

INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of October 11, 2005

Approved by Council

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Invasive Plants Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005. David Leff, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. in the Ensign Conference Room of the Department of Environmental Protection on 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Attendees: All members of the Council were present: Mr. David K. Leff, Dr. Louis Magnarelli, Mr. F. Philip Prelli, Mr. Paul Larson, Mr. David Goodwin, Mr. Tom McGowan, Dr. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Dr. Mary Musgrave and Mr. David Sutherland.

The following organizations were represented at the meeting: Ct Invasive Plants Working Group, Ct Nurseryman Association and Audubon Society. Mr. Brad Mitchell attended on behalf of the State of Massachusetts. Ms. Nancy Cohen attended on behalf of CT Public Radio. Nancy Murray of the DEP.

Absent: No Absences.

Minutes

Approved: Minutes of the September 6, 2005, meeting were read and approved with minor editorial changes. Chairman Leff motioned to accept the Minutes. Council unanimously voted in favor by voice vote with no opposing votes. Motion carried.

**Massachusetts
Prohibited Plant**

List: Mr. Brad Mitchell of the State of Massachusetts attended as a guest to give an overview of what Massachusetts is presently doing to handle cultivars. Massachusetts regulations are still in the comment period. He spoke in depth on invasive plants, where Massachusetts is heading on this issue and the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG), which is made up of state agencies and private organizations. There are two (2) lists: the Federal Noxious Weed List and the lists done by MIPAG. Les Mehrhoff discussed the differences between the Connecticut and Massachusetts lists. Commissioner Prelli also looked at a New York list – there are differences between the three states. Les Mehrhoff stated that New York has a task force in place by the Governor to create a criteria list.

**Potential Fees
For Funding Invasives**

Work: Chairman Leff asked if there were any comments from members regarding funding requests for invasive plant projects. This subject has been brought up in past meetings. Nancy Murray suggested that a list be put together to justify staffing and funding (especially for new invaders.) More discussion took place between Chairman Leff, Commissioner Prelli, Dr. Magnarelli, and David Goodwin. Chairman Leff spoke about last year's legislation

(which did not pass) on using a portion of boating fees to help fund the Invasive Plants Council. There are 112,000 vessels registered in Connecticut. There was discussion about requesting the Appropriations Committee to consider funding by using an existing fund.

Cultivars: Mr. Brad Mitchell stated that new cultivars need justification and need to prove to the state of Massachusetts why they should or should not be considered invasive. Les Mehrhoff reiterated the same. Various comments by Council members: the nursery industry has to be careful because some non-invasive cultivars are mislabeled; a tracking system is needed and a criterion is necessary. Council members, Commissioner Prelli, Les Mehrhoff and David Goodwin had further discussion on the subject of cultivars. David Goodwin said this really is a regional issue – not related to just Connecticut or Massachusetts. David Sutherland feels that it will be necessary to prioritize plants for eradication success.

Other Old or New Business: Again, much discussion between Council members took place on staffing needed for enforcement and eradication of invasive plants. Discussion took place on the jurisdiction differences between the CT Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station; private landowners property; public perception of invasives; “2006” legislative package. Chairman Leff requested a write up from Co-Chairman Magnarelli and Commissioner Prelli on hiring, so this request can be submitted to the legislature.

Discussion took place about the possibility of inviting the Senate and House Chairs to a future Invasive Plants Council meeting. Chairman Leff wants to look at a spending plan to be finalized at next meeting.

Next meeting agenda: Funding and Legislation. Commissioner Prelli is to invite Dr. Sherman to next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 1, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in the Ensign Room at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Carr
Department of Environmental Protection