

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council
Tuesday, October 11, 2011
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture
Hartford, CT

Council members present: Bill Hyatt, Paul Larson, Richard McAvoy, Tom McGowan, Katherine Winslow (for Steve Reviczky)

Others present: Ellen Bender, Donna Ellis, Bob Heffernan, Nancy Murray, Will Rowlands, Logan Senack, Penni Sharp

The meeting was not called to order immediately because a quorum was not present. The group discussed the following topics informally:

Minutes reviewed

The group discussed the minutes for the 9/13/11 meeting. A few corrections were noted for later discussion.

Draft mail order letter

In response to concern that some out-of-state retailers were shipping prohibited invasive plants into Connecticut, Murray distributed a draft letter to be sent to retailers selling by mail order to Connecticut homeowners. Murray stressed that the letter would not be used to penalize retailers; the focus is on education as businesses may not be aware of Connecticut's laws. Hyatt added that a version of this letter has previously been used within the state to address in-state sales of prohibited invasive plants. The out-of-state letter will be used as needed as sales issues become apparent.

McAvoy asked if there were plans to address out-of-state businesses who were selling plants wholesale to Connecticut retailers. Hyatt clarified that there was not currently a plan to address those out-of-state wholesalers. The industry had indicated that wholesalers were generally not the issue and that addressing the issue with the Connecticut retailer would be the most efficient method of enforcement.

Tom McGowan arrived at 2:16 pm. A quorum was then present.

1. The meeting was officially called to order at 2:16 pm.

2. The minutes for the 9/13/11 meeting were reviewed

Larson proposed two changes to the minutes: on page 3, in section 7b paragraph 2, change the word "group" to "Council" in sentences 3 and 4. Larson moved (second: Winslow) to accept the minutes as amended. **The Council decided to accept the minutes as corrected.**

3. Yearly update of list

The Council is charged with updating the Connecticut Invasive Plant List on a yearly basis. Senack suggested that the following changes be made to the list:

Glyceria maxima (Reed mannagrass)

Proposed change: add caret* to species. *Glyceria maxima* is not currently known to be present in Connecticut.

Impatiens glandulifera (Ornamental jewelweed)

Proposed change: remove caret* from species. *Impatiens glandulifera* is present in Connecticut. A record of this species occurring in Connecticut has been deposited in the G.S. Torrey Herbarium at UConn.

Miscanthus sinensis (Japanese stiltgrass)

Proposed change: correct misspelling of botanical name in list.

Nymphoides peltata (Yellow floating heart)

Proposed change: remove caret* from species. A record of this species growing in Connecticut has been deposited in the G.S. Torrey Herbarium. DEEP staff have worked on control of this species for a number of years at a location in eastern Connecticut.

Ranunculus ficaria (Lesser celandine)

Proposed change: add new species name, *Ficaria verna*, to synonym column. The botanical name of the species has been changed, but the USDA PLANTS database (the nomenclatural standard for the Invasive Plant Council and List) has not yet been updated.

McGowan moved (second: Larson) to update the list as suggested. **The Council decided to approve these changes.**

4. Annual meeting dates

Senack distributed a list of potential meeting dates for the 2012 year. The dates follow the same schedule pattern as the current 2011 meeting schedule. All meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 2-4 pm, in room G8-A at the Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT.

The meeting dates are:

January 10

February 14

March 13

June 12

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

McGowan moved (second: Larson) to adopt those meeting dates. **The Council decided to approve the meeting dates for the 2012 year.**

* On the official invasive plant list produced by the Council, a caret mark (^) indicates that a species is not currently known to be naturalized in Connecticut but would likely become invasive if found to persist in the state without cultivation.

5. Update member contact information for annual report

Senack distributed the membership list of the Council and asked all members to verify that their contact information was current and correct. This membership list will be included in the annual report.

6. Invasive species funding

a. AFWA invasive species committee

Hyatt explained a potential opportunity for long-term funding. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) represents fish and wildlife interests in Washington, DC, and the group organizes national conservation needs into a program called “multistate grant funding”. The group awards grants to promote conservation efforts on a national scale.

A committee within AFWA is working on a proposal to identify invasive species funding as a national conservation need. If this topic were to compete for and receive funding as a national conservation need, the funding could provide the resources necessary to contract with a consultant. The consultant would work with representatives from business and conservation interests to develop options for long-term funding for invasive species.

b. Boat stickers

Hyatt noted that the Invasive Plants Council has previously discussed a proposal for boat stickers. He suggested that if there is interest among the group, Eleanor Mariani of DEEP’s boating division could present additional information on this topic and on the Invasive Investigators Program at the upcoming November meeting. The Invasive Investigator Program trains volunteers to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species by boats in Connecticut. Boating stickers are required and are used broadly in many states across the nation to fund efforts to control and address aquatic invasive species. Sharp asked if a voluntary program would be considered. Senack reported that Vermont tried a voluntary sticker program, but the program was unsuccessful. The group discussed these issues and expressed interest in hearing from Mariani. Hyatt will invite Mariani to present at the November meeting.

7. Draft annual report

Hyatt distributed copies of the annual report letter. The group discussed the letter and provided feedback. Hyatt asked the group to send any editorial changes to Senack in advance of the November meeting.

Murray distributed the DEEP year-end accomplishments report, which will be included in the annual report as an attachment. The group discussed this document. Edits to this document should be sent to Murray via email.

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) will also provide information for an attachment to the annual report. Ellis and Senack will prepare the report. Senack will distribute electronic copies of the CIPWG material to the group.

Hyatt asked other groups, including the Department of Agriculture, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), and the green industry, to include a few bullet points about their accomplishments and activities as well.

Ellis asked if the research on *Euonymus* at UConn that has received national attention should be included in the list of accomplishments at UConn. McAvoy will provide this information.

The group also discussed including information on the nursery industry's phase out of some cultivars of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*).

McGowan asked if it would be possible to have Council members each provide a few sentences about how the Council benefits their agencies. Hyatt asked the group to forward this information to Senack.

8. New business

- The following individuals will be invited to present information to the Council at the November meeting:

Jeff Ward, CAES; bamboo

Greg Bugbee, CAES; sale of illegal aquatic plants

Eleanor Mariani, DEEP; boat sticker program and DEEP Invasive Investigators Program

- Annual report should be voted on and approved at the November meeting.

- Ellis asked if there was interest from the Council in considering mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) for inclusion on the invasive species list. Larson asked if mugwort was invading minimally managed habitats and not just disturbed sites, and noted that it frequently appears as a weed in nurseries. The Council suggested collecting more information about this species, including the habitat and distribution of the species in Connecticut.

- Hyatt noted that the Council should also bring the bamboo species to a vote, hopefully by the December meeting.

9. Adjournment

Larson moved (second: McGowan) to adjourn the meeting. **The Council decided to adjourn at 3:10 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 pm, November 8, 2011, at the Department of Agriculture Building in Hartford, CT.