

Minutes from Invasive Plants Council Meeting
2:00 pm, Tuesday June 25, 2019
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Valley Laboratory, Windsor, CT

Present: Chm. Richard McAvoy, Darryl Newman, Paul Larson, Jeffrey Ward

Absent: Stephen Anderson, John Silander, Connie Trolle, David Sutherland, DEEP (vacant)

Others present: William, Hyatt, David Laiuppa

1. Chairman McAvoy called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Introductions were made around the table. Because there was not a quorum, no votes were taken.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from February 19, 2019 were distributed and reviewed.

3. Annual Report

McAvoy distributed copies of the Annual Report that he has sent to legislative leaders.

4. Updates

- a. Legislative: William Hyatt (retired, CT DEEP). Hyatt suggested that the CT-IPC should strongly consider setting up a briefing with legislative leaders. The idea meant with approval of CT-IPC members in attendance.

H.B. 6637, *An Act Requiring an Invasive Species Stamp for the Operation of a Motorboat on the Waters of the State* was passed into law during the 2019 legislative session. A public hearing on the bill was held by the Environment Committee on March 1. The bill was then approved by the Environment Committee and Finance Committee and was passed overwhelmingly by the House on June 1 (331-10) and by the Senate on June 5 (34-2). Subsequent to our June IPC meeting, H.B. 6637 was drafted into PA 19-190 and was signed into law by Governor Lamont on July 9. The driving force behind this legislation was the already high cost to municipalities and the State for managing aquatic invasive species (AIS), the threat posed by hydrilla now that it's established in the CT River, recognition that AIS can be easily spread via the movement of recreational boats, and recognition that a modest user fee is the best available funding source given the State's current budget challenges.

The new law adds a modest \$5.00 annual Aquatic Invasive Species fee to the cost of registering a boat in CT. This fee will be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and will be incorporated into the annual boat registration process. The bill also requires the owner or operator of any boat registered in another state to pay a \$20 annual fee prior to boating on Connecticut's inland waters. The fee paid by out-of-state boats will be collected by DEEP through its Automated License System similar to the way that out of state fishing and hunting licenses are purchased.

42 All revenues collected will be deposited into the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds
43 Preservation Account to be used for education/prevention, management, eradication, and
44 research pertaining to aquatic invasive species. State agencies, municipalities, and non-
45 profit organizations are all eligible to receive funding. The account will be administered
46 by DEEP with details on the use and availability of funds to be determined by the
47 agency. We anticipate this will be done in collaboration with advocates and invasive
48 species experts.
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50 An extensive proliferation of
hydrilla that has occurred
throughout the entire CT River
since its discovery in a small area
of Keeney Cove (East Hartford) in
2016.

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- 63 b. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Update: Position
64 vacant - no report given.
- 65 c. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES): Ward told committee
66 members that research on controlling running bamboo continues.
- 67 d. UConn: Chm. McAvoy reported that as stopgap, Ms. Jennifer Dacey and Vicky Wallace
68 have assumed some of invasive plant management duties. Dr. Mark Brand has been
69 awarded several patents for sterile barberry and anticipated funds from licensing should
70 assist additional research. Dr. Yi Li's research on a sterile, triploid burning bush is close
71 to be sent out for patent review.
- 72 e. Other: None.

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74 5. Old Business

- 75 a. Feedback on Draft BMP's for Handling Fill, Topsoil, and Mulch: McAvoy led a
76 short discussion on the draft Best Management Practices (BMP's) document and
77 public comments. Lack of a quorum prevented a vote, so the suggestion was made
78 to send the draft copy to CNLA, CGKA, and Connecticut's foresters. McAvoy
79 will incorporate suggested changes and email to Council members for the final
80 comments before a vote on final approval at the October 8, 2019 meeting.

81 6. New Business

- 82 a. None.

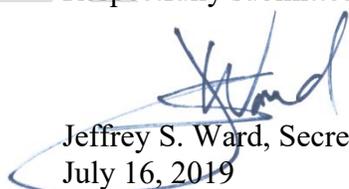
83 **7. Meeting Schedule for 2019**
84 The next Council meeting will be on October 8, with an auxiliary date of November 12 if
85 needed. Per the Connecticut Statutes, the council only needs to meet twice per year.

86 **8. Announcements**
87 a. None.

88 **9. Adjourn**
89 The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted



Jeffrey S. Ward, Secretary
July 16, 2019

DRAFT