

Approved 3/12/2019

Quarterly Meeting of the Governor's Invasive Species Council of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, December 11th, 2018

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Conference Room 309
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Meeting Summary

Drafted by Trilby Libhart, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Voting Agencies Represented:

Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., PA Dept. of Agriculture, Designated Council Chair
Andrew Rohrbaugh, PA Dept. Conservation and Natural Resources
Beth Brantley, Pennsylvania State University
Jessica Darr, PennAg Industries
Andrew Ernst, PA Farm Bureau
Lisa Murphy, University of Pennsylvania
Gary Walters, PA Dept. Environmental Protection
Joseph Demko, PA Dept. of Transportation
Sarah Whitney, PA Sea Grant
Keith Fisher, The Nature Conservancy
Charles Bier, Western PA Conservancy
Gregg Robertson, PA Landscape and Nursery Association
Robert Schindler, PA Lake Management Society (Phone)
Mary Beth Ruh, PennAg Industries Association
Tim Schaeffer, PA Fish & Boat Commission
Piper Sherburne, Conservation Districts
Sean Mahoney, Transportation Sector (Phone)

Voting Agencies Absent:

PA Game Commission
PA State Association of Township Supervisors
PA Dept. of Health
PA Parks & Forest Foundation
County Governments

Other Attendees:

Sara Stahlman, PA Sea Grant (Phone)
Robert Morgan, PA Sea Grant

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Bill Nelson, PA Farm Bureau
Chris Urban, PA Fish & Boat Commission
Amy Jewitt, Western PA Conservancy
Jeff Wagner, Western PA Conservancy
Kendra McMillin, Beyond Land Management
Emilee Euker, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Ruth Welliver, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Sara Grove, Shippensburg University
Matthew Helmus, Temple University
Jocelyn Behm, Temple University
Destiny Zeiders, PA House of Representatives
Becca Manning, Longwood Gardens
Kevin Hess, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Nick Decker, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Shawn Miller, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Felicia Lamphere, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Ian Gardner, DMVA< Ft Indiantown Gap
Michael Hutchinson, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Johan Berger, State Conservation Commission
Dave Scott, PA Dept. of Agriculture, Interim Council Coordinator
Trilby Libhart, PA Department of Agriculture

Call to Order/Welcome

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., Designated Council Chair, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer (PDA) opened the meeting by welcoming members and thanking them for making the trip to attend the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced PA Fish & Boat Executive Director, Tim Schaeffer, and Chris Urban, who will be filling the position that Bob Morgan left when in retired in September. Tim has pledged his support to the council and is willing to help move things forward. Council members and others present then introduced themselves.

Council Business:

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., PA Dept. of Agriculture, Designated Council Chair
Seventeen (17) voting members or their alternates were present for the meeting. Voting members from the PA Game Commission, PA Parks and Forest Foundation, PA Dept. of Health, PA State Association of Township Supervisors, and County Governments or their designated alternates were absent from the official quorum count. Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr. (PDA) asked for any additions or updates to the agenda and called for any additions or changes to the September 2018 meeting minutes. Deputy Strathmeyer then called for a motion to approve the minutes:

Motion to Approve the September 2018 Meeting Minutes: Gregg Robertson (PLNA)

Motion Seconded by: Chris Urban (PA F&B)

Comments/Discussion: No additional changes

Vote to Approve the Motion: Motion passed

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Updates on Action Items:

- **Status of Search for GISC of PA Coordinator Position:**

Deputy Strathmeyer informed the council that position was posted both internally and externally as a Plant Inspection Program Specialist for 1-2 weeks. After HR reviews qualifications the PDA will get a list of those for interview. Please share the posting with those who may be interested. Hopefully by March meeting we will have hired for the position. This person is going to serve you!

Updates:

Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee (CPNW) Meeting:

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer Jr., PA Dept. Of Agriculture

The Great Lakes Least Wanted Aquatic Invasive Species presentation by Jim Grazio from the DEP was shared with the committee. The committee is working on formalizing a process for listing and/or deleting plants from the list and working on plants for consideration. Next meeting will be held in January.

Spotted Lanternfly Update (SLF):

Michael Hutchinson, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Michael Hutchinson (PDA), introduced himself to the council as the new entomologist replacing Sven Spichiger, who left PDA in August. He has worked 17 years as an entomologist for the DEP dealing with mosquitoes and West Nile disease, ticks, and black flies.

Michael explained that there is plenty happening with spotted lanternfly(SLF). The quarantine is still the 13 counties that were listed in 2017. In 2018 started a social media campaign that got 2 million views quickly. 80% from inside PA, 20% outside. Penn State now handling a lot of the education and outreach. Penn State and the PDA worked together to develop an online reporting tool <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly> . Received 20,800 public reports and another 14,000 reports made by phone or email to the state.

