

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)
Tuesday February 5, 2008 Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brock, Dr. John (ASU)
Butler, Donald, Co-Chair (ADA)
Conte, Christine for Richard Brusca (ASDM)
Crist, Emily (ADOT)
Eshkibok, Sheri (GITA)
Fahringer, Glenn (Cave Creek Landscape and Nursery Industry)
Fenner, Patti
Gray, Ty (AZGFD)
Gerstenberger, John (PetSmart)
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)
Riley, Larry (AGFD)
Roberts, Joanne (ASP)
Severson, Mark (AZGFD)
Shein, Dan (State Parks)
Steward, Michael (FMI)
Trask, Chris (ANPS)
Umeda, Kai (U of A, Cooperative Extension)
Webber, Magill (The Nature Conservancy)
Werner, Bill (ADWR) * via teleconference
Witte, Doug (ASLD)

Call to Order

Marianne Meding called the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting to order at 1:05 pm at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Roadrunner Room, located at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Ms. Meding introduced Larry Riley, from Arizona Game and Fish Department, standing in for the Council Co-chair Duane Shroufe and Co-chair Don Butler from Department of Agriculture.

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

The 7th Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting commenced with Co-Chair Don Butler conducting roll call. Introductions were also done at this time.

Welcome & Introductions

Director Butler thanked the Council for their efforts and hard work. Next meeting is March 4 at the University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office, Palo Verde Room, located at 4341 E. Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from January 8, 2007 was motioned Larry Riley and seconded by Joanne Roberts. The motion passed unanimously with a couple of editorial corrections.

Strategies for Meeting Invasive Species Information Management Needs

Sherri Eshkibok from the Government Information and Technology Agency (GITA) gave a brief overview of the past two task force meetings held at the Game and Fish office. Sabra Schwartz, the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS) program supervisor for AZGFD, sat in on the task force meeting and the group discussed the use of iMapInvasives, a module specific to invasive species, and could be tiered into the existing Natureserve HDMS system. The group thinks this could be the framework for the new database.

iMapInvasives, which is GIS based, currently has 5 other states signing on to use the model and there is the possibility of partnering up with them. There is a \$7500 start up fee along with annual maintenance fees. Ms. Eshkibok reminded the Council that there is money available from the state contractor, NIC, to help with this. The database is hosted in Florida but each state retains ownership of their data. The group agreed a partnership may be the better way to go. An \$800 pilot project can be done with real data. The SWEMP database would be a great resource to use for a source of initial data.

There were five goals and objectives for the information management system that came out of the groups discussions:

1. Establish a web-based access portal
2. Have a monitoring and management function.
3. Coordination and information sharing functionality
4. outreach functions
5. Maintenance/Update/Access

Ms. Eshkibok mentioned the task force is ahead of schedule and is looking to have a deliverable by April or May. Mr. Butler thanked Ms. Eshkibok for the update.

Larry Riley gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the iMapInvasives program. Mr. Riley said this is an exciting opportunity and Glen Fahringer added that surrounding states may want to partner up with this also. Ms. Meding noted that there could be international involvement from Canada and Mexico as well.

Update of Co-chair meeting with Lori Faeth, Policy Adviser for Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Don Butler reported that the meeting with Ms. Faeth went very well and she was happy to hear that the Council is working with GITA. Ms. Faeth will bring the Governor up to speed on the Council's progress and commended Marianne Meding and Brian McGrew for all their hard work.

Work Group Co-lead Meeting Update

Kai Umeda gave a quick summary on the co-leads (all 4 work groups) meeting held on January 25 where the group was able to consolidate several duplicated issues and recommendations.

Joanne Roberts gave an update on the progress of the Control and Management group and noted they also consolidated some recommendations prior to the co-leads meeting, on January 16. Ms. Roberts mentioned that if there are themes that are identified by each work group that are similar, they should be highlighted in the management plan executive summary and plan evaluation section to show they are important across the board.

