

Maryland Invasive Species Council
Thursday, September 20, 2012
John H. Downs Park
Pasadena, MD
MINUTES

Call to order

9:40 a.m. by Bud Reaves, standing in for John Lydon, Facilitator

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA
Tim Culbreth, MDNR
Eric Duce, Straughan Environmental
Anne Goodman, Rockville NSN
Ann Hairston-Strang, MDNR
Ruth Hanessian, Md. Assoc. Pet Industries
Lane Heimer, MDA
Sylvan Kaufman, CCLC
Wesley Knapp, MDNR
Kerrie Kyde, MDNR

Deborah Landau, TNC
Carolyn Puckett, Carroll County FCB
Bud Reaves, Anne Arundel County Forestry
Kim Rice, MDA
Pete Rupp, MDA
Jil Swearingen, NPS-NCR
Al Tasker, USDA--APHIS
John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Kevin Wilsey, MD SHA

Additions to the Agenda

No additions were made.

Approval of minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve May minutes, as amended. Passed unanimously.
Approval of July minutes tabled until minutes completed.

Membership

Motion made and seconded to approve membership for Kim Rice, attending her second meeting. Passed unanimously. No other pending or requested memberships.

Presentation

Bypassed presentation due to Sara Tangren's absence.

Invader of the Month

Wide-ranging discussion of IOTM subjects. The September IOTM is posted – Release of Classroom Pets. Ruth Hanessian noted that she was pleased that MISC gave her student intern, Katie ten Hagen, the byline for her piece.

Some ideas mentioned for next year:

Emerald ash borer update; Tim and Anne Hairston-Strang will do it in the spring due to good timing for treatment, likely March

Ravenna grass (formerly *Erianthus ravennae*, now *Saccharum ravennae*), some disagreement about its invasiveness; Jil got enough reports on its spread to include it in the updated printing of Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Areas; good species for August

Small-flowered tamarisk, Wes suggested since we had a population found this year in Anne Arundel County

Ludwigia peploides – found overrunning Anacostia, reported from Delaware; seems to be a “hand of man” plant

Phytophthora ramorum update, more an update on status of movement, finds and hosts than a life history piece; MDA will do, Kim or Dick

Zebra mussel, since more were found this year in the upper Susquehanna; Kerrie will ask a DNR person to write this

Blue catfish? This could be a political hot potato since anglers are suspected, but have not admitted, moving these fish around

Feral Assateague horses

Tim will put together the suggestions and submit for inclusion with the minutes (see attached).

Agency Updates and Round Table, combined

MDA

Dick Bean: Chocolate-band snails (*Eobania vermiculata*) found in holding yard, coming in via overseas bulk cargo. Reported back to the terminal that they were found on rail shipments sent to WV and PA. Non-native plant feeder, not a USDA actionable pest; Holding yard abuts a salt storage facility, creates a sort of natural barrier

Another snail, *Ceratomyxa cissalpinia*, is an actionable pest, also a plant feeder, was found outside the same holding yard along the RR tracks and in the coal terminal along I-95 in Baltimore City.

Snails difficult to treat; MDA is not pursuing this individually but is working with USDA and the rail yards.

John Peter: efficacy of iron phosphate? Widely sold by box stores and used by the gardening industry. Dick: It is approved for use in Maryland and recommended by the national malacologist.

Dick Bean: second positive case of boxwood blight in MD involved a homeowner who bought and planted boxwood in DE, moved some of them to his property in Berlin, MD when they were declining. Don't know what species. Illegal to move plants across state lines without inspection and permit.

Ruth Hanessian: this applies to the pet industry too, can't move aquarium plants from an adjacent state. So a pet store owner can have aquarium plants delivered, but can't go pick them up, even if the seller is licensed and inspected.

Dick Bean: MDA is not going to be enforcing this against every homeowner that buys a plant in an adjacent state, but it is illegal.

Kim Rice: EAB surveys were completed in July, with new finds in three new counties – St. Mary's, Montgomery and Garrett. New state finds are in MA, CT (detected by wasp) and KS. The federal quarantine was modified as of July 1 to allow free movement of regulated items within contiguous quarantined areas; VA went to a full state quarantine in mid-July. The Eastern Shore of MD is therefore surrounded by quarantined areas, but is not in quarantine itself.

In six sites in Ocean City, fire ants were found, treated and not found on revisit to those sites. In two sites, one in Baltimore city and one in Anne Arundel County, fire ants were found, treated and found again after treatment. These sites are all "tiki bars" that import potted palms.

Dick Bean: Fire ants found on Lirope at University of MD College Park several years ago did not go through their entire life cycle, but we do know, from sites in Frederick, Prince George's and Worcester counties, that the ants can overwinter successfully in Maryland

Lane Heimer; Pete Rupp: We've had ideal growing conditions all year and seen a huge expansion in regulated weeds in the Central Region, mostly Canada thistle and Johnsongrass; more knotweed is showing up on both creeks and roadsides, even in places where we thought it was eradicated. Propagules may be being moved through construction, as we know was the case in one Garrett County *Phragmites* infestation site.

