

Approved 9/27/2018

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

Tuesday June 12, 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

Gary Walters, PA Dept. Environmental Protection

Joseph Demko, PA Dept. of Transportation

Robert Morgan, PA Fish & Boat Commission

Sarah Whitney, PA Sea Grant

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

Julie Urban, Penn State University

Bill Nelson, PA Farm Bureau

Piper Sherburne, Conservation Districts

Terry Styer, PA State Association of Township Supervisors

Sean Mahoney, Transportation Sector (Phone)

Voting Agencies Absent:

PA Game Commission

Univ. of Pennsylvania

Robert Loughery, County Governments

Other Attendees:

Amy Jewitt, Western PA Conservancy

Jeff Wagner, Western PA Conservancy

Kendra McMillin

Approved 9/27/2018

Kelly Sitch, PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (Forestry)

Ruth Welliver, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Bryon Ruhl, PA Department of Transportation

Sara Grove, Shippensburg University

Matthew Helmus, Temple University

Jocelyn Behm, Temple University

Kevin Hess, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

Nick Decker, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection

John Baker, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Sven Spichiger, PA Dept. of Agriculture

Johan Berger, State Conservation Commission

Tricia Mazik, PA Lake Management Society

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.

Council Business:

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

Eighteen (18) voting members or their alternates were present for the meeting. A voting member from the PA Game Commission, University of Pennsylvania 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 March 2018 meeting minutes. Deputy Strathmeyer then called for a motion to approve the minutes:

Additions to the Agenda:

Charles Bier(WPS) would like to add discussion about how the council operates with decision making. For example, how to decide what weeds to advise to be added to the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed list. Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer noted that the council is an advisory council to the governor through the Secretary of Agriculture. The council cannot dictate policy or law.

Jeff Wagner (WPS) would like to see an organized agenda to make sure that we have roundtables more "prime time". No times on agenda. Need to develop actions for in between meetings, along with following up on first finds.

Trilby Libhart (PDA) brought up request from PA Sea Grant for universal invasive species reporting line, this could include reporting for aquatics. Currently nowhere specified for reporting aquatic invasive species.

Motion to Approve the December 2017 Meeting Minutes by: Joe Demko (PennDOT)

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 hoping to have signed paperwork soon for the Invasive Species Council coordinator position and has talked to John Arway. He will make sure that action is taken before the next meeting. Will have to start the interview process over again but will try to expedite.

Updates:

Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee (CPNW) Meeting:

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

Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer noted that there are currently no controlled plants on the list. The council may identify plants to recommend to the committee to vet through. Plants can be added or deleted from the list. The council is not making decisions as that is up to CPNW committee.

The question was asked about the “threshold” for what is invasive. Would Weed Risk Assessments (WRAs) be used for that purpose?

Spotted Lanternfly Update:

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

Spotted Lanternfly Update

Sven Spichiger (PDA) explained that there is plenty happening with spotted lanternfly(SLF). There is federal funding of \$17.6 million to combat SLF. PA receives \$1.9 million for rapid response and survey work, along with \$3.75 million for core zone response, permitting and temporary staff. There is ongoing research that will be posted on the updated website.

“If you are trained to mow your lawn, you can be trained to fight invasive species.”

USDA will be concentrating on the leading edge of the quarantine area, while the PDA focuses on the core and coordinating partners. High risk areas will need work plans. Still working on cutting down Ailanthus and establishing trap trees using insecticide.

SLF hatched out a month ago and are now 2nd instar. They will crawl up and down the trees for light, food and to avoid predation. Citizens have helped in banding trees. There is an issue of being able to establish numbers- researchers are working on these problems.

Winter herbicide treatment is not optimal but appeared to have worked. Optimal time to treat is during the growing season.

Penn State University is working with the PDA and handling much of the communication and outreach on SLF. This allows for a standard message to go out to the public. There will also be a new number to a PSU site. We are currently receiving a lot of out-of-state calls. PSU has hired Heather Leach as the SLF Extension Associate. Pamphlets, pest alerts and other outreach material will be available through PSU. On large properties where we have been treating for three years, we are seeing a population collapse. If one has the means to prep their property, do it now. Learn lesson from EAB and be proactive before it gets here.

Approved 9/27/2018

Deputy Strathmeyer shared that the Secretary has reached out to other agencies to do the online SLF tutorial/test/permit. All agencies and regional offices are engaged in the process.

Thanks to everyone working in the lanternfly program for the successes we have experienced so far. This process has been about building partnerships with other, including the communities affected. Do your part to help control this pest.

Julie Urban (PSU) explained that SLF has been a challenging pest with one generation per year. It has not been possible to successfully rear a population. They need long-term funding but can't show enough damage to get the big grants. Feeding damage at campuses that can collect data will be able to make a compelling case for money.

Piper Sherburne (PACD) shared the situation that has happened on her property. She had 150 Ailanthus on 10 acres, 138 of which were trap trees. Last year they had caught over 2000 SLF on tree bands. No lanternfly to be seen this year. Saw damage from SLF on Virginia creeper and grapes. The property was a challenge as some trees were 75 years old.

She continued to explain that the conservation districts in PA are trying to spread the word about SLF as much as possible. They have information on websites, have done newspaper coverage, workshops envirothon, events have had speakers at all their conferences, and lobbied for money at the national convention.

First Finds:

European Cherry Fruit Fly:

Sven Spichiger, (PA Dept. of Agriculture), shared that state and federal quarantine have been issued in New York for the European cherry fruit fly (ECFF). This is a very destructive pest of cherries which attacks the fruit and causes it to rot and fall off the tree. Has the potential to affect 90% of cherries. Can also damage honeysuckle.

Hydrilla and Water Chestnut:

Amy Jewitt (WPC) alerted the council to two new finds. Hydrilla was found at Mont. Windemere and water chestnut at a new location in Bucks at Neshaminy Creek near Tyler State Park. Amy also mentioned that the Water Chestnut Chasers Challenge is starting up for 2018. This is a search for water chestnut which results in new finds. There will be a webinar about the challenge on June 21st.

*Note that the council needs to follow up on finds not just report them.

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.

Agency Updates:

DCNR has a new state forester, Ellen Shultzabarger.

Approved 9/27/2018

Roundtable Working Groups:

Web Group: Gary Walters (Dept of Environmental Protection) noted that the digital director will soon be taking maternity leave so get information to Emily as soon as you can. She can then give to Kyle to keep things moving. Can start putting things up on new website such as resources. We have a pretty good outline of content. Working with PDA to see what is allowed as far as securities. We are making progress and will try to expedite since Emily will be out for leave.

Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee: Council needs to establish and prioritize a list of species in PA that could potentially be placed on the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Act. DCNR has a list of invasives that are in different ranks.

There will be a process to getting plants on the list. Stakeholders will be able to come before the committee since there will be public comment and review.

Mary Beth Ruh will finalize a list of plants that are of concern and send them to Dave Scott. There are 46 plants on the list. Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer noted that we should reach out to Farm Bureau, Penn Ag...and Bob Morgan (PA Fish and Boat) said that we need to also remember aquatic weeds.

Deputy Secretary Strathmeyer asked for a motion to forward the list on to the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee:

Motion to accept the list and forward on: Charles Bier, WPC

Motion Seconded: Keith Fisher, TNC

Additional Comments:

PA Farm Bureau is looking for someone to present at their conference. Contact Heather if you are interested.

Also, Millersville University looking for someone interested in presenting on invasives at their Field Day in September.

Motion To Adjourn: Gary Walters, DEP

Motion Seconded: Joe Demko, PennDOT