

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

Leadership and Coordination Working Group

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brian McGrew (ADA)
Doug Witte (AZ SLD)
Tom McMahan (AGFD)

Meeting Minutes:

Brian McGrew called the meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. August 27, 2008. Meeting was located at the Arizona State Land Dept conference room 315. Mr. McGrew reviewed the original Working Group Charter for the Leadership and Coordination committee and indicated that it needed up dated to reflect current conditions. Members reviewed a newly formatted Anticipation and Outreach Work Group Charter and suggested the Leadership and Coordination Charter be reformatted into something similar. Mr. McGrew agreed to complete the reformatted charter and distribute to members prior to the next work group meeting.

It was noted that a number of the original work group members were not present. Mr. McGrew and Mr. McMahan stated that several of the members when contacted indicated that they would no longer be available due to various circumstances. Of the original 14 participating members only 5 committed to future work group meetings. Mr. Witte suggested that each of the members present contact various organizations such as the Association of Conservation Districts, the Arizona Cattlemen's Association, Arizona Farm Bureau, Arizona Wildlife Federation, environmental consulting groups, etc; and solicit member participation in future scheduled work group meetings.

Members noted that a number of the current charter objectives depended on the development of some type of web based electronic directory. Posting primary contacts within local state and federal agencies, NGO's, stakeholders, and affiliated private sector businesses; providing links to publications and invasive species research; and providing contact information regarding potential funding sources is a major objective of the work group. Mr. McGrew indicated that the Research and Information Management Work Group was looking into the development of such a directory with the assistance of the AISAC/GITA work group.

Work group participants briefly discussed objectives regarding funding sources for various Council activities and associated agency support. The members specifically discussed the need to establish a "Rapid Response Fund" or an "Invasive Species Project Fund". Whether accomplished administratively or legislatively, there needs to be an account to which future "potential" sources of funding could be deposited. Some sources that could be viewed as having potential of supporting the fund were identified. Suggested sources included but not limited to were; AGFD Watercraft Fund, certified applicators license fees, crop improvement funds, agri-

chemical registration fees, funding from the recently past OHV legislation, corporate contributions, etc., etc..

The last objective discussed was specific to the role a Center for Invasive Species might play in regard to anticipation and outreach objectives (5 c). Increasing public awareness through a public relations campaign was identified as one approach. State and local human interest stories involving invasive species should be monitored and brought to the attention of media outlets. Wild land fires fueled by extensive stands of salt cedar in the west valley, livestock mortality due to pig weed in the Chino Valley, and increased maintenance cost at various Dept. of Reclamation operated pump / lift station facilities resulting from recent quagga mussel infestations in Arizona's water bodies, were identified as a few recent examples in Arizona. They tie the issue of invasive species directly to the community.

It was suggested that the co-leads of each of the current work groups meet on November 4th to discuss overlapping objectives / issues of concern.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next Leadership and Coordination meeting was set for the week of September 22. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Action Items:

Brian McGrew will reformat the Leadership and Coordination work group charter.
Doug Witte will draft meeting minutes.

Doug Witte adjourned the meeting on August 27, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.