

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)
Tuesday January 8, 2008 Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Amator, Fred
Brock, Dr. John (ASU)
Butler, Donald, Co-Chair (ADA)
Eilerts, Bruce (ADOT)
Ferrell, Steve, Co-Chair (AGFD)
Gray, Ty (AZGFD)
Klabunde, Tom (TNF)
Lawaczeck, Dr. Elisabeth (ADHS)
McGrew, Brian (ADA)
Meding, Marianne (AGFD)
Moorhead, Brian (SRP)
Northam, Dr. Ed (Southwest Veg Management; Cooperative Weed management)
Norwood Pearson, Tonya (AACD)
O'Brien, Chantal (AGFD)
Russell, Gary (USDA APHIS PPQ)
Roberts, Joanne (ASP)
Randall, Kris (USFWS)
Shein, Dan (State Parks)
Trask, Chris (ANPS)
Umeda, Kai (U of A, Cooperative Extension)
Werner, Bill (ADWR)
Witte, Doug (ASLD)

Call to Order

Marianne Meding called the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting to order at 1:02 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-chair Duane Shroufe from Arizona Game and Fish Department and Director Donald Butler from Department of Agriculture.

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

The 6th Arizona Invasive Species Advisory 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 gave a quick summary Council progress to date. A progress report was sent to Council members and interested parties as well as posted on the Governor's webpage. We are not at the end of the second quarter, and draft recommendations for four of the five management plan strategic concepts are developed and the fifth will be discussed today. The Invasive Species Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in draft form with copies available for review. Some Council members have been working with the Government Information and Technology Agency (GITA) to identify the most appropriate database management system to meet Arizona's

invasive species information management needs. Today the Council will discuss the next steps to complete the management plan by June 30th. Some of these next steps will include case studies, background information, review of statutory authorities and soliciting public comment. Then, it is on to professional editing, layout and printing of the management plan. Council approval of the plan has a March deadline. The next Council meeting is February 5th at the new Game and Fish building at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Mr. Ferrell also announced the expected attendance of Lori Faeth at today's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from December 4, 2007 was motioned by Fred Amator and seconded by Dr. Ed Northam. The motion passed unanimously with a couple of spelling corrections.

Working Group Reports

Ty Gray, Anticipation and Outreach co-lead, reported that the first draft of the Anticipation and Outreach section for the management plan is complete and the group is currently reviewing the document. Once feedback is received the changes will be incorporated. Regarding the products and deliverables outlined in the charter the group has the template to help develop the report which does include a list of agencies, stakeholders and interested parties to coordinate with. They also have a prioritized list of recommended actions and timelines with responsible parties and costs. The group added some case studies but will have a few more to add. Mr. Gray is unsure if another meeting is needed at this time and will wait for all the reviews to be submitted before deciding whether another meeting will be needed.

Joanne Roberts gave an update on the Control and Management group progress. Ms. Roberts feels the group needs one more meeting; and Brian McGrew noted that most of the recommendations are complete. The group is starting to work on the implementation matrix but feel there are areas that still need addressing. They are hoping to make their management plan more compatible with the national invasive species management plan.

Mr. Ferrell asked the groups if they feel they are hitting any road blocks and Ms. Meding asked the work co-leads if they anticipate any possible overlaps. Kai Umeda said the recommendations will likely need to be fine tuned at this point. Ms. Meding will send the entire set of recommendations to the Council for review prior to the next Council meeting. The work groups leads should get together to iron out any issues that arise. Mr. Ferrell asked if anyone has a sense for the cumulative contribution of all four work groups and whether or not there needs to be any more coordination among them. Ms. Roberts suggested the Council review the final package and at that time see if gaps do exist.

It was decided to attempt to vote to approve the draft recommendations at the February 5 meeting. The group co-leads will schedule a meeting within the next week to review all of the recommendations and remove any redundancies. There was discussion on how to prioritize the recommendations, and it was suggested that all four groups use the same method to be consistent. Ms. Meding said there will be a need to identify the criteria that will be used to conduct the prioritization. Examples may include cost, timeline, and how soon to be implemented. Mr. Ferrell that the work group leads discuss and develop an appropriate process and the Council can review it at the February meeting.

Discuss need and strategies for a fifth management plan component that will address comprehensive funding strategies.

