

Maryland Invasive Species Council
Maryland Department of Agriculture
February 4, 2002
Minutes

Call to order ~9:45

Bob Tichenor, facilitator

Additions to agenda

Update on U.S. House of Representative and Senate Bills, Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2000 - referred to NEW BUSINESS

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA-PPWM

Carole Bergman, M-NCPPC, MNPS

Don Cober, MD SHA

William F. Gimpel, Jr., MDA-PPWM

Lane Heimer, MDA-PPWM

Carol Holko, MDA-PPWM

Jennifer Kujawski, USDA/NRCS

Frederick Mann, USDA/APHIS/PPQ

Betty Marose, UM-IPM

Don Robbins, MDA-PPWM

Pete Rupp, MDA-PPWM

Malcolm Sarna, MDA-TS

Laura Stedman, MD SHA

Julie Thompson, USFWS-CBFO

Edith Thompson, MD DNR - Exotic/Invasive Species
Policy

Bob Tichenor, MDA-FPM

Robert Trumbule, MDA-PPWM

Approval of minutes of December, 2001 meeting

Motion to approve as submitted. Motion seconded and passed.

New Memberships

Update on Invasive Species brochure - Dick Bean

MDA has latest edition

Corrections/comments

- Rotate ½ of front page.
- Red Alert species need to be red.

Printing

- Kerrie Kyde has printer with good price.
- Julie Thompson per Britt Slattery - Chesapeake Bay Program print shop doesn't do color; MISC could apply for grant from Chesapeake Bay Program or Chesapeake Bay Trust; DNR or Fish and Wildlife will apply for grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- Aquatic species - some species are regulated in Maryland; clarification of "regulated": authority to regulate or actually regulated; should be listed as category 1.
- Carol Holko can update brochure; contact Dick Bean <beanra@mda.state.md.us> or Carol <holkoca@mda.state.md.us> with changes, suggestions.

Can draft list be made public?

- No, needs explanation of what it represents.
- Can list come out sooner?

Motion to go forward with 1st printing of 5000 brochures ASAP by Behnke's with guarantee that members with budgetary control will reimburse Behnke's.

Discussion - grant process for future printings should proceed; how many copies

per group?; copies of brochure will be available to everyone, not just those who contribute.

Motion seconded and passed.

Put copy on web, HGIC for now - 2 different layouts as .pdf files, Carol Holko will contact Mary Kay.

Break ~10:22

Update on "Outside" Organizations and Activities

Edith Thompson - Invasive Species Working Group

- Under Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) - partnership between Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Chesapeake 2000 - CPB agreement to meet certain goals by 2010.
- Living Resources Subcommittee (LRSC) - part of Chesapeake 2000
- LRSC Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) goals:
 - By 2001 - identify, rank, and prioritize species that have or potentially have detrimental impact on Chesapeake Bay;
 - By 2003 - develop and implement management plans for priority species.
- Six species identified as having potential negative environmental impact and that are top priorities of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement signatory jurisdictions - nutria, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife, mute swan, phragmites, water chestnut.
- For an additional 29 species, the ISWG advised risk analysis, gap analysis and identifying existing policies before making new recommendations; workshop in mid-May or early June to develop framework for action; separate working group for each species; key players, scientists, stakeholders; summary open to public.
- Status of zebra mussel in Susquehanna - not in Maryland; preference for fresh cold running water is barrier for movement into Bay, could penetrate upper regions of Potomac and Patuxent Rivers.
- Is there funding for Chesapeake Bay Program? - approach is to find roles for jurisdictions and agencies who have funding already in place; part of project is to identify legislative priorities for new funding.
- MISC role - engage legislation; bills, mandates don't carry funding; tie money with legislation - has to come from budget.
- Web page - Living Resources Subcommittee: <<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/lrsc.htm>>
- Ballast water task force - invasive species issues, MD passed regulation for ships to report ballast water treatment where exchange takes place.
- LRSC ad hoc work group on Japanese oyster
 - triploid (don't have genetic ability to reproduce); over time oysters are reverting with diploid cells.
 - VA has 60,000 in water, wants to put 600K to 1 million out in enclosed cages; National Academy of Science has been asked to do review; little known about the oyster and its socio-economic and environmental impact if it reverts to diploid; VA sees ecological function; available by mail - limited by numbers in aquaculture - potential for illegal introduction; VA legislation requires looking at non-native oysters; MD committed to reviving native oysters; released in California, not established.
 - Same genus as Chesapeake Bay oyster - grows faster and more disease resistant; does well in all salinities in Chesapeake Bay; similar appearance but bigger; 6 months to market v. native 2 years; cross between native and Japanese doesn't produce viable offspring.
 - The 1993 Chesapeake Bay Program Policy on Intentional Introductions is on the

