

## UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday, October 21, 2014  
2 pm, Department of Agriculture G8-A  
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

**Council members present:** Ted Andreadis, Paul Larson, Rich McAvoy, David Sutherland, Katherine Winslow

*A quorum was not present.*

**Others present:** Ellen Bender, Donna Ellis, Nicole Gabelman, Nancy Murray

### **1. McAvoy informally called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.**

### **2. Update of Coordinator Position**

The position of Invasive Plant Coordinator will be filled by Nicole Gabelman. Her anticipated start date is October 31, 2014. A top priority will be assembling the IPC annual report before the November 18 meeting. Another priority will be arranging bamboo site visits with the bamboo committee and other interested council members before the December 9 meeting. Aquatic Invasive Species will also take precedence over other Coordinator tasks since the majority of the funding for the position comes from the new Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) Aquatic Invasives program.

### **3. Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program**

Murray explained that with a shortened proposal period DEEP received fewer proposals than expected. The 17 proposals that were received will be ranked and evaluated at DEEP.

### **4. Annual Report**

McAvoy presented a draft copy of the cover letter for the annual report. There was some discussion and changes were made. The Coordinator will be responsible for compiling the various sections and collecting accomplishment reports from contributors. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) submitted an accomplishment report from Jeff Ward. A report on the activities of the previous Coordinator, Logan Senack, may need to be collected using the minutes from previous meetings.

### **5. CIPWG Symposium**

Ellis, CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) Co-Chair, reported that the very successful CIPWG Invasive Plant Symposium sold out with 500 attendees. It was held on October 7, 2014 in the University of Connecticut (UConn) Student Union.

### **6. Bamboo Site Assessments**

The council sub-committee charged with assessing the potential for bamboo to spread to new sites by stream flow should make site visits before the December 9 meeting. John Volin, UConn Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment, should be invited to join the sub-committee on these visits. Winslow requested that the site information and data for each of the nine bamboo sites be compiled. There is a need to ramp up review and response on this subject. Sutherland

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pointed out that more discussion is needed to establish when evidence of natural dispersion surpasses a threshold to warrant classifying running bamboo as invasive as per the statutes. Andreadis suggested that we monitor each of the sites and see what happens over time. McAvoy pointed out the need to establish a baseline and then monitor downstream overtime to document that new stands are spreading to natural areas. There was some discussion on whether New York decided not to list bamboo, even from a socio-economic standpoint, after evaluating the species for invasiveness. Winslow suggested that a representative from The Nature Conservancy and a representative from DEEP be added to the bamboo sub-committee. Nobody was added at this time. Murray questioned Larson on the role that bamboo plays in the nursery industry. He replied that he knows of some people in the trade who specialize in bamboo sales but most offer a few items. Sutherland commented that it may be best to leave it to the municipalities to list as a residential nuisance species but not an ecological threat. If possible, a statement on bamboo should be included in the annual report.

### **7. Adjournment**

**The meeting ended at 3:28 pm.**

*The next meeting is scheduled for 2 pm, November 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, CT.*