Steve Ferrell noted that the Governor's Executive Order 2007-07 addresses a fifth strategic concept dealing with funding and each of the four work groups has developed funding approaches specific to their needs. Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Meding and Brian McGrew will take a first cut at developing the funding section of the management plan. Mr. McGrew indicated that they will take any funding recommendations from the four work groups to create a comprehensive funding approach that hopefully meets the needs of the first four strategic concepts. Bruce Eilerts mentioned that the State is hurting for money and asked what the Council can do to get people's attention if it is an emergency.

John Brock mentioned he is going to the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW) in Washington, DC next month and he has had success in the past talking with congressional staff and wants to keep the communication going. Mr. Eilerts mentioned we should take notice that the landscape in Arizona is changing which is not a good thing and Dr. Brock suggested that the Council come up with a one page talking point paper that he can bring with him that mentions such problems. Mr. Ferrell stated that the Executive Order does express urgency in response to Mr. Eilerts concerns on emergency situations.

Doug Witte talked about the reluctance in regards to funding and the ability to accomplish the tasks with little to no money. Steve Ferrell said that state appropriated funds are off the table for now and the Council needs to look into grants and federal dollars. Mr. McGrew and Ms. Meding will try and work through the needs of this. Mr. Witted discussed that the greatest risk of exposure falls on private land. He mentioned that through the USDA and the farm bill, \$12 million has been set aside for dealing with invasive species management on private land. Mr. Ferrell said if we don't chase these areas, then who will?

Dr. Brock mentioned the current situation here dealing with Quagga mussels being recently discovered at Lake Pleasant. Ms. Meding said Arizona's invasive species problem will be framed up front in the management plan, and will express a need for urgency; the problem will be emphasized with issue specific case studies. Bruce Eilerts said that the Council needs to make sure that Lori Faeth and Governor Napolitano, who both have two more years in office, understand the urgency because this is a very critical issue and one not to take lightly.

Kai Umeda asked about endorsing Dr. Brock's activities at the NIWAW and encouraged other Council members to attend this meeting in Washington, DC as other state and federal agencies will be there. This meeting will be held the last week in February. Ms. Meding said that any member representing the Council at any level needs to seek approval from the Governor's Office regarding the Council and the Governor's position on the issues at hand. Once talking points are developed and approved by the Council, they will need to be approved by the Governor's office. Mr. Umeda mentioned that there is a possibility that the Governor's conference will be held at the same time as NIWAW in Washington, Dc. Mr. Eilerts noted that he will be in Washington during the same time also and would be willing to help Dr. Brock.

Don Butler mentioned that the Council should be thinking about the total cost of addressing invasive species needs in Arizona since folks in Washington DC will likely ask about the realistic cost to do carry out the Council's recommendations. Ms. Meding mentioned that all the recommendations have a cost column in the implementation matrix. There is a ballpark figure but will need to talk about what we do not have in terms of funding. Steve Ferrell asked about the time frame for this fifth element and Mr. McGrew said they will get this out and look for comments. Mr. McGrew said he will be prepared to discuss this report at the next meeting. Don Butler said to ask for the bare bones at the start and

then ask for more and that there has to be justification on the amount we ask for. Mr. Witte mentioned there are a number of political coalition groups to help deliver this message and the Federal government can help also.

Bill Werner asked about the contributions from the participants in terms of time and travel that Council members put into this effort. After the Council discussed this, Doug Witte motioned and Fred Amator seconded the motion to obtain a list of all participants to show a travel log that will demonstrate to the Governor and legislature the Council's commitment and recognition of how serious the invasive species issue is. This tracking log will record the number of hours and amount of travel each Council member spends to attend Council-related meetings. Mr. Ferrell suggested that this extends beyond the council activities and include state activities. Doug Witte suggested a survey be sent to other agencies on what projects they have worked on. Chris Trask mentioned that a survey was by the previous invasive species council. Joanne Roberts stressed the need to be careful that questions are not duplicated. Doug Witte, Tonya Norwood Pearson, Chris Trask, and Marianne Meding will work on developing a new survey.

Review progress on the statewide invasive species management plan development and discuss draft management plan outline, and the next steps to take.

