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Invasive Plants Council
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
2 pm, UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility
59 Agronomy Road, Storrs-Mansfield, CT

Council members present: Ted Andreadis, Bill Hyatt, Paul Larson, Rich McAvoy, Tom McGowan, John Silander, Katherine Winslow

Others present: Mark Brand, Nelson DeBarros, Donna Ellis, Marilyn Jordan (*by phone for items 1-3*), Jonathan Lehrer, Gerry Moore (*by phone for items 1-3*), Nancy Murray, Logan Senack, Steve Young

- 1. Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.**
- 2. The minutes for the 2/11/14 meeting were reviewed.**
Andreadis moved (second: Silander) to approve the minutes as submitted. **The Council decided to approve the minutes as submitted.** Larson and Winslow abstained since they were not present at the last meeting.
- 3. Presentation from Jonathan Lehrer, Steve Young: NY state update on regulation, listing of species, and cultivars (~40 minutes plus time for questions)**
Lehrer, from the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area Scientific Review Committee (LIISMA-SRC), explained the origins of their invasive plant list, which was developed for Long Island but designed to be applicable to New York State. New York State is currently developing regulations on invasive plants. In addition to the invasiveness ranking system, the New York invasive plant list will take into account a socio-economic assessment which is still being developed at the state level. After both the invasiveness and the socio-economic assessments are taken into account, plants could be unregulated, regulated, or prohibited at the state level. The invasive plant list would be maintained in regulation, not in legislation. Questions for the presenters related to the specific definitions of various terms as used in the protocol and the development and weighting of the sections of the protocol. Lehrer stressed that the LIISMA protocol was designed to be an open, transparent process, with all literature reviews and information sources listed after each question in the species evaluations. Lehrer and the presenters also responded to questions about the need to emphasize the use of verifiable data for the species assessments and other topics.

Lehrer also provided information on the current treatment of cultivars of invasive plants in New York State. The LIISMA group developed draft criteria for assessing cultivars independently of the parent species. The criteria would allow for some cultivars to be exempt from the sales restrictions and other related restrictions if it could be determined that they were not likely to revert to the parent type or establish in natural areas. The draft New York State regulations include some of the cultivar criteria developed by

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LIISMA, but not all criteria were included. Lehrer was asked how New York was addressing running bamboo. He responded that *Phyllostachys aurea* and *P. aureosulcata* were determined to be “not assessable”, i.e. not technically invasive, in NY because the species are only found in places where it has been planted or discarded by people. Lehrer stated that these species have not invaded natural habitats to any significant degree. However, under the NY system running bamboo may still be included on the proposed list of prohibited/invasive species.

Young provided additional information, and Jordan and Moore were also present by phone to answer questions. More information about the New York listing process can be found at www.nyis.info.

- 4. Tour of Dr. Mark Brand’s barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and *Aronia* experiments**

Dr. Brand (UConn) spoke to the group about the status of his research. He led the group on a tour of the Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and chokeberry (*Aronia* species) planted at the UConn Plant Science Research and Educational Facility. Brand is researching chokeberry (*Aronia* sp.) plants for fruit production and as possible alternative plants for some invasive species. He is investigating Japanese barberry cultivars to determine more about differences in fruit and seed production by the various cultivars. The group toured the plants and discussed current projects with Brand.

- 5. Update on legislative session**

- a. Coordinator funding issues**

Hyatt reported on the current status of the Invasive Plant Coordinator position. Hyatt’s understanding from the Appropriations Committee was that funding for the position was being transferred to UConn directly, not cut. When the implementer bill came out, there was no budget for the position, though Hyatt was told the position would be picked up by the University. Hyatt has been working with the Dean of UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) on this issue. Hyatt reported that the University recognizes that there is an obligation to continue the position and noted that \$20,000 in funding may be available from DEEP to allow the Coordinator to assist with a DEEP grants program going forward.

Silander added that the UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been asked to cut its budget by 2-5% for the upcoming year. McAvoy reported that CANR is dealing with the same issue. Andreadis noted that this is not a good situation and that there was a clear danger of losing the position. Silander asked if the position would be more securely funded under DEEP. Hyatt was uncertain. The group discussed the idea that clarifying the situation in the near future would be preferable to waiting until the next budget year, or the next legislative session, to resolve the issue.

- b. Aquatics funding status**

Hyatt reported that as a result of the aquatic invasive species hearing in January, a need for \$1.2 million dollars in funding was proposed by DEEP for aquatic invasives for the next fiscal year. A proposal came out of the Environment

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Committee at \$500,000, which was then cut to \$200,000 before the bill passed. Hyatt reported that DEEP is able to use \$20,000 of this amount to enable the Invasive Plant Coordinator to assist with a DEEP aquatic invasive plant control grants program.

c. **Impacts of new bamboo legislation**

Hyatt distributed copies of the new bamboo legislation, which modifies CGA Sec. 22a-381e. DEEP is considering asking the Attorney General's office for clarification on several points of the new law: whether the law is retroactive, whether DEEP, as an agency, can delegate enforcement authority to municipalities, and whether any bamboo at all can be grown within forty feet of a property line with or without a barrier system. A second proposal, which would have prohibited the sale of running bamboo plants until the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station developed safe Best Management Practices for growth and containment, was discussed during the legislative session, but did not result in any legislation.

