

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)  
Tuesday May 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Brock, Dr. John; Council member (Arizona State University),  
Butler, Don; Council member (Arizona Department of Agriculture),  
Christ, Emily (Arizona Department of Transportation),  
Fahringer, Glen; Council member (Nursery and Landscape Industry),  
Klabunde, Thomas; Council member (US Forest Service and Forest Health Council)  
Green, Doug (Arizona Native Plant Society)  
Lawaczeck, Dr. Elizabeth; Council member (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
McGrew, Brian (Arizona Department of Agriculture)  
McMahon, Tom (Arizona Game and Fish Department)  
Moorhead, Brian; Council member (Salt River Project)  
Northam, Dr. Francis; Council member (Southwest Vegetation Management Association)  
O'Brien, Chantal (Arizona Game and Fish Department)  
Randall, Kris (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Roberts, Joanne; Council member (State Parks)  
Riley, Larry (Arizona Game and Fish Department)  
Trask, Chris (Arizona Native Plant Society)  
Umeda, Kai; Council member (University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension)  
Voyles, Larry; Council member (Arizona Game and Fish Department)  
Weber, Magill; Council member (The Nature Conservancy)  
Werner, Bill; Council member (Arizona Department of Water Resources),  
Witte, Doug; Council member (Arizona State Land Department)

**Roll Call**

Mr. McGrew (AZDA) called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

Mr. Butler (Department of Agriculture) chaired the meeting. Roll call was called by Mr. Butler and a quorum was determined.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. McGrew (AZDA) welcomed the Council and public participants, and provided overview of the meeting process.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Butler indicated that minutes had been provided electronically to the Council members and sought comments on the minutes of the meeting of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Hearing no comments or corrections, he sought approval of the minutes. Moved for approval by Mr. Werner, Seconded by Mr. Fahringer. Minutes accepted unanimously.

**Future Council Meeting Dates**

Mr. Butler indicated that, given the point we are in completion of the plan, a June meeting may not be necessary. Rather than meeting next month, perhaps the Council would consider deferring the next meeting to August, at which point we hope to have the Plan approved by the Governor. The Council would transition to quarterly, rather than monthly meetings.

A Rocky Mountain Weed Summit is planned for early June and conflicts with June schedule. Some Council members will have conflicts between the two gatherings.

Because the need for a June meeting is contingent upon Council approval of the Management Plan and its executive summary, the question was tabled to end of meeting, pending other actions by the Council. Council may reserve the June date, or a separate emergency meeting if needed, pending today's actions and decisions.

### **Public Comment on Draft Plan**

Mr. McGrew reviewed the process for seeking public input on the Draft Plan. The plan was available to the public for 45 days, and staff hosted a series of six public gatherings around the state. Public comments received for the plan were summarized and catalogued in a matrix. Responses to summarized comments are provided in the matrix. Mr. McGrew reviewed the specific changes that resulted from the input. Mr. Riley addressed the topic of Council representation by federal agencies and noted that Council size and representation is at the discretion of the Governor. Mr. Riley also stated that once the Council moves into the implementation of the invasive species management plan then Council seat assignments could be reviewed. Mr. Riley also discussed the use of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate federal cooperation. Mr. Werner did point out the fact some federal agencies have been involved throughout the development of the plan, including Council seats from USDA/APHIS and USDA/FS, as well as participation from other federal agencies. Dr. Lawaczek provided some feedback on issues revolving around infectious agents as invasive species, and those that might be considered really endemic diseases. She also touched on vectors as invasives for resurgence of emerging diseases, including endemic diseases. Dr. Lawaczek's input will be provided in written form to Mr. McGrew and will be used to revise comment responses and may modify elements of the plan.

Mr. Butler sought a motion to accept changes made to the comment response matrix and the plan, and incorporate changes that may come in.

Moved by Mr. Werner, Second by Mr. Witte. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Overview of meeting with Lori Faeth**

Mr. Voyles and Mr. Butler reviewed the progress report meeting that they had with Ms. Lori Faeth of the Governor's Office on April 14, 2008. They reported that Ms. Faeth was pleased with progress to date on the plan and the work of the Council. She is very

supportive. She was also very complementary to Brian and Marianne for their efforts to move this along. (Mr. McGrew and Ms. Meding will be recognized on May 7<sup>th</sup> by the Governor at her Cabinet meeting for the excellence of their performance.) Ms. Faeth was provided with the current Gantt chart for plan completion, a copy of the overview used at the public gatherings (on CD), and elements of the plan.

