

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

Wednesday March 14, 2018

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

Meeting Summary

Drafted by Sarah Pickel, 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
Gary Walters, PA Dept. Environmental Protection
Joseph Demko, PA Dept. of Transportation
Robert Morgan, PA Fish & Boat Commission
Benjamin Jones, PA Game Commission
Sarah Whitney, PA Sea Grant
Lisa Murphy, Univ. of Pennsylvania
Keith Fisher, The Nature Conservancy
Charles Bier, Western PA Conservancy
Brian Pilarcik, PA Lake Management Society (Phone)
Marci Mowery, PA Parks & Forest Foundation
Mary Beth Ruh, PennAg Industries Association
Gloria Day, PA Landscape & Nursery Association
Ram Nambiar, PA Dept. of Health
Andrew Ernst, PA Farm Bureau
Piper Sherburne, Conservation Districts
Robert Loughery, County Governments
Terry Styer, PA State Association of Township Supervisors

Voting Agencies Absent:

Penn State University
Transportation Sector

Other Attendees:

Amy Jewitt, Western Conservancy
Martin Mikulus, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Jeff Wagner, Western PA Conservancy

Kendra McMillin
Grant Gulibin, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Ruth Welliver, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Joe Petroski, Bureau of Forestry
Christina Butler, PA Dept. of Health
Sarah Pickel, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Matthew Helmus, Temple University
Kevin Hess, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Nick Decker, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Emilee Euker, DCNR Bureau of State Parks
Mark Faulkenbery , DCNR Bureau of State Parks
Gregg Robinson, PA Landscape & Nursery Association
John Baker, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Sven Spichiger, PA Dept. of Agriculture
Amy Bradford, PennAg Industries Association
Jeffery Wagner, Western Conservancy
Natalie Krak , PA Dept. of Agriculture
Karl Brown, State Conservation Commission
Dave Scott, PA Dept. of Agriculture, Interim Council Coordinator

Call to Order/Welcome

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., Designated Council Chair, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer (PDA) began the meeting by welcoming members for making the trip to attend the meeting. Because the commission is welcoming several new members today, Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer asked members to introduce themselves and give a brief summary of their agency's role on the commission.

Introduction of New Members:

Amongst the group are 4 new members to the commission. These include Terry Styer, representing PA State Assoc. of Township Supervisors; Dr. Ram Nambiar, Director of the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology for PA Department of Health; Robert G. Loughery, Commissioner of Bucks County, representing County Governments and Piper Sherburne representing the Conservation Districts.

One other new member, Sean E. Mahoney from the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority was not in attendance.

Additions to the Agenda:

Jeffery Wagner, Western PA Conservancy would like to make an addition to discuss the Legislative Work Group prior to the Roundtable Breakout.

Council Business:

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., PA Dept. of Agriculture, Designated Council Chair
Nineteen (19) voting members or their alternates were present for the meeting. A voting member from the Penn State University and Transportation Sector 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 December 2017 meeting minutes. Deputy Strathmeyer then called for a motion to approve the minutes:

Motion to Approve the December 2017 Meeting Minutes by: Charles Bier (Western PA Conservancy)

Motion Seconded by: Gary Walters (DEP)

Comments/Discussion: No changes

Vote to Approve the Motion: Motion passed

Updates on Action Items:

- **Status of Search for GISC of PA Coordinator Position:**
Deputy Strathmeyer informed the council that at this point in time, the Invasive Species Council coordinator position has not been finalized. He is confident that a candidate will be hired in short order. While the interview process will need to begin again, Human Resources has informed him that the names on the candidate list have not changed greatly.

Updates:

Revision of the Executive Order 2017-7:

Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer, Jr., PA Dept. of Agriculture, Designated Council Chair

Deputy Strathmeyer expressed that everyone should have received copies of the revision to the Executive Order and had a chance to review it. The addition of some of the new Council members was as a result of this order. This was intended to cover gaps in representation from certain areas.