6. **Species updates**

Andreadis distributed a document providing mugwort and bamboo research updates from CAES.

a. **Mugwort seed germination study results from CAES (Andreadis)**

Andreadis reported that Ward had continued his research into mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) seed viability. In Ward's pilot experiment, seeds from mugwort germinated from each of seven samples collected at various times and locations around the state. Working with Senack, additional samples were collected in the fall of 2013. Ward conducted a germination experiment at CAES. Seeds were dried, vernalized, and placed in petri dishes on moistened blotter paper. There was significant germination of mugwort seedlings with 0-215 germinating seeds per 25 seedheads. Senack reported that Ward had provided an additional preliminary estimate of over 1,300 viable seeds per 6-inch branchlet.

b. **Bamboo research update from CAES (Andreadis)**

Andreadis provided an update on the bamboo control research undertaken by CAES. CAES has been examining bamboo control on three planted sites at CAES facilities (in Griswold, Hamden, and Windsor) and at sites in other areas of the state where bamboo had become dense. At the CAES facilities, Ward has been comparing the growth, spread, winter survival, and control responses of various cultivars. At the other locations, Ward tested the response of bamboo to herbicide treatments. The bamboo stands were cut back to reduce the height of the culms before the foliage was treated twice with glyphosate. The process was extremely effective at all three sites, with 99-100% of the bamboo controlled one year later.

Senack added that one of the contractors who has worked on bamboo control in the New Milford area had recently contacted him to report that he had very good success using imazapyr to control bamboo in at least one well-established, ¼ acre

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stand. Hyatt emphasized the need to treat the entire bamboo stand, not just part of it, for effective control of bamboo.

7. Enforcement issues update from DEEP (Hyatt)

Discussion of this item was postponed to a future meeting.

8. New Council Chair needed (Larson)

Larson reported on the search for a new Council Chair for the IPC. Larson and Sutherland (the Nominating Committee) have spoken and have reached out to various members about serving as Chair. At present, there is no one available for the position. Larson asked that a member interested in serving as Chair contact him or Sutherland prior to the September meeting. Hyatt volunteered to help introduce the new Chair to the needed materials.

9. Coordinator update (Senack)

a. DOT trainings update

Senack reported that he spoke and presented material at several training sessions for DOT maintenance staff in March and April. The trainings went extremely well and received significant positive feedback from the attendees. The training sessions, organized by UConn's CT Technology Transfer Center, reached about 200 DOT maintenance staff and provided approximately 900-1,000 contact hours of training on invasive plant identification, control, best management practices for roadside invasive plant maintenance, and invasive insects. Staff from DOT, DEEP Forestry Division, and CAES also delivered presentations and participated in various sessions. The UConn Technology Transfer Program invited Senack to provide additional trainings to town and municipal staff in various parts of the state this fall. Hyatt noted that these groups are excellent audiences for outreach activities. Senack will follow up to determine if additional trainings can be provided given the current funding situation.

McGowan left the room at 4:16 pm.

b. Future IPC directions document

Senack reported that he is working on developing the document the IPC requested on potential future directions for invasive plant efforts in the state. There will be a significant focus on early detection and responding to new and developing problems as early as possible in the new document.

c. Early Detection list revised

Senack distributed a draft of the revised Early Detection List for CT. The list has 3 main categories:

- i. An Early Detection List of plants that are listed as invasive or potentially invasive in Connecticut, that are present only in low numbers, and that could be priorities for future control efforts.
- ii. A Research List of plants that are present in or near Connecticut and for which more information is desired. Current records are limited on these species and

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more information about distribution and spread is needed. This list is not a regulatory list or a proposed invasive plant list.

- iii. A list of species that have been previously examined by the Invasive Plants Council. This list will provide a reference point for anyone looking for information about prior species discussions of the Invasive Plants Council.

Attendees provided suggested changes and comments and Senack requested that additional feedback be sent by email. The revised document will be redistributed to the group.

d. *Arthraxon rigidum* response

Senack noted that there was a plant on the Early Detection list that was known to be present in only one location in the state. *Arthraxon hispidus* (hairy jointgrass) is only known to occur in a location in Waterford, on state property at Harkness Memorial State Park. Senack noted that it was possible that this plant was present in other locations, since the plants had been present at the site for several years. Further mapping of the population may need to occur prior to further attempts at control, but no other locations in the state had been reported at present. Hyatt noted that the draft contracts for contractors that DEEP was preparing could be useful in hiring a contractor to remove the plants, but that they currently only apply to aquatic species. Hyatt also noted that this plant could be a good candidate for removal and that the wetlands restoration group from DEEP may be able to assist with that effort.

10. New Business

a. Speaking request for IPC Chair at fall CIPWG conference (Ellis)

Ellis invited the Invasive Plants Council to send the new Chairperson or a Council representative to speak at the next CIPWG symposium. The 2014 symposium will be held on October 7, 2014 at the Student Union on the UConn Storrs campus. The event has had high attendance in the past and has traditionally included remarks from the Invasive Plants Council Chair.

b. Senack departure

Hyatt announced that Senack will be leaving the Coordinator position to attend law school this fall. The group congratulated Senack, thanked him for his outstanding service over the past five and a half years, and wished him success in law school.

c. Meeting logistics thanks

On behalf of the Council, Hyatt thanked UConn for hosting this meeting and for providing field tours. Senack added thanks to UConn Facilities for providing the Internet and phone connections for the meeting. Senack also thanked UConn's Research Facility Farm Manager, Steve Olsen, and the farm staff for arranging the meeting space and UConn's Integrated Pest Management Program for providing refreshments.

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11. Adjournment

Larson moved to adjourn the meeting. **The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 pm, September 9, 2014 at the Dept. of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave. in Hartford, CT.