All four working groups are planning on meeting again to prioritize the recommendations on February 15, at the University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office, Palo Verde Room. The Co-leads will then meet at 3:00 pm to discuss the outcomes and decide how to best present the evaluation in the management plan.

Marianne Meding gave an overview of the prioritization process that the work group co-leads discussed. She indicated that the process was evaluated to ensure that the criteria were adequate and appropriate, whether criteria needed to be weighted, and finally discussed the criteria scoring system by which recommendations were evaluated. It was suggested by Ms. Meding and Larry Riley to keep the process simple. Ms. Meding let the Council members know they will be asked to vote on the draft management plan recommendations later during the meeting and to provide editorial comments. There was a motion to accept the process and all agreed.

Council Approval of Draft Management Plan Recommendations

Donald Butler called for discussion regarding the draft recommendations, and hearing none called for a motion to approve the recommendations as written. Joanne Roberts motioned and John Gerstenberger seconded, and the draft invasive species management plan recommendations were accepted unanimously.

Review Progress on Statewide Invasive Species Management Plan Development to Date

Marianne Meding discussed completion of the case studies for the management plan. Both Ms. Meding and Mr. McGrew are working on the funding section and Ms. Meding noted there will not be many recommendations coming out of this but instead a general overview of the funding structures.

At the last meeting, there were about 38-40 case studies identified and volunteers were asked to get their written summaries to Marianne Meding by yesterday. She has only received 17 so far and asked the Council members to get the remainders to her as soon as possible.

The other primary component that Council members were asked to submit were authority statements. Ms. Meding noted she is still waiting on additional statements. Dr. Brock was asked about one from the Arizona State University and he will check on that.

The next step is to identify gaps and authorities in which Magill Weber, Doug Witte, and Tonya Norwood Pearson volunteered to review these. Ms. Norwood Pearson will work on the Native American authority statement as well. Ms. Meding would like their comments back to her as soon as possible.

Ms. Roberts mentioned that two working groups did not complete matrixes and measures and would like to see some compatibility with the other two working groups since they included those in their draft plan. Ms. Meding noted that Anticipation and Outreach has a few in the body of the text and Dr. Brock and Ms. Roberts will work on the Control and Management ones.

Ms. Meding approached the Council on reviewing the measures of effectiveness and asked for their thoughts. She talked about output versus outcome successes and will go back to the editor and hopes to have more information to discuss at the meeting on the February 15.

Discuss and Develop Public Meeting Schedule and Format for Soliciting Public Comment on Invasive Species issues in Arizona.

Brian McGrew reported to the Council that he and Ms. Meding have come up with six potential locations to hold public meetings at the end of March. They are looking at an open house format with a 6:00 – 8:00 pm time frame. They will be contacting the legislatures in those communities to let them know ahead of time. Information will also be posted on the Governor's website. Ms. Meding asked for feedback and what content should be presented.

Ms. Weber asked if each meeting would be tailored to that region and Ms. Roberts suggested that maybe a partner be there to talk about the local component. Tonya Norwood Pearson suggested having a co-host such as a member from the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) or a Conservation Weed Management Area (CWMA) representative.

Mr. Witte asked about how detailed these meetings will be. Mr. Riley's response was not to get to specific and just hit the high points. This should be easy for the public to respond to. Ms. Meding recommended that at least two Council members be present at each meeting to assist her and Mr. McGrew. Marianne Meding will be working with Ty Gray on the best approach on how to interact with the public.

The Council decided that it will be best to do formal invitations, post the management plan on the Governor's website, look into having a co-host, do press releases, have questionnaires or comment cards, coordinate with the Governor's office to be able to submit comments through the website, and possibly identify any conferences or meetings that fall within the same time frame.

Marianne Meding asked that Council members get any feedback on the public meeting process to her especially in regards to developing the presentation.

Elizabeth Lawaczeck suggested including case reports and Mr. Riley thought that was a good idea to highlight those to get the public to engage.