Charles Bier (Western PA Conservancy) asked for some clarification on the new Executive Order and the original executive order. Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer explained that the initial Invasive Species Council Executive Order was issued by Governor Ed Rendell. This re-issued Executive Order from Governor Tom Wolf shows his continued commitment to the fight against invasive species. The addition of \$1.6 million to the Commonwealth's budget for Spotted Lanternfly control and education also emphasizes Governor Wolf's support for the fight against invasive species. He recognizes the serious impact this insect has had on the infected area.

As for the changes to the original Executive order, they are relatively minor changes, altering some of the language regarding agency support. Also, there was some clarification on the portion of the Executive order which discussed appointed members of the council. If members are unable to attend a meeting, they are permitted to designate an alternate representative from their agency to attend.

Administrative items:

Deputy Strathmeyer wanted to remind members that they are eligible for travel reimbursement and should see Dave Scott (PDA) after the meeting to discuss that.

Also, Dave Scott reminded council members to sign and return copies of the Governor's Code of Conduct and State Ethics Reporting.

2018 Farm Show Booth Report:

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

Dave Scott (PDA) reported that the 2018 Farm Show was very well attended, with the exception of a decreased attendance on Monday [January 8] due to bad weather. The booth featured a video display with a Story Map on the Spotted Lanternfly. Approximately 6000 lanternfly scraper cards were passed out, as well as headbands and activity books. There were 3 locations featuring Spotted Lanternfly outreach: the GISC booth, the Penn State Extension booth and the PA Hardwoods Development Council's Wood Mobile.

The public awareness of the Spotted Lanternfly was notably increased over the last two years. During the first year the pest was featured at the Farm Show, no one recognized the Lanternfly nymphs or adults in the mounted displays. This year, many people were sharing their own experiences with lanternflies.

Additionally, the PA Sea Grant handouts and materials on aquatic invasives were well received.

Gary Walters (DEP) thanked Dave Scott and Trilby Libhart (PDA) for the effort they put into the booth and shared that he was impressed with the amount of people that stopped by the booth to ask questions and comment on the different species.

Anecdotally, Andrew Rohrbaugh (DCNR) commented that the outreach of the SLF headbands was an impactful outreach tool to his own children.

Fred encouraged all the members to begin thinking of ways their organizations can gather materials from their organizations and share them with the council for distribution at future GISC outreach events.

Gloria Day (PLNA) commented that the PSU Master Gardeners have been doing a lot of outreach and perhaps throughout the year, before Farm Show, the Council can participate in state Fairs or Master Gardner events to reach the public.

First Finds:

Water Chestnut:

Amy Jewitt, Coordinator of IMAP (Western PA Conservancy), shared that there is a need for outreach focused on Water Chestnut. Her agency has done some outreach since new populations of this weed are being found, but public awareness is still limited. This invasive aquatic plant is still considered relatively rare, but there have been new contaminations found in Neshaminy Creek. She would like to know if there is any outreach that can be focused on this invasive.

Deputy Strathmeyer asked Robert Loughery Bucks County Commissioner to comment on if there have been any legislative efforts regarding this. Robert shared that as of yet, nothing is occurring legislatively on this new invasive, but because of the waterways this could affect, he sees the need to act on this.

Potential invasive insects:

Sven-Erik Spichiger, Head of Entomology Department, PA Dept. of Agriculture

This January, Sven attended the USDA Invasive Species Forum in Annapolis where one of the insect concerns they looked at was an Ambrosia beetle that is currently in California that effects many species of trees. They do not have control of this and it would be a concern if it would be here.

Rednecked longhorn beetle, *Aromia bungii*, a wood boring Prunus pest from Asia, has been detected in Europe. This pest would be a serious concern for Pennsylvania's fruit industry. During an upcoming trip to China, Sven will be researching detection techniques and pheromone baits.

The IS Forum also highlighted the RNI Method of control for Wood Destroying insects. Actually gets that material into the insect itself. There is research on new pesticides that can treat alternative plants that may be a player in the control of Spotted Lanternfly.

Detections of note for 2018: One pest was intercepted at the receiving location in Pennsylvania. Identified as Yellow Marmorated stink bug, it was contained and the container and cargo fumigated stopping its introduction.

