

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council
Tuesday September 18, 2012
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture
Conference Room G8-A
Hartford, CT

Council members present: David Goodwin, Bill Hyatt, Paul Larson, Tom McGowan, David Sutherland, John Silander, Jeff Ward, Katherine Winslow

Others present: Ellen Bender, Donna Ellis, Bob Heffernan, Mike Johnson, Nancy Murray, John Nassif, Dick Shaffer, Penni Sharp, Logan Senack

1. Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

2. The minutes for the 6/12/12 meeting were reviewed.

Ellis provided a suggested change on behalf of Rich McAvoy: in section 3, change second sentence to read: "Since 2010, Rickel has been compiling a list of sites where bamboo is growing in the state". Winslow recommended changing the wording in section 7a, paragraph 3, first sentence to read: "Rickel added that other species besides *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (yellow groove bamboo) are less common and therefore she recommends they should not be listed."

Winslow moved (second: Larson) approved to accept the minutes with the corrections. **The Council decided to approve the minutes as corrected.**

Dave Sutherland arrived at 2:09 pm.

3. Bamboo presentation- Mike Johnson of Summer Hill Nursery

Hyatt introduced Mike Johnson of Summer Hill Nursery in Madison, CT. Johnson spoke to the group about his experiences with bamboo over the past twelve years and his experience as a nursery grower over the past 50 years. He detailed several different genera and species of bamboo, including clumping and running types, and noted that some running types are small, low growing ground covers that do not behave in the same way as the larger running types. Clumping bamboos also do not spread in the same way that running bamboos do, but are not suitable for all areas, especially areas in full sun, and are slow to gain height. Bamboo is avoided by deer.

Johnson reported that there are not many known instances of bamboo spreading by seed in this area and that bamboo seeds may not always be viable. He also noted that in his opinion it was not likely that bamboo would spread by water. He discussed various containment systems and recommended that a 36-inch plastic 60-mil barrier be planted 34 inches into the ground around the bamboo with two inches protruding above the soil surface for the best containment. All containment systems must be maintained and rhizomes that are growing over the top should be cut back yearly.

Johnson also discussed his experiences using glyphosate-based products to control bamboo and has had success with cutting followed by two applications of herbicide over a year. He noted that the time period of the year was important in the treatment of the plants and that applications in the late summer or fall were more likely to be successful than applications in the spring.

Ward added that the CT Agricultural Experiment Station will be doing an experiment along Route 15 to test the translocation of herbicides in bamboo.

Johnson reported that in his opinion, the problem is not bamboo. He feels the problem is people and made the distinction that bamboo has to be planted in order to appear in Connecticut—it does not appear on its own. Johnson added that he felt the solution was to educate people, especially since bamboo is fairly new to the trade. People need to be educated on how to handle them, what varieties to use, where to use them, and how to use them. He also reported that *Phyllostachys aurea* may not be hardy in CT and answered questions from the group. Johnson estimated that approximately 3% of his total sales are of bamboo and two-thirds of those bamboo sales are of the running types of bamboo.

Murray added that labeling the plants would be important so that if any homeowner were to buy the plant, they would know what to do with it. Johnson agreed but noted that his nursery is wholesale only, so they sell to landscapers and land managers and not the general public.

Hyatt thanked Johnson for sharing this information with the group.

4. Bamboo

a. Invasive Plants Council site visits

Senack summarized the Invasive Plants Council bamboo field trip that took place on August 16. Council members Bill Hyatt, Rich McAvoy, Jeff Ward, and Katherine Winslow visited 4 bamboo sites in Waterbury, Newtown, and Woodbury. The group discussed the field trip site visits.

b. Visits to Orange and Bozrah, CT

Senack visited a site where bamboo was growing in Orange, CT. The site had been visited previously by Silander. The planting, which spread from a yard, has grown into the surrounding wooded areas which are more shaded. The homeowner is concerned about the potential for property damage.

Senack also visited a site where bamboo was growing in Bozrah, CT. The planting had spread against the side of the house, and plants had grown up between the siding and the house walls and had emerged along the edge of the roof.

c. Report on genetics information

Senack reported on the results of the genetics/DNA testing of selected bamboo specimens by Dr. Melissa Smith at Washington State University. Murray and Dr. Smith had been in contact for the past several months to arrange and coordinate the testing. Dr. Smith found that many of the populations would appear to be *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (yellow groove bamboo), while a few populations are likely to be from another species such as *P. aurea*. 7 samples were sent from DEEP and were tested. 5 samples matched *P. aureosulcata* in all 4 genetic markers. 2 sites did not match the rest and were more suggestive of *P. aurea*. Dr. Smith would need to conduct additional tests with at least 4 additional primers at substantial cost to find a more definitive result.

d. Council action on bamboo

Hyatt summarized the status of other Council bamboo actions, discussions, presentations, and legislative issues relating to bamboo in Connecticut.

Hyatt moved (second: Sutherland) that the bamboo species *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (yellow groove bamboo) be added to the Council's list of potentially invasive plants. The group discussed this motion. Ellis provided comments from Rich McAvoy regarding the impacts of listing or not listing this species. Goodwin emphasized the need for plants that were to be listed to meet the criteria as stated in CGS §22a-381b. The Council reviewed the criteria for listing as provided in CGS §22a-381b. Winslow shared with the group a USDA Weed Risk Assessment for yellow groove bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*), published August 20, 2012. Ward expressed concern that he had not been accurately quoted in the report and that he had provided corrections to the USDA group working on the report.

A roll call vote was conducted:

Bill Hyatt- nay

Jeff Ward- nay

Paul Larson- nay

Tom McGowan- nay

Dave Sutherland- nay

Katherine Winslow- yes

John Silander- yes

Dave Goodwin- nay

The vote was 2 for, 6 against. The motion to list *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (yellow groove bamboo) as a potentially invasive plant failed. Winslow asked Hyatt for clarification on why he voted against the motion. Hyatt responded that based on the information and field visits he did not believe that criteria number #5 ("under average conditions, the plant has the biological potential for existing in high numbers outside of habitats that are intensely managed"; CGS §22a-381b[5]) had been met.

Hyatt moved (second: McGowan) that the Invasive Plants Council, while recognizing that yellow groove bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*) and other species of running bamboo in the genus *Phyllostachys* do not meet the criteria for invasive or potentially invasive plants as set forth in CGS §22a-381b, does recognize that said species have caused significant damage to residential properties, and, as such, is supportive of legislation that aims to prohibit the importation and sale of these plants in Connecticut.

McGowan moved to amend this motion with alternate wording. **The motion to amend the wording failed due to lack of a second.** The group discussed possible ways of re-wording and clarifying some aspects of this statement. Sutherland and other members expressed concern about various bamboos, and noted that the Council could re-evaluate whether or not to list bamboo species as needed in the future. Goodwin stated that the Council should limit their actions to what the statutes allow. **Goodwin moved (second: McGowan) to table the motion about yellow groove bamboo to the next meeting. The group decided to postpone this motion to the next meeting.**

5. Mugwort and Wavyleaf basketgrass presentations

The group decided to postpone discussion on mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and Wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) to the next meeting.

6. Invasive Plant Coordinator position update

a. Funds transferred from Ag to UConn

Hyatt summarized actions that had been taken to continue to fund the Invasive Plant Coordinator position at UConn to date. Ellis reported that funding had been transferred from the Department of Agriculture for this purpose.

Ellis asked what the necessary reporting requirements would be for the funding from the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). Winslow responded that she wasn't sure. Sutherland asked if the position was in the state budget going forward. Hyatt will ask George Krivda at DoAg to clarify both items.

Sutherland asked that he and Bob Heffernan be kept informed about the status of the position in the budget.

Goodwin left the room at 4:02 pm.

b. Workplan/deliverables

Senack distributed the project workplan for the Invasive Plant Coordinator position for the upcoming year and asked for comments from the group. Winslow and Ward suggested various edits. These edits will include clarifying that recommendations regarding the Invasive Plant List would be provided to the Invasive Plants Council, re-titling sections for greater clarity, and additional minor changes. These edits will be incorporated into the document.

Ward left the room at 4:10 pm.

Larson left the room at 4:10 pm.

c. Mile-a-minute vine report

Senack distributed a map of the known distribution of mile-a-minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) in Connecticut. Mile-a-minute vine is now known to be present in at least 29 towns in Connecticut, and is present at multiple locations within many towns. Senack also reported that the biological control agent, a beneficial weevil first introduced in 2009, has been spreading throughout the state and is now present at several new locations.

7. Annual Report

Senack reported that in past years, the invasive plant list has been updated in October, and the draft cover letter from the Chair has been presented by November. Items to be included in the annual report should be sent to Senack in advance of the November meeting.

8. Old and new business

New Business: Hyatt requested that new business be postponed until the next meeting.
Paul Larson entered the room at 4:15.

Old business: Ellis reminded the group about the upcoming CIPWG invasive plant symposium at UConn on October 25.

9. Adjournment:

Hyatt moved (second: Larson) to adjourn the meeting. **The Council decided to adjourn at 4:15 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2012, 2-4 pm, in room G8-A at the Department of Agriculture building in Hartford, CT.