Marianne Meding gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the progress made to date in developing a draft statewide invasive species management plan. She reviewed the approach that was adopted in August, reviewed milestones and progress towards completing those milestones. The funding component and development of ancillary components of the draft management plan will be addressed in the upcoming third quarter, and public comment will be solicited. The fourth quarter will consist of making revisions following public comment, completing professional editing, professional layout and printing, and finally, providing a final document to the Governor.

Ms. Meding said the Council is right on track and working very hard. The National plan on Invasive Species is out for review and she encouraged Council members to review the document. She discussed the need to streamline Arizona's invasive species management plan with the Federal plan since doing so may increase the possibility that federal funding could be realized by doing so, and that it is also a good way to catch any gaps.

Ms. Meding reviewed the draft management plan outline with the Council. Bill Werner suggested we compare last years plan with this years plan and see what has changed, and ensure that the documents are identifiably different. He stressed the need to address known concerns such as economic impact and be able to think outside the box. Anticipate the unexpected such as wildfire threats, look closely to impacts to tourism, ecological shift, watershed health, and human health issues.

Chantal O'Brien suggested that biomes or biogeography replace the term geography.

Ms Meding indicated that an executive summary will be developed and placed at the beginning of the management plan to summarize the whole report.

There are seven sections to the report. The first includes an introduction where the problem and the Governor and Council's approach to the problem will be discussed.

The second section deals with invasive species and ways to point out the known problems and concerns and the urgency that is needed to deal with these problems and concerns. There is a real need to highlight the economical and ecological concerns. Section 2.5 will deal with species specific

case studies while section 2.6 will be case studies highlighting the policy and management challenges. The goal of providing case studies is to educate people and drive home the seriousness of the invasive species issue. Ms. Meding indicated the Council needs to select and develop case studies that have the biggest bang for the buck. Case studies should consist of up to a 250 word summary and expressed her hope to find volunteers at today's meeting to develop the case studies.

Ms. Meding also asked Council members to provide an opinion on how to frame case studies within the document – should they be incorporated within the text, or placed in boxes outside the main body of text? The Council decided that in the final report, the case studies should be both in the report and some in excerpts off to the side. Bill Werner suggested we highlight successes as well as examples of invasives that are real challenges. A good example is the quagga mussel, and the big challenge is to change the mindsets of people in terms of management, behavioral changes, and the impacts that outreach and education can have. Section 2.6 will highlight case studies that are management challenges, and these may include topics such as internet trade, orchid trade, tribal land issues, border issues and other international impacts.

The third component will provide an overview of regulatory authorities. Ms. Meding asked that anyone representing an agency with authorities to please provide a short summary of their agency's authorities. Tribal issues may pose a challenge but Ms. Meding asked Tonya Norwood-Pearson if she would be willing to help with this matter, and Ms Norwood-Pearson agreed. This section will also include a review of gaps and protection. Here is a list of tasks and responsible parties:

Review of Statutory Authorities:

AGFD (M. Meding)
ADA (B. McGrew)
USDA (Gary Russell)
Tribes (Tonya Norwood-Pearson)
USFWS (Kris Randall)
State Land Department (Doug Witte)
Arizona State Parks (Joannie Roberts)
USFS (Tom Klabunde)
BLM (AZGFD personnel)
NPS (Department of Interior)
ADWR (Bill Werner said they have no authority)
Universities (Kai and Dr. Brock)

Case Studies:

Ed Northam: Internet plant and seed trade; Kudzu; Malta starthistle; Yellow starthistle, WMA's review and update; Grants and funding opportunities include the Name, dollar amount, term, and eligibility.

Gary Russell: Giant salvinia; Gypsy moth; wood wasp; if possible avian influenza in association with ethnic markets; Summary of USDA/APHIS authority and regulated pest list.

Marianne Meding: non-native vs. native fish; Hitchhiking a ride; Inland silversides or gizzard shad; Quagga mussel; management challenges of tamarisk vs. willow fly catcher; Bullfrog ; Crayfish; Early mgmt practices and unforeseen impacts, (Marianne & Brian); collard dove; European Starling

Chris Trask: Red Brome; Laymen Grass; Malta Starthistle

Doug Witte: Review Old report on NRCD and provide map of districts

Joanne Roberts: Buffelgrass

Ariel Hiller: Fire and Invasives - Restoration practices, BMP, Mgmt challenge

Alix Rogstad: Weed wackers

Glen Fahringer: Native Plant promotion as management challenge.