Deborah Landau: What about the fungus that affects thistle? Lane: *Pseudomonas syringae*, we are not seeing a lot of it this year. It is out there, but doesn't really stop reproduction.

Discussion of herbicide resistance: John Peter Thompson: are you seeing herbicide resistance to clopyralid? Lane: No, although there may be some thistle that isn't affected and then reproduces. Howard County had to shut down a portion of its spray program for several years due to individuals with chemical sensitivities; when the program was restarted, control with clopyralid was outstanding. In the third year of treatment in Garrett County, effectiveness has dropped off. JPT: resistance is going to become a larger issue for land managers who get hooked on chemical control. Al Tasker: There will be a paper coming out soon based on a May 2012 conference about resistance, mostly about agricultural issues, but applies to natural areas too. Pete: Good cultural practices are crucial. Kerrie Kyde: There is pushback against chemical use on invasives, and on invasion biology as a legitimate discipline, from a group called Fearless Fund, which is planning a symposium in DC on October 8. Al: The WSSA- NEWSS joint meeting in February in Baltimore will have a symposium on IPM, put together by Bill Bruckart of USDA-ARS. JPT will be speaking on the role of science in invasion policy, e.g. how do we assess the risk of human-assisted migration or invasion of native, or even rare, species? What about a South African invasive that is endangered in its native habitat? Do we eliminate it in its novel habitat and let it die out in its native range?

SHA

Kevin Wilsey: SHA is spraying Phrag, working with the MDA weed control teams. We're conducting an inventory to see how much Canada thistle is still out there. Wrapping up work with MDA's Bob Trumbule on releasing *Rhynoncomimus latipes*, the mile-a-minute weevil. Problem has not been finding MaM, but finding sites where there has not already been weevil activity. Have one more release planned for the Cumberland area; expanded this year into southern Maryland. Bob has done a really good job of getting them out there.

We will be letting seven statewide invasive plant control contracts for about \$15 million total, focusing on corridors and managing from the edge of road pavement to the outside edge of the ROW corridor. Whatever we find, we'll control. There is a native revegetation component. The first contract should begin in late October; they will be multi-year contracts with staggered starting dates.

Straughan Environmental

Eric Duce: We have continued with *Akebia*, chocolate vine, removal at a Prince George's County site, using Eco-Goats for the major control, and hand work and herbicides for the follow-up. Found that goats did not like *Akebia* and the age of the goats made a difference in what they ate; the younger goats ate more species. Regrowth of chocolate vine was about 5%.

DNR

Natural Heritage Program Wes Knapp: Found two new non-natives--*Murdannia keisak*, marsh dewflower, for linear miles along the Pocomoke, on intertidal mudflats. Deborah: we've just found a population along the Nanticoke. Jil Swearingen: We have it in Piscataway and Patapsco just reported it recently. Wes: it's spreading by seed; waterfowl don't eat it.

Wes: Nutria are moving up the Manokin River in Somerset County and could affect state-endangered, federally threatened *Aeschynomene virginica*.

Anne Hairston-Strang: We've gotten funding from the USFS for EAB response; the grant focuses heavily on urban tree canopy inventory effort, some treatment and control, emergency planning. The work will be done primarily in three communities, not yet chosen. There is some money in the grant for utilization; we are hoping to have somebody hired full time to take the lead on this. Maryland Extension did a really good program in August for local government officials. Sylvan Kaufman: Are there recommendations for affected ashes in natural areas? Anne: It depends on how big an ash component you have. You won't necessarily have 100% mortality, due to holes in the canopy. Can treat but it's expensive and a landowner has to commit to doing treatments every two years for more than 10 years. There is about a 1% survival of EAB attack. Jil: Is there a program to protect resistant trees? Seed collection? Dick Bean: Ohio State is working on mapping and protection of surviving trees.

Stream restoration challenge – our request for proposal is out on the street, with a due date of 10/31/12. This is \$6 million in Chesapeake Bay Trust funding over three years, to help people plant stream buffers in their communities with student labor. The students get service learning credits. DNR will provide technical assistance.

Kerrie Kyde: USFS grant to do EIP removal on sensitive sites is progressing; will do the first *Phragmites* treatment on Parkers Creek in Calvert County this fall, and a garlic mustard treatment in Garrett County.

USDA

Al Tasker: Matt Travis has been deployed by the National Guard to Kuwait for a year. Paul Ijams is acting State Plant Health Director. EPA has a rule out for comment on biofuels, includes Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), *Spartina*, *Camelina sativa* and 'Giant King Grass', a hybrid, high-yield energy crop. USDA has offered comment on the rule that EPA has ignored the Executive Order not to promote or produce exotic invasive species. JPT: Covered the species considered for biofuels in my blog – the characteristics you want for biofuels are the same as characteristics listed for invasives. Joe DiTamaso and Jacob Barney are working on a risk assessment protocol for biofuel species.