Marianne Meding asked if a group of Council members would be willing to develop an approach to the public meetings before the March 4 meeting. Kai Umeda volunteered to be assist in developing the public meeting schedule and format and Larry Riley, John Gerstenberger, Patti Fenner, and Ty Gray offered to help.

Doug Witte inquired about poking around with other contacts on this and both Marianne Meding and Brian McGrew replied yes.

Mr. Witte asked if deadline for public comment can be in April and Ms. Meding noted that if there are any comments, there might be changes to the plan, but felt that an April 7th deadline would be fine. This will require a quick turn around for comments to be submitted after the meetings.

Mr. Riley expects the comments to be very specific to the public's needs and they may possibly point out something that the Council may have missed at a strategic level. Bill Werner said to not anticipate many comments if the Council is looking for changes so do not waste the public's time.

Ms. Meding is looking for approval to take the draft management plan to the public for comment on March 4 and would like it out for review by the public roughly two weeks prior to the public meetings. This plan could also be posted on any agency's website.

Progress Update on Enumerating Current Statewide Efforts that are Focused on Addressing Invasive Species Issues in Arizona

Larry Riley talked about the time invested by Council members and others in regards to invasive species issues. A spreadsheet was created and sent to Council members that will compile the time and cost invested for each Council member or working group member to show the time and cost spent on invasive species issues. The spreadsheet was sent to everyone and the Council gave guidance for attendance to be tracked and submitted annually (each January). Please make sure that Ms. Meding receives an updated copy from each person.

Dr. Brock received a message that in early June, there will be a three day invasive species summit in Denver, Colorado and is by invite only. This will be a high level summit and they are looking for southwest regional Governors and chairs from the appropriation committees to attend to show a strong need for sharing financing of invasive species projects.

Chris Trask discussed the prior survey results from the last executive order which were on two handouts. Ms. Meding told the Council that the goal was to try and capture other efforts in the state and this was done via a Zap and a Zoomerang survey. Mr. Trask noted that most entities worked alone and the two biggest issues were funding and coordination. The same organizations who responded will be contacted again to see if they have any changes to report.

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

Larry Riley discussed the MOU draft and mentioned they are still looking for folks to sign on. There were a few very recent changes at the end dealing with federal immigration laws, a counterpart clause, and a limitations clause. New people must contact Arizona Game and Fish in order to join on the MOU.

The MOU is currently being reviewed at the Attorney General's office now so please get any key issues or changes to Mr. Riley, Ms. Meding, or Mr. McGrew as soon as possible. Mr. Riley will get the meeting date with the AG's office out to Council members soon.

Ms. Meding will send a copy of the MOU in word version out to the Council so that any changes can be tracked.

Review and Approval of Talking Points Developed for the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

Dr. Brock discussed his talking points paper that he hopes to bring with him to the National Weed Awareness Week later this month in Washington, DC. He will also be sending a copy to the congressional offices to let them know he will be in town to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

Christine Conte thinks there should be a bigger message so it grabs their attention. Ms. Weber mentioned she sent Ms. Meding a list of invasive species issues that relate to fires that could be forwarded to Dr. Brock.

Mr. Riley asked if the Council endorses this message and the motion was moved by Glenn Fahringer and seconded by Kai Umeda. This paper will be forwarded to Lori Faeth for Governor's Office review and approval.

Joanne Roberts asked about a "stamp" from the Governor's office if they do approve. Dr. Brock strongly suggested no since the first thing the congressional members will ask will be how much money it takes.

Dr. Brock, will work on polishing the talking points.

Call to the Public

Mr. Riley 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:

- Dr. Brock is waiting to hear back about a possible meeting location at the ASU Decision Theatre.
- Approval of management plan
- Public meeting format and schedule
- MOU progress update
- Dr. Brock's briefing of the NAWW meeting
- Time Tracker update

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.