

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)
Tuesday March 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Amator, Fred (AZ Crop Protection Association)
Eilerts, Bruce (ADOT)
Farhinger, Glenn (Cave Creek Landscape and Nursery Industry)
Gerstenberger, John (PetSmart)
Green, Doug (Arizona Native Plant Society)
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)
O'Brien, Chasa (AZGFD)
Riley, Larry (AZGFD)
Shein, Dan (State Parks)
Shroufe, Duane (Co-Chair AZGFD)
Trask, Chris (ANPS)
Voyles, Larry (AZGFD)
Umeda, Kai (U of A, Cooperative Extension)
Webber, Magill (The Nature Conservancy)
Wells, Stuart (Phoenix Zoo)
Werner, Bill (ADWR)
Witte, Doug (ASLD)
Yavitz, Randy (Hunter, Humphrey, & Yavitz)

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 Co-Chair Duane Shroufe and incoming Director, Larry Voyles, for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Mr. Voyles will be replacing Director Shroufe beginning April 1, 2008.

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

The 8th Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting commenced with Co-Chair Duane Shroufe conducting roll call. Introductions were also done at this time.

Welcome & Introductions

The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2008 at the Arizona State University Decision Theater located at 21 E. 6th Street, Suite 126A, Tempe, AZ 85287. Additional information will be sent as the meeting date draws closer.

Director Shroufe thanked the Council for their efforts and hard work and mentioned that the management plan is right on schedule but will depend on today's approval from the Council to seek public review and comment.

Headway is being made on the deliverables and the Invasive Species Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be ready for signatures hopefully by the end of March.

GITA task force meetings to identify a suitable information management system have identified the imapInvasives (NatureServe) database as a leading candidate. The Arizona Game and Fish Department is spending \$800 to import Arizona datasets, in particular the SWEMP data, in order to test the database for ease of import, appropriateness of fields, and also to demonstrate to Council members the applicability of the system using Arizona data.

Please send Council and work group attendance tracking information to Marianne Meding so she can incorporate this information in the Arizona Invasive Species Management Plan.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from February 5, 2008 was motioned by Bruce Eilerts and seconded by Glen Fahringer. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Funding Component of the Draft Invasive Species Management Plan and seek Council Approval.

Marianne Meding discussed progress made on development of the draft invasive species management plan and noted there were 7 key areas highlighted in the creative fund strategies. Everyone agrees that issues will be costly and agencies will not be able to absorb all of the costs. Some of the concepts include:

- The Council feels that a grant facilitator is needed to help with the proposals and grants and maybe this can fall under one of the three coordinator positions.
- Federal funding is a key source of funding for invasive species. There is a big push in developing the state management plan in order to make Arizona eligible for federal fund sources. AGFD is currently in the final stages of developing an Arizona Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) plan to seek federal dollars also.
- Development of an additional work group that will be responsible for reviewing policy and legislation to identify potential funding opportunities, and seek funding.
- Ed Northam is working on the appendix with funding opportunities. As he builds this list, please let him know if he has missed anything or if you would anything added to the list.
- The final recommendation identifies the need to seek future legislative appropriations when the State's financial situation is improved.
- Many user groups have been identified in the plan, and one of the recommendations is to conduct a survey of these groups to determine if they would be willing to fund invasive species efforts.

Dan Shein commented on looking at indirect relationships as well and maybe broaden the list of potential user groups to include other commercial players (e.g. Wal-Mart). Mr. Shein would like to see more from the business and corporate community.

Bill Werner suggested one change on page 37 to strike the word Roosevelt and change the wording in that sentence. One suggestion was to broaden the irrigation districts rather than list individual districts.

Elisabeth Lawaczeck noted that she emailed Ms. Meding in regards to pg. 38 and the comment on the health crisis funds. Ms. Lawaczeck mentioned that there is usually around one million dollars in this fund but not always. The Director of Health services is the person who may request these funds if they feel there is a public health crisis.

Ed Northam motioned for approval of the funding recommendations and John Gerstenberger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Recommendation Evaluation Process

On February 15, 2008, members from the first four work groups met in order to evaluate the draft management plan recommendations and evaluate them according to 4 criteria: 1) Time to Complete / implement, 2) Needed to ensure success at addressing invasive species issues, 3) Cost to implement, and 4) Ease of Accomplishment. Duane Shroufe asked work group co0leads to give an update on the outcomes of those meetings.

Brian McGrew gave an update on the Leadership and Coordination and Research and Information meeting. The group projected the plan on a screen, discussed it, and used a scoring chart to score each one according to a “high”, “medium,” or “low” criteria. The high commitments fell at the top while some high priority fell low depending on order of accomplish.

Chasa O’Brien followed with an update on the Anticipation and Outreach and Control and Management group meeting to evaluate the recommendations. Ms. O’Brien said they followed the same process but each individual scored independently and then the scores were compiled. The group felt this was a good process and came to a consensus on how each scored. They also discussed the issues dealing with prioritizing and order of accomplishment.

