

Governor's Invasive Species Council Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

PDA Conference Room 309

Introductions, Minutes, and Announcements

Ruth Welliver welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members and industry stakeholders made introductions. A motion was made by Gary Walters to accept the June meeting minutes. Piper Sherburne seconded the motion, and the minutes were then accepted.

New and Priority Threats

Don Eggen brought Laurel Wilt Disease to the Council's attention. The disease is spreading in North Carolina. It is a fungus spread through beetles, and it continues to move north into areas of Kentucky. PA is preparing along its southern border. While traditionally a southern pest, Laurel Wilt has been spreading north and westward since the early 2000's.

Ruth Welliver added that Spotted Lanternfly remains a pest, and it is swarming season in Southeast, PA. Swarming occurs before mating season, and egg masses will be laid this fall.

Don Eggen said Beech Leaf Disease continues to be a pest. Pennsylvania is working with Ohio, New York and others to collect data.

Dr. Lisa Murphy said the UPenn New Bolton Center received a USDA grant to use trained dogs to detect Spotted Lanternfly egg masses and asked agencies to share their resources in the endeavor.

PISC Coordinator Update

Kris presented an update and reviewed the mission of the Council. (Slides are attached.)

Kris tasked the Council with creating a comprehensive PA list of invasive species through a workgroup. Across agency and stakeholders, there is a lack of consistency amongst existing lists. Don Eggen said he liked the idea of the working groups. He suggested a workgroup to encompass prevention and pathways in addition to a group developing comprehensive lists.

Brian Pilarcik suggested creating a legislative group to help facilitate field trips and outreach legislators and stakeholders.

Matt Helmus of Temple University said there is a need to measure success through benchmarks. Periodic reports would show progress while serving as records to then use for advocacy.

Developing Regional PRISMS

Don Eggen reported he met with PISC Coordinator, Kristopher Abell, to address program implementation. There are examples both in-state and out-of-state, but working locally is proven to have success. Regional groups exist across the state and northeast. Don would like to make a geographical footprint for Pennsylvania so the Council is recognized as a program coordinator and can then receive funds. A proposal is needed, and regional coordinators are needed in each area. There are

multiple stakeholders who can be at the table locally to assist and address local need. Agency stakeholders and experts can assist developing the framework to go before the Governor's office.

Tammy Peffer added that Integrated Pest Management curriculum standards is advised by multiple agencies and has great reach. Teachers and land managers at schools can assist in educational efforts.

Piper Sherburne also said the 66 Conservation Districts have a deliverable mechanism place; it just needs additional resources and funds.

Don echoed that there is a network, but it needs formalized. The PRISM structure will lead to fewer grant applications, and it is recognized by the Forest Service for funding of plant-related items.

Cooperative Weed Management Area: Lake Erie

Jeff Wagner said CWMA worked with New York to find funds through the Forest Service. Since 2010, grant funds have totaled over \$300,000. They continually add to the database with each grant and partners in the Erie area. A bulk of the land is privately owned, so outreach is continued with a lot of volunteer efforts. Most work is done with herbicide treatment through manual and helicopter application. Hydrilla is now in 26 counties, and it was found in small ponds in the area, but not ponds used by water craft so it is spreading through waterfowl. Herbicide treatment and grass carp to control Hydrilla have not seen success. They are working with other CWMA's in the area to gather data.

Cooperative Weed Management Area: French Creek

Brian Pilarcik reported they started about three years ago battling Purple Loose Strife in Crawford County. They are working to establish a working group, but depend heavily on funds from other sources to fund projects. French Creek is looking to pull folks together across all disciplines to put together a five-year plan and fund a coordinator. Stakeholders have helped them identify projects and funding. Brian echoed that PRISMS facilitate gaining expertise and funding sources, and it legitimizes program work and efforts.

Invasive Plant Priorities

Rocky Gleason addressed the challenges with invasive landscape plants invading natural habitats. Each case takes tremendous time and effort. Buying land to conserve it does not stop invasive species, and Rocky sees the need to regulate invasive landscape plants to stop them from being planted.

Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area

Maddie Stanisch discussed her work in the region. APIPMA covers Elk, Forest, Potter, McKean, and Warren Counties and includes local stakeholder, companies and community groups.

It was asked if the group plans to branch beyond plant invasive species, and Maddie said it had been discussed, but as plants have shown prevalence, that has been their focus. Maddie added that additional funding, volunteers, and awareness would greatly benefit APIPMA which led to the echoing of the need of regional coordinators.

Website Guidance and Updates

Emily Dempsey discussed the website process and progress. The outdated website has been moved under PDA's website, and they are waiting for more information and content from the group. The

website template is contracted, which can be restricting, but the Communications Office will do its best to accommodate the Council's needs. New content will help create graphics and social media posts to gain traction. Content for existing pages, such as Spotted Lanternfly, need to be made uniquely for the Council to assist search results.

Word Doc with proposed content should be sent Kyle Poland or Emily Demsey. They will review and edit all material for best practices. The site needs to have enough information that it is searchable and easy to find. When emailed directly, updates can be done in a timely manner.

Kris suggested highlighting an "Invasive of the Month." Content for items such as that should be prepared in advance and so the Communications Office can manage it accordingly.

Content that was developed in April and May needs converted to a Word format, and Kris is working on that. Pictures should be sent in a separate document to preserve the quality.

Management Plan and Action Item Progress

Kris announced that instead of doing agency update at each meeting, each group should report what progress towards Council goals and action items they have made, and also identify what they want to accomplish before the next meeting. It was suggested to put all feedback back into the management plan to evaluate progress.

Ruth asked for workgroup updates.

Don Eggen said a Spotted Lanternfly survey was provided to PDA in May. DCNR is preparing to create digital maps of females. They are working to set up a meeting with the Bureau of Forests to develop a model to map **tree of heaven** statewide. An entomologist is studying Spotted Lanternfly plots, and staff have been gathering all life stages for further research.

Andrew suggested working cooperatively to get items together for the website. DCNR has a list for noxious weed recommendations on an excel that Kris will share with group. Gary Walters also suggested a story map to feature work on the website.

Kevin Hess reported that a new grant round for coastal resource management opened with DEP and closes Tuesday, October 15th. For on the ground projects to qualify, property needs to be a publicly owned and submitted by the owner of that property. There is a requirement for a 50-50 non-federal match. Public involvement and intergovernmental involvement are priorities for applicants. DEP Coastal Resources Management webpage has more information. Maps for qualifying areas are also on the website.

Chris Urban announced the AIS Coordinator position at the Fish and Boat Commission will be posted soon. Asian (Silver)Carp are not in PA, but it is in the Ohio River (in Ohio), and they have been gradually moving up the Ohio River towards PA. So far, it appears that methods to prevent movement have been successful (e.g., surveys to remove them, commercial fishing targeting Silver Carp, etc.). The Fish and Boat Commission is redoing its three year strategic plan and Aquatic Invasive Species management will be an important component of the plan

New Action Item Planning and Development

Future Working Groups: Website, Legislative, Taxonomy/Invasive List, PRISM/Regional Development

Kris will follow up with the Council to assign roles.

Gary Walters moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe Demko seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned.