

**Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
June 12, 2007**

MINUTES

Present:

Chairperson Lou Magnarelli, Vice Chairperson Phil Prelli, Dave Goodwin, Paul Larson, Les Mehrhoff, Nancy Murray

Absent:

David Sutherland, Tom McGowen, Mary Musgrave

Others Present:

Donna Ellis, Karen Weeks

Chairperson Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Minutes were approved with minor changes/clarification. 1 abstained, the rest approved.

Legislation

Magnarelli reported that all new budget items were stripped out of the budget at the end of May in an attempt to reduce costs. Murray indicated that the invasive plant funding was now at the foot of the bill. Prelli indicated that the legislators proposed budget showed a 10.5% increase in spending and that negotiations between the Governor and legislator need to resolve differences. Larson recommended that we need someone to promote our bill. Prelli said subcommittee chairs need to support this funding. We can hope that our funding will be included in one of the implementer bills.

Magnarelli informed the Council that our bill continues to have good legislative support. Larson referred to the 2 year budget approval and Prelli said the second year funding is typically modified.

Notification to Businesses

Magnarelli informed committee that the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station took the initiative to send out invasive species information (existing legislation and the banned species list) to 500 businesses in Connecticut. This was in response to parrot feather being confirmed for sale at one location.

*(Attach copy to minutes as members have requested receiving a copy)

Enforcement of Current Laws

Discussion ensued about enforcement authority. Magnarelli stated that police officers can enforce statutory laws and questioned authority of DEP Conservation Officers. Murray referred to Section 7 of Public Act 03-136 that was circulating at the meeting.

This document included language that would allow conservation officers to enforce the \$100 fine for transporting banned plants on boating trailers. [Murray looked into this matter after the meeting and found that the current CGS 26-6 does not include the addition of language citing this change. This matter needs clarification.]

Mehrhoff said the Committee needs to continue discussions on the cultivar issue and that unfortunately the St. Louis meeting scheduled to discuss the cultivar issue for this summer, 2007 was cancelled. Mehrhoff plans to draft definitions and criteria for the ad-hoc national steering committee to review. Mehrhoff then said that Brad Mitchell from MA contacted him to inform that a MA business was fined for selling an invasive species and that plants came from a Connecticut business. Reportedly, the Connecticut business was sent a cease and desist letter from State of MA.

Election of New Officers

Magnarelli said he would be willing to serve as Chairperson until December 2007. Mehrhoff indicated that a nominating committee exists and this committee should make recommendations for chairperson and vice chair.

Next Council Meetings

September 12, 2007 at 2PM at Windsor Office of Agricultural Experiment Station.
October 9, 2007 at 2PM at Windsor Office of Agricultural Experiment Station.

Old / New Business

Mehrhoff provided update on the Connecticut mile-a-minute Task Force activities that included 2007 pulling session in New Milford.

Ellis suggested that the CLNA workday might want to focus same effort on invasive plant control projects and requested that the CNLA list serve include notices of CIPWG needs for volunteers to assist with invasive plant control projects.

Magnarelli said the CAES was working with Candlewood Lake and Lake Zoar and planned to release milfoil beetles. CAES staff will be doing invasive aquatic plant identification workshop on June 23, 2007.

Magnarelli stated the statutory requirement for the annual update to the Connecticut invasive plant list. Mehrhoff volunteered to prepare updated list.

Murray said the CT Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan has been signed by Governor Rell and has also been approved by the ANS Task Force and notice of funding should arrive within the next month or so.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 P.M.