Ms. Meding indicated that the big picture showed the long term recommendations scoring lower because they are less easy to quantify. Kai Umeda noted a lot can be done in the short term but the whole issue is long term which will need to be maintained and necessary in order to make headway with invasive species issues in Arizona in the long run, and to promote changes in how we address invasive species needs and management.

There is still a need to have the funding recommendation section accessed and Marianne Meding asked the Co-leads from each group to score these and submit their evaluations. The needs can be immediate, short term, long term, or follow the same process as above. Council members agreed that this is an appropriate process for funding recommendation evaluation.

John Gerstenberger motioned for approval of the outcomes of the recommendations and Glen Fahringer seconded. The motion to approve the recommendation evaluation outcome passed unanimously.

Council Approval to seek Public Comment on Draft Statewide Invasive Species Management Plan.

Director Shroufe mentioned the plan needs more refinements and is an ongoing and adaptive process that needs public review and comments.

Ms. Meding said the draft management plan was sent out to all Council members and will now need to go out to the public for review. The editor working on the final report is still going over the plan and is waiting on more case studies. The case studies will be in text boxes similar to the 2006 final report to the Governor. Ms. Meding noted they are still missing some authority statements.

Larry Riley discussed the roles and making sure the state agencies are on board with their authority roles. He noted there is sufficient information now and that he feels the plan that the plan is sufficiently developed and should go out for public review. The gap analysis will be work in progress.

Any feedback on the management plan should be directed to Marianne Meding, Brian McGrew, or Larry Riley.

Dan Shein noted that Joanne Roberts noticed that Arizona State Parks Department was not listed in the chart of ownership.

Bill Werner suggested that the statement regarding a nuclear plant problem should be stricken from the comment under the Quagga mussel section.

Magill Weber noticed and commented on the information she sent to Ms. Meding that was duplicated in the report.

Bill Werner also asked about the layout in regards to comments. Mr. Riley commented that the instructions are currently being developed to help people funnel comments on specifics. Comments will be able to be submitted either online or by questionnaire at the meetings.

Bruce Eilerts motioned for approval of the draft plan made available for public review and comment and Fred Amator seconded. The motion passed unanimously noting that this was still work in progress.

Discuss and Develop Public Meeting Schedule and Format for Soliciting Public Comment on Invasive Species Management Plan.

Brian McGrew informed the Council that the task group finalized the public meeting schedule. There will be six meetings to be held:

- March 18 in Yuma
- March 19 in Tucson
- March 20 in Phoenix

- March 25 in Kingman
- March 26 in Flagstaff
- March 27 in Pinetop

The meetings will be held in the evenings from 6-8 pm with automated presentations starting at 6 and 7pm. Two Council members will be requested to attend each meeting. Presentations will be available to people who can not attend these meetings and all the information will be posted on the Governor's website. Mr. McGrew noted that there will be a joint press release done by ADA and AGFD.

(public comment) Doug Green asked why there were no meetings scheduled on tribal lands. Mr. McGrew responded saying they picked six areas they felt would work and that tribal lands will be notified of the meetings.

Larry Riley mentioned that Council members are asked distribute the meeting information to anyone they feel would be interested.

Glen Fahringer motioned for approval of the public meeting schedule and Bill Werner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Duane Shroufe applauded the Council members on all their hard work and mentioned that his job was easier due to the working groups which allowed all to be involved. Director Shroufe appreciates all that the Council has done and he is very impressed with the depth of understanding and hard work.

Management Plan Development Schedule through June 30, 2008

Ms. Meding discussed that at the end of the public meetings, the deadline to submit comments will be by April 7th. Any changes will be incorporated and then the plan will be sent for professional layout and printing by May 21. A limited number of copies will be available to help keep costs down.

Brian McGrew will need any logos sent to him as soon as possible and he will send an email reminder for request shortly.

Magill Weber was thanked for the use of the photos she submitted. Please get any other photos along with the credits to Marianne Meding or Brian McGrew and make sure they are at least a minimum of 300 dpi.

Invasive Species Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among State Agencies, Federal Agencies, and Stake Holders.

Larry Riley noted there are updated copies out to the MOU that reflect some changes made recently. One addition was the Governor's declaration of support added to the first paragraph. Mr. Riley went on to discuss other changes made to the MOU.

The Game and Fish Commission will be briefed on the details of this document and hopefully approve the MOU during their commission meeting this Friday.

****DRAFT****

Magill Weber noted she had comments and will forward those on to Mr. Riley.

Bill Werner asked when the MOU will be finalized and Mr. Riley is hopeful it will be the third week in March. Larry Riley is currently working on the signature page template.

Call to the Public

Duane Shroufe opened the floor to the public to see if there were issues or concerns to be discussed with Council.

Doug Green, representative for the Arizona Native Plant Society, expressed his concern to the Council on why there was no representative from any native plant groups present on the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.