

## MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday, February 14, 2012  
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture  
Conference Room G8-A  
Hartford, CT

**Council members present:** David Goodwin, Bill Hyatt, Paul Larson, Lou Magnarelli, Tom McGowan, John Silander, David Sutherland

**Others present:** Ellen Bender, Donna Ellis, Bob Heffernan, Nancy Murray, Logan Senack, Dick Shaffer, Penni Sharp

**1. Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.**

**2. The minutes for the 1/10/12 meeting were reviewed.**

The group discussed the minutes and two changes were proposed: Larson proposed changing the last sentence in section 5a first paragraph to read "...educating retailers about issues concerning bamboo." Goodwin recommended correcting the word "planning" to "planting" in section 5b first paragraph, line 4. Larson moved (second: Goodwin) to approve the minutes as corrected.

**The Council decided to approve the minutes as corrected.**

**3. Legislative update preparations and information**

Hyatt updated the group on the preparations for the legislative update. A date for the update presentation has not yet been determined. Sutherland met with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) legislative liaison and will continue to work with DEEP and others on this issue. The group discussed the importance of making sure legislators could attend the update session and the need to clarify which Council members would be presenting which parts of the update. Hyatt will deliver the introductory material and Sutherland, McGowan, and green industry representatives will be involved in the other parts of the presentation.

Hyatt and DEEP will continue to work on the slides and speakers notes and will prepare a short handout that summarizes the presentation.

**a. Enlisting non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

The group discussed the need to include NGOs in the presentation and the importance of having NGO support going forward. Important groups to contact would be the River Alliance, CT Audubon, CT Forest and Parks, individual lake associations, CT Federation of Lakes, CT Botanical Society, and the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

McGowan offered to contact lake associations and the CT Federation of Lakes.

Sutherland discussed the possibility of asking a legislator to propose a bill to directly fund the coordinator position. The group discussed the importance of the coordinator position in working with the Council and the importance of the Council in complying with state statutes, maintaining the invasive plant lists, and providing advice to the legislature on invasive plant issues.

Sutherland will explore the possibility of asking a legislator to propose a bill. There was consensus that getting a legislator to propose a bill to provide funding for the coordinator's position was more important than doing the presentation and that it accomplishes the objective of the presentation. Hyatt, Murray and Senack will work on shortening the slide presentation and preparing a summary sheet. Small meetings for key legislators may be the way to proceed if a bill is proposed.

#### **b. Development of letterhead**

Hyatt shared with the group sample letterhead produced by Senack. Hyatt would like to develop letterhead to more clearly identify the Council and make it clear that the Council is a multi-organizational group, not just DEEP or another state agency.

The group discussed possible uses for the letterhead and provided feedback on the design. Senack will create a revised letterhead based on this feedback.

#### **4. Press release for Annual Report**

Hyatt distributed a draft press release detailing the accomplishments of the Council as noted in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Invasive Plants Council annual report. This press release would be for general distribution. Ellis and Sharp added that the CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) could also distribute it to the CIPWG listserv of 700 email addresses. The group suggested adjusting the document to make it fit on one page.

Sutherland moved (second: McGowan) to approve the press release. **The Council decided to approve the press release.**

#### **5. Old/New Business**

##### **a. Bamboo**

Larson provided information from the CT Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA), including sample draft tags providing information about the proper planting of bamboo. Larson explained that CNLA would try to have a local CT outlet produce the tags to alert customers about the proper planting of bamboo. Heffernan added that the artwork for the tags would be made available for retailers to use and that CNLA could do a contract for a label making company to make them and have an inventory of labels on hand for use. Hyatt asked for additional information about the CNLA position on this issue relative to its members.

Murray suggested clarifying on the tag that this is for running types of bamboo, not clumping types. Larson and Goodwin agreed that this was an important distinction. The group discussed the wording on the tags. Silander added that he was pleased to see the industry taking this kind of proactive approach.

Sutherland pointed out that there is a concept bill in the legislature regarding bamboo in Connecticut.

Hyatt asked for a copy of the tags to be sent to Senack and distributed to the group. CNLA will send out a copy when the tags have been finalized.

**b. Bamboo: DEEP response to calls**

Murray reported to the group regarding how DEEP plans to respond to incoming inquiries about bamboo: DEEP plans to report that the plants are not listed as invasive in CT and will continue to track reports of running bamboo in the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS; [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org)). DEEP will also provide information about control and the proper installation and use of barriers if asked, and additional information including the language of the town ordinance used in Delaware that had been discussed at prior meetings. Murray noted that Caryn Rickel of Seymour has already begun entering bamboo records into EDDMapS.

Murray also reported that there was no response yet from Dr. Lynn Clark (Iowa State University) on the identification of the samples Murray submitted, and that Dr. Melissa Smith, post-doctoral researcher at Washington State University, will be visiting Connecticut in late February or early March to collect specimens.

**c. New water chestnut population found**

Murray reported that a large population of water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) has been found in a pond a few miles east of the University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT) that drains into the Mt. Hope River. Murray and DEEP will be investigating this situation further.

**d. Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) progress**

Silander reported that IPANE has developed a full and formalized collaborative relationship with EDDMapS. IPANE will be moving forward with that agreement, which may benefit the long-term sustainability of the project.

**6. Adjournment**

Sutherland moved (second: Goodwin) to adjourn the meeting. **The Council decided to adjourn at 3:25 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2012, at the Department of Agriculture Building in Hartford, CT.