 5, 2001

Minutes

Call to order ~9:38 a.m.

B. Tichenor, moderator

Approval of minutes of Feb. 8 meeting

misspellings - Bewick, Kerrie, CSREES

Minutes approved as corrected.

Presentation by J. P. Thompson, Behnke Nurseries:

"Take a Closer Look" Program

Environmental Alert - e.g. poster *Hedera helix*, English Ivy - educate the consumer to make good decisions, considering proximity to natural areas, etc.; not pull off market, offer alternatives, satisfy retail needs, increase sales of alternatives, sales of species in question stay same or increase, track all sales by line item to evaluate success; if successful, expand to barberry, honeysuckle, etc.

Baysafe Bayscaping program, - in alliance with Chesapeake Bay, plants safe for the Chesapeake Bay limited to native as defined by Maryland Native Plant Society, DNR Fish and Wildlife Service, limited to species, not varieties; good response from knowledgeable public; information packs, seminars, speakers to educate the public; feature native perennials in Behnke newsletter; availability issues, industry isn't ready for this retail program; dependent on marketplace to support native plants

PR issues with e.g. English ivy, *Lythrum*, public wants exotic, low maintenance, color, etc.; influenced by public buildings, pictures

Discussion

Philosophical, cultural problem of what gardening is - "We are the gardeners of the natural areas", there are no wild lands, re-define what a garden is, change the culture, i.e. House Beautiful, Martha Stewart; grass roots movement is ongoing suburban, roadsides, parks, etc.; our back yard is the formal entrance way to the wild area "garden".

Need to get to landscape architects, they set cultural trends in malls, businesses, government, etc., limited on specific plant knowledge; resistance to change is a problem, not resistance to concept; educating landscapers is not a job for a retailers; Behnke's educates the homeowner; this is coming fast, market driven because of previous efforts; we need to keep talking.

Tasker - ANLS, seed trade, etc., increased consciousness, need more focus and accomplishments. Should MISC produce a letter for Martha Stewart, etc.?, produce an informational piece on the issue; letter from Nat. Inv. Sp. Council would have more clout; need to get NWF involved, e.g. gardening for wildlife more real to general public than more abstract concepts; assign to working group.

Introductions:

Dick Bean, MDA-PPWM

Carol Bordelon, USDA/ARS/USNA

Don Cober, MDT/SHA

Lynne Davidson, DNR, Wildlife and Heritage

Jack Edmundson, USDA-APHIS, Invasive Species
contact*

Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR FS*

Carol Holko, MDA-PPWM

Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries

Donnelle Keech, Nature Conservancy

Jennifer Kujawski, USDA/NRCS

Kerrie Kyde, MA-EPPC

John Lyden, USDA/ARS/SASL

Kathy McArthy, DNR, Wildlife and Heritage

Betty Marose, UM-IPM

Bob Rabaglia, MDA-FPM

Don Robbins, MDA-PPWM

Malcolm Sarna, MDA-Turf and Seed

Britt Slattery, USFWS, Bayscapes*

Al Tasker, USDA-APHIS

Edith Thompson, MD DNR - Exotic/Invasive
Species Policy*

John Peter Thompson, MNLA

Robert Tichenor, MDA-FPM

Robert Trumbule, MDA-PPWM

Wayne Tyndall, MD DNR - Wildlife and Heritage

*indicates new attendee

AI Tasker

Safeguard review - education and outreach is a big gap; informal weed team designing educational materials; list of 9 most noxious weeds in the aquatic nursery trade available as .pdf on web page, soon to be a poster.

August 14-15 informal meeting, promote regional approach for hogweed eradication project.

Various federal matching funding opportunities for on-the-ground coalitions for aquatic weed projects; asking for improved funding, 2002 hope for no cuts, 2003 asking for money for noxious weeds, small program compared to other programs; in response to Plant Protection Act of 2000 APHIS developed action plan to restructure noxious weed program, Federal Register notice coming to request comments, also available on web page; APHIS focus is on funding survey for detection and evaluation as first step rather than control.

Web page: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds - list of federal noxious weeds with links to Plant Board site for lists of state noxious weeds.

OLD BUSINESS

Reports from Working Groups

Organizational:

John Peter Thompson - Proposed modifications and additions to MISC membership structure and procedures as passed by MISC on February 8, 2000, bulleted items below:

Motion 2. "All agencies represented to date will be considered 'participating agencies.' All attendees to date will be considered 'members.'"

- "Agencies" will be changed to "organizations"
- Definitions:
 - "Participating Organization" - organizations operating or conducting business in Maryland.
 - "member" - Maryland resident, or non-resident who owns land or represents a participating organization.
 - "guest" - all others on the mailing list; guests do not have voting privileges.
- New attendees requesting voting privileges will be approved by the MISC membership at the next scheduled general MISC meeting.

Motion 4. "Issues that cannot wait until the next meeting will be sent out for comment via the list serve to all members of record. Voting will proceed as in motion 5. Non-response will be considered a go-ahead vote."

- Issues will be submitted to the Facilitator, who will send out for comment and moderate subsequent Internet/phone discussion.

Facilitator

- Facilitator duties will include:
 1. Develop meeting agenda
 2. Function as moderator for meetings
 3. Sign correspondence as approved by MISC
 4. Facilitate and moderate MISC business outside of regular meetings
- Correspondence may be co-signed by a representative of the sponsoring group.
- An alternate facilitator should be appointed.

Recording Secretary

- The Recording Secretary will be responsible for maintaining the mailing and membership list.
- Minutes are public record and will be sent to entire mailing list.

- General meeting agenda (agenda items should be submitted to the Facilitator):

1. Call to order
2. Additions to agenda
3. Presentation (if any)
4. Approval of minutes
5. Committee reports, including discussion, motions, and votes

6. Old business
7. New business
8. Adjourn

Discussion:

Members up to February meeting are in, from this meeting forward need to be approved; time limit for facilitator?, rotate every 2-3 years?, alternate facilitator is the facilitator in training?

Formality - may not affect funding; CSREES requires a corporate body to be grant administrator; MISC would not get funding directly, individual member organizations would get funding and MISC would offer support; opportunities for coalition funding, BLM has document on building coalitions; credibility, influence may be diluted by informality; MA-EPPC has a board of directors, four officers, terms are staggered as specified in bylaws.

Suggestions sent back to committee; next open-to-all, organizational meeting will be held immediately after next general MISC meeting, formalists to attend - Kerrie, Wayne, Betty.

Motion by Bob Trumbule to accept proposed modifications and additions to MISC membership structure and procedures.

Motion seconded and approved.

Projects:

Kerrie Kyde -handouts 1) purpose of Invasive Species List (see Trumbule, below), additions? 2) draft list in MS Access spreadsheet, categorized, key is same as on original list; ecological, economic, social impact rating, habitat, province, activity levels, documentation, etc.

Bob Trumbule - benefits include: list of species "poster children", historically problematic, showy; list is peer-reviewed, almost completed for review by the Council, not all-inclusive, ca. 50 items to date.

Discussion:

Spreadsheet

APHIS often has to do cutting-edge risk assessment with no information or literature because no one has looked at problem; use species on the list to describe the larger problem; criteria development more important than species listing, call for information on existing risk assessment systems.

Need credibility when challenged, not all species are problems in all situations, spreadsheet allows for categorization.

Suggestions: break out "quarantine" significance into state and federal, change to "regulatory" significance; don't limit activity level to \$ amounts; add "ease of control"; continue to develop spreadsheet.

Purpose

Make more generic; initial purpose of list was to identify species that brought us to the table, other steps are secondary, slow down and move forward; original conception of list was to be non-comprehensive, probably controversial; list of only regulated species would be too short.

Dissemination of list

PWG will email latest version of the list to membership for approval at next general meeting, then back to committee to finalize database with best categorizing available for release to public.

Break

Reports from Working Groups(cont.)

Education and Outreach:

Bob Tichenor

Mail Reflector

<invasives@umail.umd.edu> maintained by Mary Kaye Malinoski

Web site

Complex procedure, problems with provider, MDA would control and manage site, but not be visibly attached.

Progress to date - submitted for site name, permission and funding obtained within MDA., web person pending.

Edith Thompson - will ask for place on the DNR site, too.

Other Old Business

Edith Thompson - call at 410-260-8555 to be on list for April 13th meeting - Non-native Invasive Species Ad-Hoc Work Group meeting (NISAW)

Membership Committee to address gaps in representation

Motion by Kerrie Kyde to form a Membership Working Group that will identify missing constituents.

Motion seconded.

Motion passed as restated - to form a Membership Working Group that will identify participation gaps and recruit specific individuals as appropriate.

Due to lack of volunteers, Organizational Committee will handle membership for the time being.

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting - Tuesday, June 5th, The Nature Conservancy, Bethesda, 9:30 a.m., followed by optional field trip, details to follow.

Edith Thompson will email outline of MD Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan to MISC membership, AI Tasker will email Federal Register notice link.

Anne Hairston-Strang - proposal for Chesapeake Bay Program, technical information on management and control of exotic or invasive plants in riparian areas, forest buffer establishment, due on April 27th, looking for cooperators, call or email Richard Cooksey, cooksey.richard@epa.gov, 410-267-5706 or Anne, astrang@dnr.state.md.us, 410-260-8509 for copy of proposal and information.

Education and Outreach WG will draft an issues letter to go to local target garden groups and organizations; also create a list of target groups, e.g. the Garden Channel; John Peter Thompson - Behnke newsletter can be used as a vehicle to reach retail market, need 13-week lead.

Thanks to our host, Behnke Nursery.

Adjourn ~ 1 p.m.

Post-meeting tour of Behnke Nursery, John Peter Thompson

Respectfully submitted by:
Carol Holko