

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture G8-A
Hartford, CT

Council members present: Theodore Andreadis, David Goodwin, William Hyatt, Paul Larson, Richard McAvoy, Katherine Winslow, John Silander, David Sutherland

Others present: Donna Ellis, Nancy Murray

Approval of Minutes

Katherine Winslow moved approval of the minutes for the June 10 Special Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Theodore Andreadis moved approval of the minutes for the regular June 10 meeting; Paul Larson seconded. The minutes were approved.

Update on the Council Coordinator position vacancy

Bill Hyatt explained that \$20,000 of the funding for the new Aquatic Invasives program can be used for administrative purposes. That funding will be used to help pay for the Coordinator position, so that the new hire can spend a significant portion of their time administering grants and other aspects of that new program. DEEP will also direct \$10,000 towards funding the Coordinator position; UConn will contribute \$3,000.

The position is funded through June 2015. Since it is a durational position, UConn will not have to conduct a formal search process.

Aquatics Update

Nancy Murray distributed Voluntary Guidelines from the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force pertaining to water gardens. John Silander asked what the plans were for publicizing the guidelines. The federal officials probably do not have a plan for intensified distribution or implementation. Nancy also distributed voluntary guidelines for curbing the spread of aquatic invasives.

Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program

Hyatt reviewed the process by which an initial proposal for \$1.2 million for an aquatic invasives program was reduced to \$200,000, which was ultimately approved. Ten percent can be used for administrative functions; a minimum of 30 – 40% must be used for a municipal grants program for diagnostics or treatment. An RFP for the grants was released July 31, with a deadline for proposals of September 15. There was discussion of the inadequacy of six weeks for towns to put together proposals. DEEP is trying to balance the provision of adequate time for proposal development with concern that money that is not expended may be diverted for other purposes.

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CIPWG Symposium

Donna Elis from UConn reported that there are already 300 attendees signed up for the symposium. Senator Clark Chapin will give remarks.

Old Business

At this point, the council intends to proceed with its October and December meetings, and may have its scheduled November meeting.

New Business

Yellow groove bamboo - *Phyllostachys aureosulcata*

Theresa Groff, a Field Researcher with the Institute of Invasive Bamboo Research presented findings to the council regarding nine instances in which the institute maintains that Yellow Groove bamboo has become naturalized. There are approximately 600 known sites of bamboo in Connecticut, most being intentionally planted.

Kim Pita from Old Saybrook presented pictures of a population of Yellow Groove in her yard that is returning after she spent \$3,000 having the original population removed.

Richard McAvoy and John Silander responded to references by Groff and Pita of Yellow groove being impossible to control by herbicides by maintaining that applied properly, herbicides can eliminate populations.

Groff and Pita would like the council to include Yellow groove bamboo on the state's statutorily-mandated list of invasive plants.

There was extensive discussion of the statutory criteria defining "invasive" species, in Section 22a-381b of the Connecticut General Statutes, with focus on the following criteria:

"(2) the plant is naturalized or has the potential to become naturalized or occurring without the aid and benefit of cultivation in an area where the plant is nonindigenous; (3) under average conditions, the plant has the biological potential for rapid and widespread dispersion and establishment in the state or region within the state; (4) under average conditions, the plant has the biological potential for excessive dispersion over habitats of varying sizes that are similar or dissimilar to the site of the plant's introduction into the state; (5) under average conditions, the plant has the biological potential for existing in high numbers outside of habitats that are intensely managed;" particularly item 2 concerning naturalization.

Hyatt pointed out that Logan Senack, the council's former coordinator, had visited six of the nine sites referenced as ones where bamboo had naturalized, and that Senack thought naturalization had occurred at one of those sites, and thought that the populations were associated with plantings at at least four of the sites. Hyatt will distribute Senack's notes on those visits.

Winslow suggested that a committee of the council be set up to assess research and information regarding Yellow groove bamboo. The council agreed. The members of the committee will be Jeff Ward from the Agricultural Experiment Station, Winslow, Silander, and McAvoy. McAvoy will arrange site visits to some of the sites referenced as hosting naturalized populations.

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Pet Trade MOU

Murray described a Memorandum of Understanding recently crafted between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the pet industry with the intention of identifying and precluding from the trade invasive plants.

Congressional Invasive Plants Caucus

There was discussion of efforts that will be implemented after the November elections to increase the membership in the currently 17-member Congressional Invasive Plants Caucus.

Election of Council officers

Larson moved that McAvoy be elected as Chair of the council. Hyatt seconded the nomination. McAvoy left the room, and was unanimously approved by the members present.

Larson moved that Hyatt be elected as Vice Chair; Andreadis seconded. Hyatt left the room and was unanimously approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014, 2 pm, in room G8-A at the Department of Agriculture in Hartford, CT.