website (above).

Carole Bergmann

- Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) invasive species committee; does projects and needs volunteers.
- Envirothon -ongoing, includes invasive species; June - Howard Co. main competition; packet needs copies of brochure for teachers.
- Master Gardeners - educated about non-native invasive plants.
- Weed Warriors - non-native species removal by certified volunteers.
- MA-EPPC - conference in Summer 2003.

PEW Oceans Commission - Bill Gimpel will get information for MISC.

Betty Marose

- Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) is addressing invasive species issues.
- NE WSSA is making plans to meet jointly with Aquatic Plant Society and work with MA -EPPC, New England Wildflower Society.

Bob Tichenor

- MISC should continue Outside Projects Updates in future MISC meetings; role for MISC as update center, clearing house for Invasive Species activities in Maryland.

Committee Reports

Organizational - Carol Holko

- The committee feels that membership should be individuals, not groups.
Motions to be put before the group in April:
 1. *New attendees requesting voting privileges need to be present twice to be voted into membership and must be present for vote to proceed.*
 2. *If a member is inactive for one year, membership will be suspended.*
- What is a quorum? As of today, MISC has 41 members; 14 are needed for a quorum.
- If member changes affiliation, they may remain a member.

Projects

- Brochure - "Thanks" from membership to PWG for job well done.
see discussion above.

Education and Outreach - Bob Tichenor

- Web Page - domain <mdinvasivesp.org> paid through 2002; plan for Mary Kay to oversee web designer and MDA-FPM to pay for designer put on hold due to budget cuts.
- *Motion to form ad hoc committee to do web design.*
Discussion: Dick Bean, Carol Holko, Jennifer Kujawski, Betty Marose, Laura Stedman, Bob Trumbule will serve on committee
Look for volunteers? Call for help on list serve; UM Internships.
We need to design page either way
Motion seconded and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Mann

- USDA Federal Noxious Weeds web page handed out; wants feedback from MISC on draft Weed Action Plan; **please comment by March 29**; <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/weeds/> developed by AI Tasker.

Edith Thompson - Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2000, a.k.a. Craig - Daschle Bill, a.k.a. H.R. 1462, S. 198.

- referred to Congressman Gilchrest - House Resources subcommittee.
- provides funding for locally-initiated weed control.
- specifically excludes agriculture.
- house bill sets up an advisory committee to advise the Secretary of the Interior on allocation of funds for states, who would identify and recognize "Weed Management Entities" to compete for grants administered by the state.
- Concerns:
 - Weed Management Entity not defined by Act.
 - DNR doesn't have infrastructure to administer grant.
 - Weed Management Entity reports to Dept of Interior; state not involved anymore?
 - State is not required to have comprehensive plan.
 - Cost - how much, how disbursed, what is the criteria for competition?
 - Congressman Gilchrest has already presented an exotic species funding bill - Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act; this bill would not likely pass over his.
- MNPS would like for us to support these bills.

Next meeting

Thursday, April 4th, 2002, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 9:30-12:30; Contact Bob Tichenor for feature presentation ideas.

Future meetings:

- Avoid 1st Monday of month because of conflicts with some agency staff meetings.
- June meeting - MDA Cheltenham; sponsors Carol Holko, Bob Trumbule.
- August meeting - Wye Institute; sponsors Betty Marose, Don Robbins.

Water Chestnut project can contact MISC for volunteers.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Carol Holko, Recording Secretary.