

CT Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday February, 10, 2009  
2 pm, Valley Laboratory  
Windsor, CT

**Council members present:**

Bill Hyatt, David Goodwin, Lou Magnarelli, Mary Musgrave, Paul Larson (*arrived at 2:12*)

**Others present:**

Donna Ellis, Logan Senack, Nancy Murray, John Volin, Dick Shaffer

*A quorum was not present, so the Chair requested that Dr. Volin's presentation begin while awaiting a quorum and prior to a formal call to order.*

**2:08 pm-Guest presentation: Dr. John Volin (UConn)**

Dr. John Volin, Professor and head of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Connecticut, delivered a presentation titled "Evaluating Multiple Control Methods for the Invasive, *Hydrilla verticillata* in the Silvermine River System of Southwest Connecticut"

*Paul Larson arrived during the presentation. A quorum was then present.*

After the presentation, those present were able to ask questions and discuss the presentation with Dr. Volin. The Council thanked Dr. Volin for his presentation.

**1. Musgrave called the meeting to order at 2:39 pm.**

**2. The minutes for the 1/13/09 meeting were reviewed:** Musgrave requested to amend the minutes to correct typographical errors. Magnarelli requested that the sentence beginning "Magnarelli informed..." (page 3, section 9) be amended to include "the New Haven facilities of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station". **Larson moved (Magnarelli seconded) to approve the minutes with the proposed changes. The Council approved the 1/13/09 minutes with the changes.**

**3. Budget plans and DEP Grants to Municipalities Status:** Hyatt reported to the group on the difficulties of determining any budget items due to the state's financial situation and the changes being proposed in the legislature.

Hyatt reported that DEP plans to use funds that were carried over from fiscal year 2008 in order to adjust the MOUs with UConn to extend the Invasive Plant Coordinator position and to pay the *Hydrilla* control project through June 2010. In addition, \$15,000 will be transferred to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station to provide for inspections in nurseries and garden centers and \$15,000 will be transferred to the CT Dept. of Agriculture to provide for inspections of pet shops and aquarium stores.

DEP staff will be trained to do civil enforcement in response to findings by the inspectors from the Dept. of Agriculture or CAES. Enforcement actions will be run through the Attorney General's office.

#### Grants to municipalities status (Hyatt)

Hyatt reported to the group on the status of the DEP Invasive Plant Control Grants to Municipalities. The current status of the availability of funds for the grants is uncertain due to the financial issues facing the state and DEP. The Commissioner of DEP may work with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to allow the use of the \$190,000 dollars for the program.

#### **4. IPC letter to Commissioner McCarthy, IPC core budget needs and strategy, and legislative strategy for the IPC**

##### Letter to the Commissioner, legislative strategy

Musgrave distributed information about proposed bills and recent legislative activity relating to funding of DEP and other Invasive Plant activities and distributed an early draft letter to be sent to the Commissioner of DEP from the Council. Musgrave also asked whether the letter is still needed given the budgetary changes just reported on by Hyatt.

Musgrave also distributed a draft of a document from Sutherland informing the public of a legislative hearing on February 17, which concerns the future of funding to DEP for the invasive plants program. Musgrave proposed looking for involvement from the public to testify on the program's behalf. Donna Ellis will post the information as an alert on the CIPWG website and distribute the request to the CIPWG listserve.

Magnarelli expressed doubts about sending a letter to the Commissioner given the new budget information presented by Hyatt, and would rather see support from the public at the hearing about keeping funding for DEP's programming. Hyatt agreed that the public is important at the hearing, and the interests of the public and the groups that the Council represents would be best presented to the legislature at that time.

The council decided not to send the letter to the Commissioner, and that the Council will not appear at the hearing to represent itself.

##### Core budget

The Council discussed asking the Appropriations Committee for a core budget amount. As discussed at previous meetings, the core budget would include funding for continuing the position of the Invasive Plant Coordinator and for inspections by CAES and the Department of Agriculture, Enforcement of the Banned Plants list by DEP. Hyatt explained that this amount was already provided for this year by the plan previously detailed (section 3, above) and gave an informal estimate of \$100,000 as a minimum funding level required in the future. Musgrave will draft a statement asking for a \$100,000 keep-alive budget from the state and will provide testimony at the legislative hearing on this topic about the funding. The exact amount of the

request will be determined after further consultation with Hyatt and Sutherland. Other groups represented on the Council and the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group may also present testimony in support of the programming.

**5. Other old or new business**

The group discussed the possibility of continuing to meet informally should the Council actually be dissolved to allow the agencies, organizations, and industry groups to remain in contact and informed about each other's activities.

**6. Adjournment**

**Goodwin moved to adjourn the meeting (Magnarelli seconded). The Council decided to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 pm.**

**7. Next meeting: scheduled for (Tuesday) March 10, 2009 2pm Valley Lab**