With approval by Council, the plan will be sent to Ms. Faeth. We expect response from her by May 21, which will keep us on schedule with plan production. Our goal is to go to layout and production with a limited printing of the plan in order to provide final copy to the Governor by June 30<sup>th</sup>, per the Executive Order.

### **Executive Summary**

Mr. Butler introduced the Executive Summary to the Plan. Mr. McGrew prepared an initial draft of about 10 pages. Work group leaders gathered and edited it for clarity and brevity. Based upon input from the work groups and the work group leaders, recurring themes identified by the work groups were brought forward into the Executive Summary. The Summary, combined with the Implementation Matrix, make an excellent and brief overview for executive leaders. The Summary ensured that linkage was built to other initiatives and efforts being undertaken by the Governor's Office, illustrating the supportive and integrated role of Invasive Species Management with other key issues and initiatives of the Governor (Growth, Climate Change, Transportation and Energy Enhancement, Forest Health, etc).

Mr. Butler sought approval of the Executive Summary. Mr. Werner pointed out some possible edits. Acceptance of the Executive Summary was moved by Mr. Werner, and seconded by Dr. Brock. The Executive Summary was unanimous approved.

### **Approval of the Management Plan**

Mr. McGrew reviewed the Gantt chart for final production and layout. There will be an opportunity to briefly review blue-line before production of a final copy.

Mr. Butler sought approval for the Plan and the schedule. A motion to accept was offered by Mr. Werner, and Seconded by Mr. Fahringer. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **MOU**

Mr. Butler indicated that the final draft elements had been shared electronically with the Council. Mr. Riley reviewed the final draft version in brief with the Council.

Ms. O'Brien indicated a number of editorial improvements and provided mark-up.

The intent is to mail (certified) to agency Directors by end of week. The MOU becomes effective when signed by the core state agencies and the University of Arizona. The

intention is then to seek other partners, particularly Federal Agency Partners (crucial), NGOs, County and Municipal partners, and private sector partners.

Mr. Riley will re-send electronically the signature page to all Council members, as well as the final draft tomorrow.

Mr. Witte asked whether a specific due date would be conveyed with the transmittal. No specific due date is currently indicated, however we are hoping for a prompt turn-around. Some Agencies may wish to wait until the plan is approved before committing to it via the MOU – that is the role of an Agency decision maker. Mr. Witte asked if this issue might be broached at the Cabinet meeting, urging prompt action. Mr. Voyles suggested that the Natural Resources Cabinet meeting might be the appropriate place and time to address that. Mr. Voyles and Mr. Butler will take under advisement.

### **Decision Theater**

Dr. Brock reviewed briefly the Council's visit to ASU's "Decision Theater", and the power of that as a tool for invasive species management. Mr. Fahringer noted the "Theater" as a good tool for our "Center". We may have considerable opportunity to use that kind of facility. It is a powerful modeling tool. Mr. Northam noted it was an amazing technology. The visualization of West Nile Virus, as an illustration, was powerful, but our invasive species data is weak at this point for forecasting power related to invasive species. We'll need a lot of data. Surveillance data is powerful.

Mr. Butler expressed his thanks to Dr. Brock

### **Call to the Public**

There were not non-Council members that wished to offer comment.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Dr. Brock indicated that the Rocky Mountain Weed Summit is rapidly approaching. There was a plea from Dr. Brock to have folks commit to attendance (Ft. Collins, CO). Dr. Brock has been a lead for the Arizona participation in the Weed Summit. A focus will be on funding for invasive species (especially plants). Final agenda is forthcoming. We are aware of at least 3 participants from Arizona, and others are possible.

Based upon the actions of the Council today, the decision to defer the next Council meeting until August was accepted. The Council members will reserve the June meeting date if circumstances require a meeting. The Council leaders can call an emergency Council meeting, if necessary, to address any unforeseen circumstances with plan finalization, though none are foreseen at this time.

### **Next meeting:**

**\*\*Draft\*\***

Unforeseen circumstances aside, the next meeting will be held in August. We are hopeful that the Governor will have approved the Plan at that time. We will meet even if no response from Governor's Office has been received. The next meeting was set for August 5<sup>th</sup>. If there is a need for an emergency meeting, would utilize the June meeting date. If a June meeting is warranted, the location is tentatively set for the Cooperative Extension Office.

Mr. Butler sought a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was offered by Mr. Werner and seconded by Glen Fahringer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55 PM.

DRAFT