

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

DNR Science Operations Center, Northwoods Conference Room
Madison, Wisconsin

Meeting Notes

Council Members Present: Tom Bressner (Wisconsin Agro-Business Association), Tom Buechel (Green Industry), Drew Feldkirchner (DNR), James Hughes (DOT), Jim Kerkman (Council on Forestry), Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Greg Long (Needles & Leaves Nursery), Paul Schumacher (Wisconsin Lakes), Lauren Leckwee (DOT), Hannah Spaul (TNC)

Others Present: Tara Bergeson (DNR, staff), Yoyi Steele (DNR), Christa Schaefer (DOT), Andrea Diss-Torrance (DNR)

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of September 14, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kerkman to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 Council meeting. Second by Mr. Hughes.

Prior to approval of the minutes, Ms. Spaul raised the topic of local ordinances, which was a topic during the December Council meeting. She has had experiences with local ordinances being barriers to invasive species management. An example was provided where a township had identified common milkweed to be a nuisance when in fact the plant is critical to the life cycle of monarch butterflies – a species currently experiencing drastic declines. Another concern raised by Ms. Spaul is that permits may be necessary to conduct removal of invasive species and this can be a barrier to treatment. She would like to see the Council serve as a mechanism to help remove existing barriers to invasive species management. Ms. Bergeson reminded the Council of the disclaimer on the Council's local ordinances webpage, which states that the state is not bound by municipal ordinances. The specific language is as follows:

Section 1.01, *Wis. Stats.* establishes the State of Wisconsin as a sovereign entity. As a result, state agencies are not bound by municipal ordinances. This includes noxious weed ordinance adopted by a municipality. If a municipality would like to manage state-maintained roadsides in accordance with its own ordinances, the municipality may request a written permit from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to be allowed to perform the work. The department will not pay a municipality for work completed either with or without the benefit of a permit.

Motion to approve the minutes passed.

Status of Council Member Terms

Mr. Kerkman indicated that Valerie Johnson (USDA) has applied for a seat on the Council. Ms. Bergeson noted that we have not yet gotten an appointment letter for Ms. Johnson or any other Council members at this time.

Chairman Schumacher asked if there were other suggestions for nominees to fill Council seats. He suggested that the Council send a letter to the Governor's office recommending the appointment of Ms. Johnson. Mr. Kerkman motioned to take this action. Mr. Buechel seconded. Motion passed.

Task: Chairman Schumacher will draft a letter recommending that the Governor appoint Ms. Johnson to the Council seat that Mr. Kerkman will vacate in July 2017.

Chairman Schumacher welcomed Lauren Leckwee to the Council. Ms. Leckwee replaces Travis Olson as the Department of Administration's (DOA) appointee.

Chairman Schumacher would like to recognize Travis Olson for his tenure and contributions to the Council. Mr. Olson has been one of the Council's longest serving agency representatives.

Task: Tara will work with Ms. Schaefer and DNR invasive species staff to get a recognition plaque for Mr. Olson for the June 8 Council meeting.

Chairman Schumacher's Council term will expire on July 1, 2017. He has served for two terms. He noted that he is more involved with his church as a lay speaker, which is taking more of his time. He does not intend to seek re-appointment on the Council. Mr. Schumacher has notified the River Alliance and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes that there will be vacancies on the Council, though he does not know of any applicants from either organization at this time. It would be good to notify the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) of the upcoming vacancies as well.

TASK: Ms. Spaul will contact WWA to let them know there will be vacancies.

Mr. Kuhn asked if Paul's replacement would become the new chair of the Council. Mr. Schumacher indicated that no, that person would just be a member. We will need to elect a chair at the June 8 Council meeting.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will include voting for a chair as an agenda item for the June 8, 2017 Council meeting.

Mr. Bressner's term will expire in July. He intends to re-apply, and will try to complete the application by the end of April.

Mr. Long has not yet decided whether he will re-apply. He will consider his options and let Mr. Schumacher know his intentions.

Mr. Buechel announced that he had very recently left his position at McKay Nursery. He intends to remain with the Council. His term does not expire until July 01, 2020.

Chairman Schumacher acknowledged that Mr. Raffa was one of four recipients of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Hilldale Award on April 3— a significant honor. The award recognizes faculty for their distinguished contributions to teaching, research and service. Tenured faculty members are nominated by Department chairs every year in the areas of Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences. Honorees receive recognition at a spring Faculty Senate meeting and a \$7,500 cash prize.

State Agency Invasive Species Staffing

Ms. Bergeson provided updates on recent staffing changes within the DNR. Yoyi (pronounced "Georgie") Steele has been hired as the new Assistant Public Lands Specialist in the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Yoyi will help with capital development, real estate, implementing habitat and property management alignment, *invasive species work*, and pesticide use. Yoyi is a member of the DNR's Invasive Species Team and is involved in the planning aspect and prioritization efforts for invasive species within the Wildlife Management Program. Yoyi is located in DNR's GEF II building in Madison.

Scott Loomans was recently hired as the Policy Director for DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management (Kate Strom Hiorns' former position). Scott has held the counterpart position in the Bureau of Wildlife Management for the past ten years. Scott is located in DNR's GEF II building in Madison.

Aimee Crittendon has taken a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leaving a vacancy for DNR's Rapid Response Coordinator position. Efforts to refill this vacancy are underway.

Jennifer Filbert, who was the long-standing keeper of DNR's Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database, has left the program. Efforts to fill this position are underway. Chairman Schumacher asked if Ms. Filbert is still with the DNR. Mr. Feldkirchner and Ms. Bergeson were unsure. Chairman Schumacher noted that he and the Council will miss her and her contributions over the year.

Mr. Kuhn reported that the DATCP has hired two permanent positions – one in nursery inspection and one in regulation. The pest survey and control program is now fully staffed. They are currently interviewing for gypsy moth trappers for the summer. Approximately 20 seasonal employees plus 5-6 LTEs are hired to work in other pest programs, including forest and agricultural programs.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be doing their emerald ash borer trapping again this year. This effort will be kicking off soon. DATCP used to hire the seasonal staff for this, but APHIS has taken this hiring over in the past few years. The effort focuses on getting more data to help make decisions.

Mr. Feldkirchner reported that DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation program is hiring three new staff to work in the State Natural Areas program. He will have more to report on this at the next Council meeting.

Chairman Schumacher welcomed the new staff members.

Update: Required public records training reminder & plan (Tara Bergeson, DNR)

Ms. Bergeson reminded Council members that the public records training must be completed by July 1, 2017. New Council members must complete the training within two weeks of their appointment.

Mr. Schumacher asked that Council members please complete the training by the June 8 Council meeting and let Tara know when they have finished.

There was brief discussion about email records and responsibilities for keeping and archiving them. Are emails on a personal account considered public records if that account is used by a Council member for Council business? If multiple people are included on an email chain, who has ultimate responsibility for keeping that email record? What are the requirements for an outgoing Council member in terms of maintaining that individual's email records related to Council business?

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will follow-up on the public records questions and report back to the Council.

Council Research and Regulations Committee Report (Greg Long)

Mr. Long provided an update on the Species Assessment Group (SAG) review process. The Council is conducting a review of the SAG process with the goal of making adjustments to improve the process prior to a future update to NR 40. The Council received some feedback after the last SAG process that there was inconsistency in the process among the SAG groups (e.g. plants, pests, aquatic species, etc.). A small group will be meeting on May 8 (in person and via Skype) to discuss how the process worked in the past and consider changes that might improve the process in the future. Ms. Bergeson has been working with Mr. Long and Ms. Kelly Kearns (DNR) to prepare a draft agenda for the meeting.

Interagency Committee Report (Brian Kuhn)

This committee has not met for quite some time. Many folks on this committee get together annually at the Plant Pest Summit, which is attended by state and federal agency staff. The Plant Pest Summit is usually held in February of each year. It is a full day meeting format and typically attracts 50-60 participants. It was originally a meeting primarily of DNR and DATCP staff, but has evolved to be a much broader group of stakeholders including DNR, DATCP, University of Wisconsin, APHIS, Forest Service, and Tribes. The Summit includes educational topics and brings in guest speakers to provide updates and research news among other topics. It is a good way to raise awareness across agencies about various efforts on topics of invasive species and pests. For example, at the most recent Summit, participants heard about a truck wash built on Menominee Tribal lands. The truck wash allows logging trucks to drive through and blast tires to remove soil, which might otherwise transport pests and invasive species. Partnerships are key to all of our success, and this meeting is a good example of that. This Summit is a good example of interagency cooperation.

April is Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. APHIS and DATCP are working together to put a news release out about their work related plant pests and disease.

Council Education Committee Report

Ms. Schafer provided the Council with a report on behalf of the Education Committee. The Education Committee met on March 23rd. They re-evaluated the Council goals in relationship to their committee. The Committee is on track to meet the goals set out by the Council for the Education Committee.

The Invader Crusader Awards

The nomination period for the 2017 Invader Crusader Awards has now closed and materials are being compiled to send to the judging panel. Materials will be sent to judges by the end of this week. There were 32 total nominees this year, including 14 new nominees and 18 that were carried over from the past two years. Judges will review the nominations and then hold a conference call to discuss their scoring and finalize winners. The 2017 judges are Hanna Spaul, Jerry Doll, Jim Kerkman, Greg Long, and Paul Schumacher. Winners will be honored at a ceremony on June 8th at the DNR's Mac Kenzie Environmental Center

ISAM video competition

This year will be the 3rd year of the Invasive Species Awareness Month Video Competition. The submittal period opened last week and will close on April 28th. The voting period will be from May 1-21st. Thirteen videos from past years will be re-posting for voting again this year. Ms. Schaefer can provide more information to Council members if they would like it to share with others.

Council website Updates

The Committee is working on developing an "Educators Resources" page for the website. The page will feature curriculum materials for both formal and informal educators from pre-K through college levels. It will also include links to service learning opportunities. One option being explored is to include a sorting

function, similar to that on the Financial Resources webpage, that will make it easier to find resources based on grade level, topic, and resource type (e.g. curriculum, lesson plan, etc.). The committee hopes to present a draft of the page at a future Council meeting.

The Local Ordinances webpage has been updated and now includes a disclaimer – requested by the Council – at the bottom of the page.

Disclaimers: The codes and ordinances provided above are offered as examples only and may not be the most recent version of the adopted laws. Municipalities may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information provided or the information linked to on the Council site. Please check official sources.

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In place of the Education Summit, which has not been held in recent years, the Committee is developing an educator’s matrix to identify where to focus resources and work over the next year. The matrix is a tool to help identify target audiences and how best to reach them, including key messages. It will work kind of like a GAP analysis allowing the committee to see what is already being covered and what needs more work. The Committee will use the matrix to determine what the top 2 or 3 focus areas should be for the coming year. The Council will be asked for feedback when the group has identified the top priorities.

The Education Committee is always looking for additional participants. Council members are welcome to forward names of agency staff to Ms. Schaefer.

The Education Committee will continue meeting bimonthly, with meetings scheduled through the end of 2017.

Conference Call with Senator Baldwin’s Office – Minimally processed imported wood products (Brian Kuhn)

Chairman Schumacher and Mr. Kuhn, along with Mr. Watermolen and Ms. Bergeson (both DNR) recently held a conference call with staff from Senator Tammy Baldwin’s office on the topic of minimally processed imported wood products. Senator Baldwin’s office initiated the call after receiving a letter from the Council outlining concerns about this topic.

Mr. Kuhn provided an update on the issue of pests in minimally processed imported wood products and an update on the call with the Senator’s office.

Minimally processed wood refers to pet chews, furniture and other pathways for pests moving into the state. Based on our experience, most every state in the country had some issue related to receiving products from international trade that were in violation of import requirements to prevent the move of plant pests and disease. Invasive pests are being found on pet chews imported from China. There were some large national recalls over some of this. This highlights the pathways for potential invasions. The National Plant Board (NPB) put together a resolution to APHIS on this topic. The Council also put together a letter in 2016 and sent it to Wisconsin’s Congressional delegates. This is a great example of this Council taking an issue to WI Congressional delegates – an issue that they might not have otherwise known about. The Council’s letter mirrored the NPB resolution asking APHIS to take some actions. APHIS is taking a number of actions that we requested. For example, they have established a process of

notifications for products, which is designed to ensure that products have been treated and are coming in to the United States legally. APHIS is doing outreach to furniture stores on this topic as well.

Pests chew their way out of furniture. In a recent case, some rustic furniture was confiscated in northern Wisconsin. The furniture owners had purchased 21 pieces of furniture. The furniture was collected from the home and transported to La Crosse where it was incinerated. Officials temporarily locked down the store in Wisconsin where the furniture was purchased. All remaining furniture was transported back to Minnesota where it originated and was incinerated. Furniture from a warehouse in Minnesota was also incinerated.

The velvet long-horn beetle is the pest of most concern in these minimally treated wood products. There is potential for it to survive and do well here in Wisconsin.

Mr. Kuhn reported that Senator Baldwin's staff asked many good questions during the conference call and were very interested in the issues. Ms. Bergeson shared a copy of the Council's Strategic Plan with Baldwin's office. DATCP and Minnesota issued a joint press release on the topic. In its letter, the Council reinforced what the National Plant Board was trying to do on this topic. We believe the Senator's office also made contact with APHIS. A call from a Congressional office to APHIS gets attention.

Mr. Feldkirchner asked if any news outlets picked up the DATCP press release. Mr. Kuhn replied that it was picked up by news outlets in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. He took calls from Duluth and a few other places in both states.

Mr. Kuhn noted that getting topics like this out into the public news gets people thinking more broadly about topics like this. The average citizen does not think about this pest pathway.

Mr. Schumacher noted that the Council's Strategic Plan is organized by pathway. He also noted that contacting congressional staff is one way to be true to the plan.

Mr. Kuhn pointed out that APHIS is taking a number of actions on this issue. They are requiring pre-notifications of these types of materials coming in to the country. Education and outreach to the industry is very important. There are many issues with imports from Asia. Mr. Kuhn is interested in doing a rustic furniture survey in Wisconsin. There are likely more manufacturers/ importers of this rustic furniture in Wisconsin than we currently know about.

Mr. Schumacher asked whether Council members wanted to take any further action on the ballast water legislation at this time. He asked if DNR is developing a letter for the newest version of the bill.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will ask Elizabeth Kluesner for an update on DNR's actions related to the ballast water legislation.

Organisms in Trade

Mr. Dreux Watermolen (DNR) and Ms. Mary Bartkowiak (DNR) provided a written update for the Council on this topic because they were unable to attend the meeting today. The update was included in the Council's meeting materials.

Mr. Kuhn noted that Ms. Bartkowiak has met with DATCP staff several times to discuss joint plans for handling OIT. Since the implementation of NR 40, DATCP spends more time on aquatic plants. Outreach materials have been provided to nurseries. There is a good partnership between DATCP and DNR on

Organisms in Trade. Mr. Kuhn has concerns about the amount of staff work at DATCP as a result of NR 40.

Chairman Schumacher asked if the Plant Identification Guide for DATCP Inspectors available. Mr. Kuhn replied that it would be available to others if interested.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will provide this document to Mr. Schumacher.

Mr. Buechel recommends producing these documents in Spanish as well as English.

Mr. Long asked where most of the violations come from? For example, is it big box stores? Mr. Kuhn replied that the majority of violations seem to come from nurseries with some big box stores, too. Big Box stores will usually point to the nurseries from which they got their materials (consignment). The big box stores are often are not members of the nursery association. DATCP visits all nurseries at least every three years. Many are visited very year. If they are international shippers, they are visited every year.

Mr. Schumacher noted that biological suppliers can be a pathway for invasions as well. For example, the infestation of crayfish in several Germantown ponds was due to a high school instructor releasing crayfish into the ponds. It has taken several years to eradicate them. It is a good idea to connect with teachers too.

Ms. Bergeson will be organizing a meeting with DNR staff to identify how the agency might use the GLDIATR tool most effectively within DNR. She will give the Council an update in the future.

TASK: Council members should review the Organisms in Trade written update and consider whether there is anything else that we could be doing? This will be topic for discuss at the June Council meeting.

Outreach and Education Related to NR 40 (Tara Bergeson, DNR)

Ms. Bergeson provided an update on recent invasive species outreach and education efforts by DNR staff.

Invasive Species Updates: White-Nose Syndrome (Drew Feldkirchner)

Mr. Feldkirchner reported that white-nose syndrome was found in many more locations across the state during this winter's monitoring efforts by the agency. It is present at the state's three biggest hibernacula. The original location in Grant County has seen a 98% decrease in the bat population. WNS has now also been found in Texas and Nebraska. DNR will be issuing a news release in the near future. DNR is involved in several research trials on various aspects of the disease including environmental decontamination, and development of a vaccine. Some results are expected late spring or early summer.

Ms. Spaul asked about the known impact of white-nose syndrome in the state. Mr. Feldkirchner replied that 83% of Wisconsin's hibernacula have white-nose syndrome present. Those sites have seen 30-100% declines in bat populations. The state's top three hibernacula have seen about 60% declines. Agency surveyors are seeing signs of white-nose on almost all bats that they encounter.

Mr. Long noted that in Seattle, WA, there are a lot of boxcars sitting around with their doors open all night. Could this be a potential route for spread of the disease? Mr. Feldkirchner responded that Washington has several bat species that we do not have in Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, the little brown bat is the most common and the most impacted by white-nose syndrome. Wisconsin is heavily involved in looking for solutions at a national scale.

Ms. Diss-Torrance asked if eradication of bats at the Washington sites is being considered as a means to control the spread. Mr. Feldkirchner responded that he did not believe eradication is being considered as

an option. It is complicated when you're dealing with an endangered species. There is some level of survival out east in little brown bats.

Invasive Species Updates: Palmer Amaranth (Brian Kuhn)

Mr. Kuhn provided an update on palmer amaranth. Palmer amaranth is an annual plant native to the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. The plant has been documented in annual row crop fields and disturbed, sunny areas in 28 states, including Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Palmer amaranth grows at a rate of two-three inches per day, grows to six-eight feet tall, and may compete aggressively with crops. It spreads via seed and female plants can produce from 250,000-500,000 seeds per plant. Seeds spread through a variety of mechanisms, including movement of water, by wildlife, and through agricultural practices like plowing, harvesting and spreading manure.

In Iowa, pollinator plantings were so popular that native seed sources were depleted. Seed mixes brought in from Texas included Palmer amaranth, which subsequently spread all over the state. At the beginning of 2016, Palmer amaranth was documented in 6-10 counties in Iowa. By the end of the year, it was found in 50 counties. Minnesota has found the plant in 15 NRCS pollinator plantings. Wisconsin officials do not know of any contaminated seed in Wisconsin similar to that in Iowa. The Iowa situation provides a valuable reminder about the importance of using local seed sources.

In Wisconsin, several agencies (FSA, NRCS, DNR, DATCP, UW Extension) have been working together to develop a strategy to address Palmer amaranth in the state. Discussions have included whether it should be included for listing under NR40, but that approach has been set aside for now. Palmer amaranth is easily confused with the pigweeds. At early growth stages, they can't be distinguished without training. This presents a challenge if the plant were to be listed under NR 40.

Palmer amaranth is found in all states surrounding Wisconsin and is known to be in four individual fields (in four counties) in the state. Work is underway to eradicate it from these sites. The state doesn't have the resources to survey all possible plantings in the state where Palmer amaranth could be found. Officials hope that people will self-identify if they find the plant. Outreach efforts are underway to increase awareness.

UW Extension is conducting outreach with growers – primarily with agricultural producers and land owners enrolled in NRCS programs. NRCS is sending letters to thousands of people who are enrolled in all the different programs that have done a planting within the last two years. DATCP's role has been to work with the seed industry to bring awareness to the issue. They have sent information about Palmer amaranth to 700 seed labelers, including information on how to test the seed. DATCP will move forward with listing Palmer Amaranth as a prohibited weed making it illegal for inclusion in seed mix. UW Extension has been training landowners enrolling in NRCS programs.

Palmer amaranth is difficult to control because it has developed resistance to several classes of herbicides and their different modes of action. Research on this topic is underway by Mark Renz (UW Extension). Efforts include trying to identify the mode of resistance that will allow for eradication rather than continual usage of pesticides that do not work.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that we will know by June 2019 if monarch butterfly will be federally listed. A working group has identified the need for 1.6 million additional stems of milkweed to maintain the butterfly population. DNR has submitted a grant to try to keep seed sources local.

Ms. Spaul indicated some surprised that DNR is focusing on this particular issue given the agency’s limited resources. Caution should be employed so that we don’t oversell the idea that just planting milkweed will solve the problem. There is also a need for habitat management. Mr. Feldkirchner agreed, stating that the milkweed planting is part of a much broader strategy.

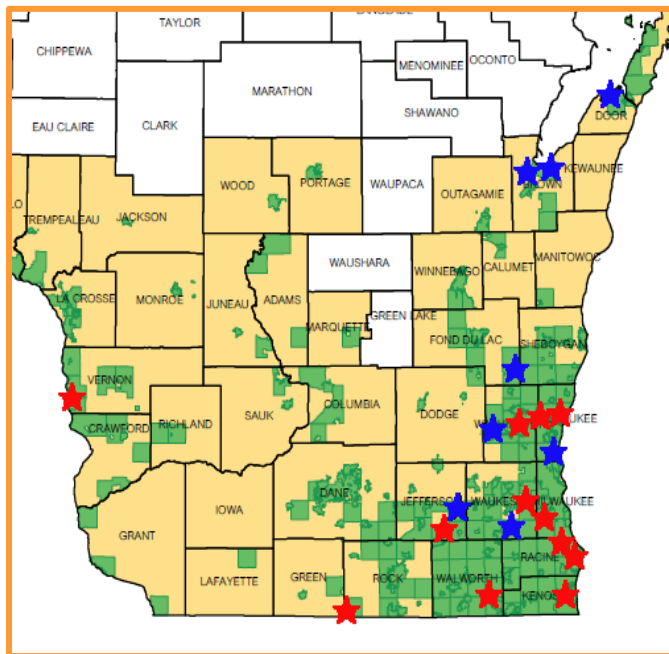
Emerald Ash Borer Biocontrol (Andrea Diss-Torrance, DNR)

Ms. Diss-Torrance provided an update on emerald ash borer biocontrol efforts. Introductions were started in 2011. Introductions are conducted when the following criteria are met: 1) EAB is established and the population is rising but has not yet peaked; 2) Routes of spread available; 3) There is cooperation of landowner/community. Four non-native parasitoids have been released.

Parasitoids are tested for specificity to EAB by APHIS. Occasionally they are found to attack close relatives of EAB of similar size but no significant effect on native species. Parasitoids are supplied by APHIS at no cost to Wisconsin. The actual cost of rearing is about \$1.50/parasitoid.

The map below shows a map of parasitoid releases in Wisconsin.

- Blue = 2016 parasitoid release sites
- Red = 2011-2015 parasitoid release sites
- Yellow = Counties quarantined for EAB
- Green = communities with EAB detections



In 2017, *Tetrastichus planipennis*, *Oobius agrili*, *Spathius galinae* will be released at all sites as available. Seventeen sites in eastern Wisconsin counties have been identified as release sites:

- Brown County: Five sites in Green Bay* a site in Ashwaubenon*
- Door County: Potawatomi State Park
- Fond du Lac County: Mauthe Lake, Kettle Moraine State Forest (KMSF)

Green County: Albany Wildlife Area

Jefferson County: Rome Pond Wildlife Area and Aztalan State Park

Milwaukee County: Schlitz Audubon Center in the village of Bayside*

Ozaukee County: DNR wildlife property in Mequon

Sheboygan County: KMSF- Butler Lake

Washington County: KMSF, Town of Kewaskum and Pike Lake Unit

Waukesha County: Waukesha Co Parks property, Town of Vernon*

* releases will be made by local cooperators

Releases of EAB biological controls are also planned in neighboring states as shown in the maps below.

Minnesota

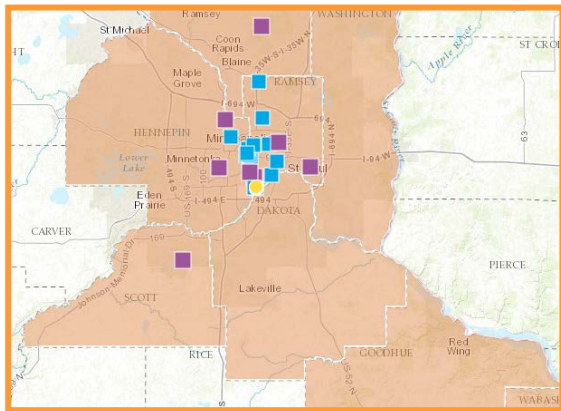
- Minneapolis/St Paul
- Along the Mississippi River

Michigan

- Keweenaw Peninsula

Illinois

- Chicago area



DNR Funding for AIS and Terrestrial Species

Mr. Wakeman provided a written update on aquatic invasive species funding, which was included in the Council’s meeting materials. Ms. Diss-Torrance provided an update on terrestrial invasive species funding within the DNR.

State Lands

- \$25,000 for terrestrial invasive species control non-state forest lands from the Sustainable Forestry Fund;
- \$41,000 for terrestrial invasive species control on State Natural Areas;
- \$1.3 million over three years from Pittman-Robertson for terrestrial and wetland invasive plant control on DNR lands that allow hunting and trapping;

- \$54,660/year for use on northern state forests for terrestrial invasive species control;
- \$70,000/year for use on southern state forests for terrestrial invasive species control;
- \$30,000/year for use on the Black River State Forest for terrestrial invasive species control

Non-State Lands

- \$60,000/year, Weed Management Area Private Forest Grant
 - requires a 25% match from recipient
 - non-industrial private forest lands < 500 acres
- Suppression fund for Prohibited terrestrial sp., no match required
 - \$20,000/year for forest invasive plants from Forestry
 - \$5,000/year for other invasive plants from NHC
 - \$20,000 for 2017 from U.S. Forest Service
 - State gypsy moth suppression program with cost sharing from Forest Service
 - Urban Forestry Grants, state funding supplemented by pass through grants from the Forest Service.
 - 2016: \$314,000 to 36 communities
 - \$100,000 awarded from GLRI to Bay- Lake Regional Planning Commission for community recovery from EAB

A list of available grants for control activities is available on the Council's webpage: <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/financial-assistance/>

Chairman Schumacher raised the issue of European collared doves. The 2017 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings includes a question asking about support for a hunting season for the species. Mr. Kerkman noted that there is no reason to protect this species as they are not native. Ms. Steele agreed that there doesn't seem to be a reason to protect this species. We don't know yet if they would compete with other doves or other species.

Ms. Spaul hasn't looked at this species, but doesn't see an issue with taking away their current protection. She believe the Council should support this hearing question. Mr. Feldkirchner hasn't been involved in the DNR discussions of this issue. It probably resulted from potential confusion during hunting seasons.

Mr. Kerkman moved that the Council support the initiative to remove protection for this species. Ms. Spaul seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Feldkirchner abstained from the vote.

MR. Long also raised the monk parakeet as there is also a spring hearing question related to this species. The question asks whether individuals favor listing the monk parakeet as a nuisance species. This species was first reviewed for NR 40 listing in 2007. It was listed as prohibited species. Mr. Feldkirchner wouldn't support protecting a prohibited species. Mr. Long made a motion that the Council support listing the monk parakeet as a nuisance species. Mr. Kerkman seconded the motion. Chairman Schumacher asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Steele asked whether the species is even known to be in Wisconsin yet. Mr. Long replied not that we know of. They are in Chicago. There was an anecdotal report of one at

Bong Recreation Area. Ms. Steele is not familiar enough with them to know what kind of damage they might cause, but doesn't see a reason to protect this species.

Chairman Schumacher notes that since this is a prohibited species, listing as a nuisance species provides a mechanism for control.

Mr. Long noted that perhaps the motion should be that because this is a prohibited species under NR 40, the Council supports listing it as a nuisance species.

Motion passed. Mr. Feldkirchner abstained from the vote.

Council Goals for 2017-2019

The Council briefly reviewed their 2017-2019 goals. They are making progress on most goals and will continue to track progress.

Council Questions and Feedback on Written Updates

Chairman Schumacher asked if Council members had any questions or comments on the written updates provided to them prior to today's meeting. Council members commented that Neenah Fishery Area has a lot of Amur cork tree. Hemlock woolly adelgid is a pest of concern. Mr. Kerkman noted that Lake Michigan could slow/stop its spread, but it may come around the north to Wisconsin. Mr. Raffa has a Ph.D. student knows this species well. DATCP is working with nurseries in Michigan that were exporting to Wisconsin to ensure that they do not continue to ship to Wisconsin.

Chairman Schumacher noted that the Council would like to have another chance to review the AIS Strategic Plan.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will check with Mr. Bob Wakeman on the AIS Strategic plan schedule.

Mr. Schumacher noted that the June Council meeting will take place at DNR's MacKenzie Center.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will verify that space is reserved at the MacKenzie Center for the June 8 Council meeting and Invader Crusader Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Schumacher asked if the Council Coordinator/Liaison position is funded by DNR? Mr. Feldkirchner responded that the agency is committed to the work. The Natural Heritage Conservation program did not get funding to go along with the position when it moved from Science Services to NHC in December 2016. The goal is to develop a project position to do this work in the future, but there is nothing in NHC's current budget that covers this work.

Mr. Long asked if there are any issues in the budget that the Council should be aware of. Mr. Kerkman noted that the current proposal to cut funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) program is a concern. Ms. Spaul noted that it would be worthwhile to put together a letter from the Council on the benefits of GLRI and concerns about the loss of the program.

Mr. Feldkirchner notes that DNR was directed not to ask for additional funds through the budget. He is not aware of any cuts that would impact invasive species work within the agency.

Ms. Spaul asked whether the proposed changes to the mill tax would impact invasive species work? Mr. Kuhn expressed concern about the proposed mill tax change. DATCP gets funding for gypsy moth work

through mill tax. Ms. Spaul noted that this is a good example of the need to be proactive on issues like this. The Nature Conservancy and other organizations have commented against the proposed changes. Mr. Kerkman noted that the Council on Forestry also put forth a letter.

TASK: Mr. Kerkman will send sample mill tax letters to Ms. Bergeson.

TASK: Ms. Spaul will share related materials of interest with the Council.

Adjourn

Mr. Kuhn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Feldkirchner seconded the motion. Motion passed. Chairman Schumacher adjourned the meeting at 2:32 PM.