

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)
Tuesday November 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Brock, John (ASU)
Brusca, Richard (ASDM)
Coping, Cindy (Cattle Growers / Agriculture)
Fahringer, Glenn (Cave Creek; Landscape and Nursery Industry)
Ferrell, Steve Co-Chair (AGFD)
Gerstenberger, John (PetSmart)
Gray, Ty (AGFD)
Klabunde, Tom (TNF)
LaMartina, Karen (City of Tucson)
Lang, Brian (AZ Office of Tourism)
Lawaczeck, Elisabeth (ADHS)
Maxwell, Harold (City of Tucson)
McGrew, Brian (ADA)
Meding, Marianne (AGFD)
Moorhead, Brian (SRP)
Northam, Ed (Southwest Veg Management; Cooperative Weed management)
Norwood-Pearson, Tonya (AACD)
O'Brien, Chantal (AGFD)
Trask, Chris
Shein, Dan (State Parks)
Umeda, Kai (UofA, Cooperative Extension)
Webber, Magill (TNC)
Werner, Bill (ADWR)
Witte, Doug (ASLD)

Call to Order

Marianne Meding called the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting to order at 1:05 pm at the University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office, Palo Verde Room, located at 4341 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040. Ms. Meding introduced Arizona Game and Fish Department Assistant Director Steve Ferrell, standing in for the Council Co-chairs Duane Shroufe from Arizona Game and Fish Department and Don Butler from Department of Agriculture.

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

The 5th Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) meeting commenced with Co-Chair Steve Ferrell conducting roll call. Introductions were also done at this time.

Welcome & Introductions

Steve Ferrell welcomed everyone and mentioned that good progress was made over the past five months. Draft recommendations were well done and development of a statewide invasive species management plan is on schedule for the June deadline. Mr. Ferrell recognizes this process can be frustrating at times especially with regard to funding issues. Mr. Ferrell indicated that both Duane Shroufe and Don Butler met with Lori Faeth from the Governor's office last Friday to discuss the

management plan development to date and he will discuss outcomes from that meeting during Agenda item 5. The generic letter for use by Council members to send to interested parties was approved by the Governor's office and will be ready for use shortly, Brian McGrew is working with the Governor's office to get the appropriate letterhead and convert the letter in to a PDF format that can be edited.

Mr. Ferrell thanked Kai Umeda for the use of the facility for today's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from October 2, 2007 was motioned by Bill Werner and seconded by Dr. Brock. Dr. John Brock expressed the need to include both first and last names in meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously with a couple of editorial corrections noted.

Working Group Reports

Marianne Meding informed the Council of Dr. Yool's graduate seminar which will be held on November 15, 2007 at the Harvill Building, room 435d, University of Arizona. The Control and Management work group is planning on meeting at the University of Arizona at 10 am in the Harvill Room and Leadership and Coordination work group at 1:30 pm in the same room. The graduate course will begin at 5 pm.

One main goal is to invite the graduate students to attend a council work group meeting to get some exposure. Marianne Meding took a head count of the members who will be attending the seminar and asked the Council if anyone was interested in car pooling. Chasa O'Brien mentioned that Mapqwest listed all the traffic restrictions going to Tucson.

Invasive Species and Public Health Concerns

Craig Levy and Elisabeth Lawaczek from the Arizona Department of Health Services gave a PowerPoint Presentation on invasive species and their impacts to public health. Craig discussed the issues with mosquitoes and roof rats and Elisabeth discussed issues pertaining to rabies and how invasive species can act as vectors for disease.

Leadership and Coordination and Research and Information Management Working Group Reports and Council Discussion of Draft Management Plan

Kai Umeda reviewed outcomes from the October 22 between Leadership & Coordination and Research & Information Management co-leads to consolidate overlaps in recommendations developed by the two work groups. Mr. Umeda highlighted changes made to the draft recommendations in order to make them more consolidated and concise. Doug Witte noted that document is really coming together. The context and content was expanded to help answer some of the questions Council members expressed, particularly regarding the 4 alternatives for a center for invasive species. He does not believe the draft is completely done at this point and recommends it stay as a working document. Mr. Witte would like to see the working group go through the exercise again in January. Chasa O'Brien expects the group to go back over the implementation matrix and consolidate it even more. We are building the elephant so to speak and expect a lot of consolidation as the document is developed.

Steve Ferrell gave an overview of the meeting on November 2nd between the AISAC Co-chairs and Lori Faeth from the Governor's Office. Mr. Shroufe and Mr. Butler reviewed the recommendations with Ms. Faeth and requested feedback. All three agreed that the Council needs to reconstruct some of the recommendations, and that the Council cannot anticipate the use of legislative appropriations

for funding given the current economic state. Some of the specific comments were as follows: The grant program is not feasible at this time given current budget issues. Legislative appropriations should not be considered as a new fund source and the Council should pursue other options such as federal grants or other creative ideas. Sales tax can not be used as an alternative funding source.

Ms Faeth felt a rapid response fund is not feasible at this time without legislative appropriations but that it is a good idea and should be pursued conceptually in the management plan. Anticipate the possibility of developing an emergency fund in upcoming years, and take this time to create a strategy that could be adopted by agencies. As such, the Council needs to identify the specific steps necessary to be taken by the agencies to move forward, and develop a timeline for the creation of and emergency rapid response fund. Creation of new full time employee positions (FTE,s) are unlikely at this time as legislative appropriation would be required. Agencies should instead consider reallocation of funding to identify positions within their agencies to address invasive species issues. The following nine recommendations need to be revisited: 7, 8, 9, 12, 29, 30, 39, 40, and 46. Mr. Ferrell requested the Council discuss these nine recommendations today given the advice from the Governor's Office. Mr. Ferrell will add his notes from the Friday meeting to the final meeting minutes.

Mr. Ferrell opened up the floor for discussion regarding the comments from the Governor's Office and the Recommendations that need to be revisited. Mr. Ferrell indicated that Alternative A (network approach to the center) is a workable approach given the sideboards from the Governor's office. Doug Witte mentioned that right now we have a specialist in each agency and asked whether they would be reassigned to a separate facility or can they function within their agency? Mr. Witte stressed the need to have one key individual responsible for making sure everyone in that team is coordinated since everyone will be scattered throughout the state. Mr. Witte's concern is that with everyone functioning individually, and no central coordination, the network approach will not be able to effectively address invasive species issues statewide. He is hoping that funding can be found to hire one central coordinator or one of the state agencies reestablish a position and assign somebody to that job. Mr. Ferrell noted that Doug Witte makes an important point and asked for other input. Marianne Meding mentioned in the meeting with Lori Faeth, there is opposition to creation of "new" positions requiring legislative appropriation but an agency can reallocate resources to address invasive species coordination positions. The concept of having a person in each agency is there but a new position may be off the table at this time. Doug Witte mentioned that Brian McGrew's position is the closest position in any of the agencies to being what is needed.

The Council moved on to discuss the recommendation regarding creation of an emergency rapid response fund. Doug Witte recommended reviewing California's rapid response fund to see where that money came from and awarding of funds works. Steve Ferrell asked the Council to look at Game and Fish, Health Services, and ADA as these agencies have been dealing with invasive species and will continue to do so in the future. He requested the respective Council members speak with their directors to determine if they have resources to commit somebody full time. Mr. Ferrell indicated that Arizona Game and Fish Department may be willing to take on the coordination role since the Department is vested in invasive species management long term.

Kai Umeda suggested it would make more sense to use the .edu approach and that a neutral party could offer a potential leadership or coordination role. Mr. Umeda shared that he had had a discussion with the Dean (University of Arizona) last week and the Cooperative Extension, located in Maricopa County, could provide statewide outreach and the coordination. There is a connection with the campus in Tucson as well as connection with Northern Arizona University and Arizona State University. Steve Ferrell responded that this approach is also a good alternative.

Dan Shein mentioned that since no one agency has the full funding for a central coordinator position, maybe they could divide the cost among the state agencies. Mr. Umeda mentioned that there would likely be ten to fifteen other groups that would be interested in providing funding, and each one could throw in a certain amount to fund two full time employees. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension could offer a roof over the head and perhaps the Dean could pick up the ERE expenses and any computer equipment.

Steve Ferrell talked about the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He indicated a MOU could be a great vehicle to develop partnerships not just between state agencies but federal agencies and Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's) who could sign on if their leadership was willing to. Having a cost sharing partnership beginning with state agencies might be a great place to go.

Dan Shein mentioned that specialists in agencies that have web management and GIS experience may be willing take on information management responsibilities.

Marianne Meding asked Council members if they are having dialogues with their commissioners and directors regarding the draft recommendations and Council discussions.

Dan Shein talked about partnerships between the Arizona Desert Sonoran Museum, Coconino National Forest, National Park Service, Pima County and Tucson/Pima Fire on putting a long term plan together to address buffelgrass. Signatories contributed approximately \$5,000-10,000 each to help address buffelgrass issues. They feel this is a really good model for a variety of entities at all different levels to work together both in terms of district coordination as well as funding.

Richard Brusca indicated that he does not think an external coordinator would be a good fit and we should build on the momentum that the agencies already have. Doug Witte said he can see different agencies taking on various tasks but that the Council should take a look at the individual agency responsibilities and how all of the needs can be meet collaboratively, and that there is a need to define how the different agencies can work together and identify where our goals and responsibilities may overlap. This will take some thought and effort. Mr. Witte recommended that Alternative A (network for invasive species) would be the best because with option B, the Center would be entirely on its own.

Richard Brusca talked about relying on everybody throwing money into this kitty which may eventually work and indicated that it might difficult to get long term commitment. Doug Witte agreed and suggested that the agencies and stakeholders will be able to donate donating personnel time and but likely not money. Dr. Brusca commented that not all stakeholders will likely be willing to put in the same amount of funding and this may lead to an unstable platform. He believes the .net approach will be the safest bet.

Doug Witte asked Steve Ferrell if there was an urgency to get this problem resolved today. Steve Ferrell's response was that there needs to be more discussion with agency leaders to find out what their commitments might be. He feels that the only urgency might be regarding the work that still needs to be done by the early committees and the getting the next two committee assignments completed. Marianne Meding asked the council if they would like to address some of these recommendations as a group. Richard Brusca asked if the working groups could sit back down and tackle this. Steve Ferrell asked about the process used to address recommendation overlap following

the last Council meeting. Doug Witte responded that team leaders got together and reviewed the draft implementation matrix and it was obvious where the overlaps were. Mr. Ferrell asked if that process would work to rewrite these nine recommendations and would the Council agree to this process? Ed Northam suggested waiting until the other two committees are finished developing their draft recommendations. Marianne Meding said it is pretty important to try to identify which Alternative the Council will recommend for meeting invasive species needs so that the Anticipation & Outreach and Control & Management work groups will have a better idea of the framework upon which they will be building additional recommendations. The first two work groups had a difficult time without these sideboards and now that we have some sideboards, we may be able to get some consensus out of this in regards to framework. Ms. Meding indicated the goal for today's meeting was to try and get consensus about which alternative to pursue in hopes of making recommendation development easier for the two newest working groups. Dr. Brock commented that Leadership and Research groups should get back together and work this out and let Control and Management and Anticipation and Outreach work groups receive that direction on where things are going. The January deadline is coming fast and so is the June deadline. Steve Ferrell agreed and mentioned that the Council has nine recommendations that are DOA right now and need to be dealt with.

Doug Witte said there are already three agencies saying they think they have the potential to provide that coordinator position. The issue with the rapid response fund is one we can assume that the legislation would make at least a 50% contribution and maybe look at USDA grant funding also. Steve Ferrell asked Doug Witte if he, Chasa O'Brien, Kai Umeda, Brian McGrew and Marianne Meding could sit down and clean it up in a couple of hours. Ms. Meding suggested that the Department of Health Services should be involved since it is being named as an agency to potentially provide staff/responsibilities. Elisabeth Lawaczeck responded saying they are already understaffed but she will speak with the Director.

Doug Witte asked about meeting in the afternoon next week on the 15th. Richard Brusca agreed with Doug and felt the nine recommendations can be put in the context to see how they will fit into the framework of the agencies. The Council decided to cancel the Leadership and Coordination work group meeting originally scheduled for 1:30 at the University of Arizona on November 15th and move the Control and Management work group meeting from 10:00am to 1:30pm.

The Leadership & Coordination and Research & Information Management work group co-leads will meet on November 16th at 9 a.m. at the State Land Department, Conference Room 321 located at 1616 W. Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85007. This goal of this meeting will be to address the nine recommendations that need to be re-worked. This will not be a public meeting. Steve Ferrell noted that any Council member will be welcomed to the sit in on the Co-lead meeting. Mr. Ferrell regarding the recommended framework for a center for invasive species, Council members need to go back to agency leadership and find out what the realty to those commitments might be regarding the .net versus the .edu Alternatives. He asked for Council input regarding this approach. Bill Werner said informed decisions are always generally better decisions. Kai Umeda asked if at the next meeting if Dr. Al Fournier from Arizona Pest Management Center and Kathy Jacobs from water institute could be invited to the next Council meeting. They may be able to provide some insight on how center coordination efforts could be a model to follow.

Steve Ferrell recommended adding Al Fournier and Kathy Jacobs to the December 4th Agenda so the Council has this additional information before deciding which Alternative to recommend. This will also give ADA, ADHS, and AGFD a chance to better decide what their commitments may be. He

thinks if the MOU approach was used, it may be possible to create a blend between the network and the .edu approaches.