Bruce Eilerts: ADOT mgmt challenges; Wild fire threats

Brian McGrew: RIFA (Red Imported Fire Ants); GWSS (Glassy-winged sharpshooter); Cactus Moth; Red Palm Mite; Asian Citrus Psyllid as a vector for Citrus Greening; Maybe fruit flies as well

Elisabeth Lawaczeck: Asian tiger mosquito

John Gerstenberger: Challenges for pet trade

Travel & Tourism (ADOT) – along with USFWS

John Brock: Camelthorn on Blueridge Area (John Brock)

Tribal Land Issues with plants – TBD

The fourth component of the draft management plan includes the recommendations developed by Council members to address the 5 strategic concepts identified in the Governor's Executive Order. The recommendations will then be sent to the Council for review and acceptance.

The fifth section of the management plan will consist of Program Implementation and Evaluation, and the sixth and seventh sections will include a glossary, references and appendices

Program evaluation, as currently outlined, will consist of a review of the management plan two years following its approval by the Governor.

Tasks still left to complete include case study development, development of authority statements, and an assessment of gaps in protection. Ms. Meding and Mr. McGrew will coordinate the development of a lot of these components of the management plan but need Council members to step up and help.

Ed Northam will help work on the appendices; a list of granting opportunities in particular.

The Council discussed public meetings that will be scheduled in order to solicit public comment. Ms. Meding posed the question of how many meetings should be held, and suggested that at least two Council members be in attendance at each meeting.

Ms. Meding and Mr. McGrew are extremely busy trying to coordinate all of the tasks identified above and are looking for any volunteers to help them.

Strategies for meeting invasive species information management needs.

Sherri Eshkibok from GITA (Government Information Management Agency) gave a brief update on the progress made by the information management task team that was created at the December 4, 2007 Council meeting. The first task team meeting was short with about only half of the team in attendance. The team discussed the framework of what is expected, budget constraints, a need to be realistic on what we can entertain, and discussed whether there are existing technologies out there we can look at to possibly use to meet invasive species data management needs. Ms. Eshkibok mentioned she met with Dr. Kathryn Thomas who created the SWEMP database, and that Ms. Thomas will be happy to lend her time and talent to this cause. Ms. Eshkibok asked the Council what the Council wants to use. Do we want a static web page with links or a database application? There needs to be an audit trail of who's doing what, the system needs to be useable for the future. She indicated the need to develop a set of business rules that identify who will have access to the system, and also define rules regarding who can view, add, or change the data in the database. It needs to be a scalable design (one that can be added to).

There is a new state portal contract which allows GITA to dedicate \$25,000 to help in situations such as this. The Council needs to put a plan together to get this done. It is essential to look at function, have access to it, be able to add, delete, and make changes, and identify who the owner/controller will be. A list of times for the next meeting will be sent out shortly by Ms. Eshkibok. MS. Meding noted as long as we can get four out of six people to attend the next meeting, which should be sufficient representation from the Council. Steve Ferrell thanked Ms. Eshkibok for her presentation and Ed Northam for his help on this.

Invasive Species memorandum of understanding (MOU) among State Agencies, federal Agencies, and stake holders.

Marianne Meding mentioned she has received comments with most of them being relatively easy to address. The draft MOU is sitting with the Attorney General's office right now. The structure looks good but the verbiage needs to be smoothed out. Agencies with like duties will likely be grouped, and the list what the agencies responsibilities are to be still needs to be refined. Ms. Roberts said that as this MOU is written now, Arizona Health Services is ready to sign on. Steve Ferrell requested that the MOU continue to be developed and sent out to Council members to review once more as soon as possible.

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:

- Work group co-leads will give an update of their meeting to streamline the management plan recommendations
- GITA update
- Presentation from Ed Northam: Overview of Weed Management Plans.
- Steve Ferrell suggested no more presentations except for GITA until the management plan is developed in full.
- Discuss the process for prioritizing recommendations
- Discuss the public meeting schedule and format for soliciting comment on the management plan
- MOU update
- John Brock will provide talking points to be approved by Council and governor for NIWAW
- Update on tasks including: Case study development; Authority statement development; gap analysis assignment etc.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.