PDA has staff working in the core area responding to reports and calls. USDA is covering a buffer area around the core, as we try to contain the SLF within that area. There are workers in the other six regions of the state that form a "SWAT" team that deal with finds outside the quarantine area. Reports outside of the core mostly regulatory incidents and not established populations. PDA is getting some grant money to Conservation districts to help with their efforts. The more partners that are involved with this the better our outcome will be.

Our goal is still to eradicate this bug from North America and we have not given up on that goal. Part of the goal involves regulatory activities that include levels of compliance checklists for residents and commercial entities. Residents and businesses can print the agreement out and keep it with them, and if asked can demonstrate to anyone that they have inspected the vehicle and anything that it may be hauling. There are ~300,000 businesses within the quarantine and we have compliance agreements with trucking companies, railroads, among others. Businesses where the bug could hitch a ride and travel very far, very quickly, usually as egg masses, but could be as adults as well. Will start enforcing those permit requirements on May 1.

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A lot of research being done at Cornell, PSU, Temple, among others including efficacy studies for over-the-counter products, genetic testing, pheromones, trapping and swarming behavior.

Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer noted that Secretary Redding would be traveling to Washington to meet with the USDA to talk about the future of resources. Also want to thank our sister agencies, PennDOT, DCNR and others who have stepped up with money that would have been used for something else, but they see the importance of eradication, or at least controlling this invasive pest. These efforts don't happen without partnerships and adjoining states are now also part of the conversation. The approach to this pest will be regionalized. A meeting is planned for March with surrounding states. Additionally thousands of state workers have also taken the SLF training. Kudos to everyone for helping...

2019 Farm Show Booth

Dave Scott, Interim PISC Coordinator, PA Dept. of Agriculture

The 2019 Farm Show is quickly approaching, and we need volunteers to help with the PISC booth. The Farm Show runs from January 4th through the 12th, 2019. The booth is in the same general vicinity as last year, near the Christmas trees and the food in the Main hall. Passing around sign-up sheet. Please volunteer if you are able and thanks for any help.

First Finds:

New Zealand Mud Snail

Chris Urban, PA Fish & Boat Commission

The New Zealand Mud Snail was found in Clinton Creek, Clinton Co.

At the September meeting Bob Morgan explained that the New Zealand mud snail is a minute little gastropod, less than ¼ inch. Populations can reach to about 500,000 per meter squared. They destroy the base of the food web. They have already been found in Spring Creek in Centre Co. and in Musconetong River, NJ which is a tributary of the Delaware River. They are now in the mouth of the Delaware River. The snails reproduce parthenogenically and there were (2013) three known clones in the U.S. with densities anywhere from 100-500,000 snails per square meter. They are known to reproduce up to six times per year. They love trout streams and cold, moving water.

PA Sea Grant is updating their fact sheet to reflect the new finds. They will try to have it ready in time for the Farm Show.

Wavyleaf Basketgrass (WLBG)

Emilee Euker, PA Dept. Conservation and Natural Resources

The second population of wavyleaf basketgrass that was found at Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County was treated in the spring. Additional survey work was also done in the area and any further populations were treated as well. It appears possibly that WLBG has continuous germination and that spring control may not be the best for optimal control. May be better to treat in the fall.

Agency Updates:

Tim Schaeffer, the new Executive Director at PA Fish & Boat will be commencing a new plant at Fish & Boat. Will ask for PISC's input. Would like to have the new coordinator work directly with PA Fish & Boat Commission.

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Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) reached out to council to ask what the expectations are for the new PISC coordinator? The council needs to give some guidance to this person. Some replies included: working with the website and getting it updated, working on our top-tier goals, action items from roundtables, become a conduit with surrounding states, re-energizing round goby workgroup. Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer reminded everyone that the position has no budget or revenue for travel, education etc. Where do we find money for this to happen? Non-governmental groups can talk downtown to help get resources. Agencies cannot do this. Could agencies bump-up cost-sharing to get resources? What do other states do for coordinator funding?

Since we will be interviewing for the PISC coordinator position, what qualifications are we looking for when hiring? Replies include: Ability to coordinate technical stuff, assertive, pro-active, strong communication, strong organizing. Technical (invasive species) skills not as important. Also mentioned were the ability to work with a group, manage time, self-starter, able to help council move forward. Council needs to think long and hard about what they are looking for in this person. Send questions to Fred, Dave or Trilby.

RoundTable Working Groups Reports:

Web Group: Gary Walters (Dept of Environmental Protection) noted that they have a prototype for the website information. Ideas include a video of the Governor commenting on the Invasive Species Council, Invasive species of the month, photos of PISC members. Site may be up in January.

Additional Comments:

Next meeting is March 12, 2019.

Motion to Adjourn: Gary Walters, DEP

Motion Seconded: Chris Urban, PA Fish & Boat