Mr. Ferrell indicated he feels the MOU idea has merit and a funding mechanism and long term commitment could be identified through such an approach. A MOU would also allow for contributors other than the Universities and state agencies. Mr. Ferrell asked the Council to think more about it before the next meeting. Marianne Meding suggested putting an agency person at the Cooperative extension. Steve Ferrell did not see a problem with that approach. He requested that Council members meet with their agency leadership and find out what the realistic commitment for long term resources might be. He asked them to think about which Alternative (.net or .edu; or a blend of the two) makes most sense, and think about how a MOU could be structured to provide a funding mechanism. Mr. Ferrell indicated he would like to see this on the agenda for next meeting for the Council to vote on.

Steve Ferrell indicated the need to start developing a MOU, and Bill Werner asked about examples. Arizona Game and Fish Department has plenty of MOUs that can be reviewed as potential templates. Mr. Ferrell asked for a volunteer or sub team to develop a draft MOU. Steve Ferrell asked if Bill Werner could take this on, but Mr. Werner declined due to time commitments.

Doug Witte indicated there maybe an opportunity for some NGO's that we have not addressed that have grant writers and administers. Steve Ferrell asked for a Council delegate to help with the MOU and Marianne Meding stated that she and Brian McGrew will be involved with this too. Mr. Ferrell asked that Dan Shein and Game and Fish work on this along with Marianne and Brian.

Steve Ferrell called on Tonya Norwood Pearson (member of the public request to speak) to speak gave the floor to her. Ms. Norwood Pearson stated that Arizona Association of Cooperative Districts (AACD) has the ability to write grants and has available staff and access to many databases, along with a central location and could assist in obtaining grants and facilitate matching grants with applicants.

Steve Ferrell reviewed highlights from the day's meeting discussions: Kai Umeda along with the three state agencies (AGFD, ADA, DHS) will talk to leadership about their commitment and the Council needs to think about the most suitable alternative to meet invasive species needs in Arizona. The Leadership & Coordination and Research and Information Management work group co-leads need address the management plan draft recommendations in light of guidance from the Governor's office. Steve Ferrell asked Kai Umeda to get some feedback on whatever research the Dean is willing to commit and get it to Marianne Meding so she may get it the council before the next meeting. Dan Shein will work with AGFD and ADA to begin developing a MOU.

Anticipation and Outreach and Control and Management work group updates and acceptance of charters.

Steve Ferrell requested updates from the Anticipation & Outreach and Control & Management work group.

Ty Gray, Anticipation & Outreach co-lead, said his working group met three times last month. They looked at the charter and revised it so it was clearer and in simpler language. The work group reviewed the charter and objectives. Regarding Objective 1, the work group brainstormed for key items, and created an affinity diagram to identify key concepts/areas for outreach. Regarding Objective 3, the work group discussed positive communication tools, brainstormed, identified

measures, metrics, and behaviors. Mr. Gray indicated the group recommends surveying the general public to gauge general awareness and learn what the best form of communication is. The work group identified process owners, and hearing more about the potential alternatives for a framework for a center for invasive species has been helpful. The next meeting will be on November 27th and the group will address ways invasive enter the state, gaps, and funding. Future meetings are planned for December 6 and December 13.

Dr. Brock, Control and Management co-lead gave an update on work group progress to date. On October 9, the work group reviewed the charter, developed and split early detection from rapid response, reassigned some of the objectives to the Anticipation and Outreach work group, redefined some of the charter objectives. On October 30, the work group continued to review the charter objectives and began developing recommendations for Objective 2. The next meeting will be on November 20 at the University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension office. Mr. Gonzales from the Department of Emergency Management will be a guest speaker. The work group will also meet on November 15 in at the University of Arizona in Tucson prior to the invasive species graduate seminar.

Steve Ferrell asked if there were any questions and there were none. Steve Ferrell asked for the Council to vote to accept the Anticipation & Outreach and Control & Management charters. Steve Ferrell asked for a motion to accept the charters as edited by the work groups. John Gertsenberger made a motion to accept and Doug Witte seconded the motion. The Anticipation & Outreach and Control & Management charters were accepted unanimously.

Call to the Public

Steve Ferrell opened the floor to the public to see if there were issues or concerns to be discussed with Council. Marianne stated that there were no blue sheets.

Future Agenda Items

The following agenda items were identified at previous meetings and may be considered for addition to future meeting agendas:

- Working group updates
- Presentation on Plant Diagnostic Network (Dr. Barry Pryor or Dr. Judy Brown) and Arizona Pest Management Center (Dr. AL Fournier) at the December meeting.
- Presentation from Kathy Jacobs.
- Presentation from Ed Northam: Overview of Weed Management Plans.
- Presentation on cactus moths (Bruce Eilerts-ADOT).

The Council gave guidance for Kai Umeda to contact Kathy Jacobs and Al Fournier and ask them to present to the Council on December 4th, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.