Al: There was a detection in SC of *Cuscuta japonica*, a federal noxious weed, on public land; vine as large as binder twine (!). It was eradicated. There is no more money available for cooperative agreements on FNW control.

CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) is working on a Canada noxious weed list based mostly on seed law. It may result in restrictions on grain trade, so USDA is commenting on it.

We had a meeting on the status of an application from Univ of Minnesota for a TAG permit for release of a biocontrol agent for garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Small task force is reviewing what has happened and why there is no recommendation yet.

John Peter: National Agricultural Library's budget crunch may force the the redefinition of services or even shut-down of the invasive species site, which gets 800 hits/month and has

18,000 links to EIS topics. One full time employee keeps it going; it's the number one site that search engines go to for EIS information. The program was asked to "redefine the mission to control costs." NAL does have the authority to request private underwriting for Congressionally mandated programs; just \$45K would eliminate the shortfall in the near-term.

Discussion on support for site – Caroline Puckett: budget issues are ongoing; this is not just a one-year thing. Can this not be tied in with USA.gov? John Peter: Lori Williams of NISC said they can't take it over; their website is just on policy, and the NAL site is really important. Kerrie: Is this something that MISC can and should comment on? John Peter: I can draft a letter of support and send it to John Lydon for distribution to the group. Caroline and Jill: information on natural areas impacts of EIS, cost-benefits information of any kind assists in justification for federal spending. John Peter: On Capitol Hill, there is no unified voice for EIS in general, only on single species issues.

Anne H-S: Moved to support expressing formal concern about the loss of the NAL invasive species website to ARS. Motion seconded by AI Tasker. Passed unanimously.

NPS

Jill Swearingen: On 9/13/12 we held a workshop to introduce local land managers and the public to MAEDN, the Mid-Atlantic Early Detection Network. We wanted to increase awareness of the availability of a smart phone app, for iPhones and Droids both, to report over 100 species of plants to EDDMapS. MD extension funding allowed the addition of insects, diseases and Didymo. Dick: Who vets these reports. Had a report of Formosan termites in Baltimore trees recently. IDs by public can be questionable. Jill: We wanted to sign up expert verifiers to approve the reports at the county level, eventually will have verifiers for smaller land areas.

Jill: MA-IPC will hold workshops with NPS and USFS on November 7 at NCTC and 8 in DE to do cooperative weed management trainings. They will be free; seating in DE may be limited.

CCLC

Sylvan: Dave Clement and Karen Rane are going to do another training at Adkins for First Detectors, for landscape diseases and insects.

DISC annual meeting will be on October 24 at the Delaware Agricultural Museum in Dover.

Maryland Association of Pet Industries

Ruth Hanessian: : We have to deal with CITES for macaws, Hyacinth macaws are rare and non-native. Hyacinth macaws are on the CITES list. They are not imported anymore as there are established breeding populations in US for these birds. Hyacinth macaws are being proposed for listing on US endangered species list which would mean that permits would be required for moving the animals across state lines. The breeders have commented on the proposal. This movement would penalize the US industry.

Rockville Native Species Network

Anne Goodwman: Rockville weed warriors group establishing; we have gotten authorization to begin a city program in city parks, will start in Croydon Creek Nature Area

Rockville city received a request to cut down 4 mature walnut trees in historic alley dividing between two neighboring houses; Because they were not on the historic district's acceptable tree list, permission was given to cut the trees down. Rockville group testified to historic district commission against the proposal; Have been given permission to revise the Historic

District's list-- Landscape Plants in Use prior to 1840 – which includes such species as tree of heaven, bittersweet, and some other bad guys.

JPT: problems with historic houses and landscape plans of “what was there when” that often includes now recognized EIS.

IPAC Update

Kerrie Kyde: Working on Maryland Filter, which would be applied to all species scoring as High Risk on the weed risk assessment, to determine whether those species would be ranked as Tier 1 or Tier 2 plants.

Anne Arundel County -- Forestry

Bud Reaves: Wrote the AA County EAB plan, now under internal review, must be approved by County Council, expect a couple months before news

Proposed DNR C-1 Tim will check on availability and let us know. Anne, Tim and Kerrie will do treats.

Next Meeting

November 15; Tim Culbreth will look into rooms at DNR; Anne and Kerrie will do refreshments.

Adjourn

Bud Reaves adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Month	IOTM 2013	Author
January		
February		
March	Emerald Ash Borer Update	DNR Forestry
April		
May		
June		
July		
August	Ravenna Grass	Jill Swearingen & John Peter Thompson
September		
October		
November		
December		

IOTM Options

(Need Month)	Author
Small flowered tamarisk	?
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> update	DNR Forestry/MDA
Zebra Mussel Update	Ron Klauda?
Fire Ants	Kim Rice
Blue Catfish	?
<i>Cernuella cissalpina</i>	Dick Bean
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Wes Knapp