Spotted Lanternfly Update:

Sven Erik-Spichiger, Head of the Entomology Department, PA Dept. of Agriculture

PA is no longer the only state. There have been confirmations in both Maryland and Virginia, while Delaware and New York have both found 1 dead insects in their states. The Department is working with new industries to develop BMPs for Lanternfly. Hardwoods Council have developed BMPs for multiple jobs in their industry. PDA has been conducting Train the Trainer presentations, mostly conducted by Dana Rhodes. Presentations are then given to the attendees. This is to enable representatives from other organizations to give training.

Update on SLF Control Efforts:

John Baker, Coordinator of Spotted Lanternfly Program, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Working on 12 high risk properties for targeted controls. PennDOT is focusing some of their control efforts on highways running through the Quarantine Area. Beginning in April they will focus on Rt. 100, Rt. 22 and Interstate 78. This includes removing ailanthus, a process which involves treating large trees with herbicides. Joe Demko, (PennDOT) shared that the method PennDOT is using, which is based on Penn State Extension consultation, is a dormant stem treatment of Ailanthus with Garlon Ultra.

PennDOT has a mechanism that requires the herbicide to be applied at no greater than %20 leaf out. They are consulting with Dow on this process. The optimal treatment window is throughout summer, however there are other treatment times throughout the year.

Andrew Ernst (PA Farm Bureau) commented that the acid based chemical can be effected by mixing with hard water. He recommended that the efficacy of the product will be much better with use of softened water.

Deputy Strathmeyer shared some of the meetings that PDA has been involved with to coordinate with other agencies to increase SLF outreach. USDA is giving financial support to Penn State Extension for outreach. PDA has been discussing outreach for the Tourism Industry to include outreach at Amusement Parks and other tourist attractions. They've been in conversation with PLNA to encourage their landscapers to be a source of outreach.

Terry Styer, (PSATS) she would like to encourage the council to increase outreach on social media. This could require updating information on the website. Determine which site is the best site to direct people to. Fred said that Emily will be able to share what is being done to update the website, both for PDA and GISC.

GISC Website Update:

Emily Demsey, Digital Director, PA Dept. of Agriculture

At the last meeting, it was decided to work toward migrating the information on the Council's current site to PDA's website, on a subsite page. There needs to be decisions made about the organization of the information to move forward with the migration.

Social Media Presence: Emily's recommendation is that rather than developing a separate media profile for GISC, it would be better to have a hashtag for the Council that each Council organization could use when posting on their own sites. These posts could also be shared by other council organizations. There hasn't yet been a hashtag decided on, but that could be discussed during the afternoon roundtable discussion.

Last year, there was a \$20,000 digital outreach campaign for SLF which produced specific video spots to be shared on Facebook. This campaign generated millions of hits to the PDA page. The unpaid campaign shared to PDA's Facebook page for the Organic industry achieved over 100,000 hits. This year another paid digital campaign of \$20,000 will also be on Facebook and will expand to Twitter.

Sven Erik-Spichiger (PDA) commented that because of the Facebook campaign, the Entomology Department received email contacts that resulted in approximately 1,000 properties identified for PDA survey visits. This tool is now their most productive survey tool.

Presentation: ESRI Invasives Invasive Species Initiative:

Carrie Tropasso, PA Department of General Services, Coordinator of GIS Programs

Carrie coordinates GIS programs for Dept. of Agriculture, Dept of Environmental Protection and Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. Each agency uses GIS for multiple programs which is accessed by multiple users, using 62 different connections, and working with 6 different ArcGIS Versions. There are 2 portals located at Ag and DEP. There is 2.814 Terabytes of data stored across the agencies, some of which is duplicated data.

Carrie would like to see the agencies move to a portal to portal system. This would involve the agencies housing their own data on their individual servers, and sharing that data on the cloud. This model allows collaboration/data sharing to occur through a Centralized Collaboration Hub. For example, there could be a PISC Hub, where data could be uploaded on the hub and be shared with all participating agencies instantly.

Carrie and GISC would work with ESRI to establish an Invasive Species ROI. Different levels of data would be available including Internal Portals for each agency, an External Portal for material which is sharable to agency stakeholders, and Open Data available to public. Therefore, some data could still be secure within agencies. This allows for inter-Departmental collaboration, public messaging, sharing of Quarantine areas, a Bad Bug reporting app and field sample collection. The ROI Invasive Species could include Apps for field reporting. This could also be a central site for Story Maps useable by the council on invasive pests and council programs. Currently the Fish & Boat Commission and Game Commission are not yet within this plan.

The next steps in developing this structure involves bringing ESRI in to design it. This would require money, about \$100,000 for the effort. The council agencies would have to decide what contributions

would be given to this effort to move forward. The design/development would not proceed until that occurs.

Dr. Ram Nambiar (DOH) felt that the federal agencies would be very interested in this centralized data. Gary Walter (DEP) felt that there would be federal grant money available, possibly from USDA, for this effort.

Deputy Strathmeyer encouraged other agencies to move forward with exploring this potential within the various Working Groups they are involved in.

Agency Updates:

- Robert Morgan (PA Fish & Boat Commission) said that at the last meeting the Council commented on the importance of developing action & studying the Round Gobe population in French Creek, perhaps the most biologically rich and diverse waterway in the state. Since that meeting, Fish & Boat Commission has learned that Stauffer's lab in Penn State is researching Round Gobe in French Creek and also Lake LeBoeuf. The lab has also reached out to the commission to request funding for studying the effect of Round Gobe on the flora and fauna of French Creek, so this research will continue.

Also, Tim Shaeffer has left the Fish & Boat Commission, so now Mike Maroney is the new Policy Director.

- Sven-Erik Spichiger (PDA) shared that Wildwood Park is gearing up for their 18th Annual Wetlands Festival from 10am – 4pm on April 28. The Park would welcome an Invasive Species Council educational booth. There is no exhibiting cost for this event. If anyone would be interested in organizing a GISC table, Dave Scott has the contact information.

Rountable Working Groups:

Questions about Legislative follow up Working Group: After the Council's visit to the Capitol with the legislators, a need was seen to have a focused communication between the council and the legislators. Since the legislators asked the council if they needed funding, perhaps it is important to foster the legislator interest in Council efforts. It was queried by Robert Morgan (PA Fish & Boat Commission) that since letters have been sent, is necessary for this group to continue or has it already put the pieces into motion?

Deputy Strathmeyer expressed his belief that it is still necessary because the council, which currently has no regular line item for funding, should continue to focus on fostering funding.

Piper Sherburne (The Conservation Districts) suggested that at the Conservation Districts annual Legislative Breakfast, GISC funding support could be advocated by them in that forum.

Mary Beth Ruh (PennAg Industries) suggest that since there are existing Invasive lists identified by individual members, shouldn't the council perhaps focus on those existing lists to inform the legislators. Deputy Strathmeyer said that the Noxious Weed list already exists, but there is not a Controlled Plant List. He would like to see this group using their existing lists to advise legislators on a Controlled Plant List.

Prevention and Control Group: Charles Bier (Western PA Conservancy) reported that the group discussed that they would set up a meeting outside of this group to provide more time for both this group and other interested members to meet. They also discussed identifying important species that the Working Group would focus on, such as Palmer Amaranth. They would also be working on a list of potential problematic species collected from the various agency lists.

Web Group: Gary Walters (Dept of Environmental Protection) discussed meeting to collect some content focuses for the new website and they hope to have that content ready in April.

Legislative Group: Sarah Whitney (PA Sea Grant) reported on the group meeting. The Group plans to set up an event for Legislators at Pymatuning Reservoir looking at Hydrilla and other invasive species.

Additional Comments:

Amy Bradford, PennAg Industries, raised a question about the Pennsylvania Noxious Weed and Controlled Plant Council. Has this group been established yet? Also, who is in charge of this council?

Dave Scott (PDA) responded that establishment of this group is not finalized. Deputy Strathmeyer will likely be in charge of that council.

Motion To Adjourn: Gregg Robertson, PLNA

Motion Seconded: Joe Demko, PennDoT

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm