

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Office of Invasive Species Coordination

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Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Steve Sanford
RE: May 28 Meeting Notes

DATE: 10 June 2009

The 5th Meeting of the New York Invasive Species Council was held at the Agriculture & Markets Headquarters on Thursday, May 28. Eight of the 9 member agencies were represented. Please see the *Attendee* document for a complete list.

The Council worked its way through the entire *Agenda* as planned. Following are some of the key discussion points and deliverables:

1. Personnel

DOT ~ Mary Ivey has left her previous position to now serve as DOT's Region 1 Director in their Schenectady office. Kyle Williams represented DOT on the Council but Daniel Hitt will serve as the official rep henceforth. TNC led a recognition of Kyle's many and significant contributions to invasive species management in New York, in his role at DOT, serving the Task Force and later the Council. Although Kyle is being pulled in other directions at DOT, we are hopeful that we can still rely on his perspective and insights. We also look forward to working with Peter Dunleavy, who will assist Dan Hitt at the staff level on IS matters.

Canals ~ Howard Goebel introduced Chris Adriance. Mr. Adriance is a fisheries biologist who will be serving Canals on numerous environmental matters and will be their point on IS issues.

Advisory Committee ~ Ellen Talmage, NYS Flower Industries rep, has had to step down from the Committee because of a job change. We will miss her happy and helpful attitude. OISC will work with the Council and the AC to identify potential candidates to fill this slot.

2. Recent Invasions

Oak Wilt ~ DEC Division of Lands & Forests oversaw an eradication of Oak Wilt in the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County, by cutting and chipping about 74 canopy-sized oaks in a

suburban neighborhood.

Spiny Waterflea ~ Numerous partners – including APIPP, Lake George Association, Lake Champlain Basin Program, and DEC - joined several Great Sacandaga Lake groups to implement spread prevention. Key components are signage, print media messages, and especially boat ramp “stewards” to work directly with boaters to improve understanding and awareness of boater’s potential role in spreading – or preventing the spread – of IS on watercraft, trailers and associated gear.

Feral Swine ~ DAM’s David Smith described known feral swine populations in several counties around New York. State and federal agencies will be meeting in June to share information and develop a response strategy.

3. Council Processes

The Council reviewed two draft process documents. One relates to decision-making in general and the other to spending. Both are being revised by OISC to reflect Council input.

The Council will also request that Advisory Committee provide input on spending priorities. The Council anticipates that the ability to spend EPF in SFY 09-10 (the current fiscal year) will be limited and that the Council may need to make some very difficult spending decisions. Agencies are currently awaiting a “cash management plan” for the EPF; it is expected sometime in June or July. Tentatively, the Council will meet shortly thereafter to consider readjustment of allocations.

4. Advisory Committee

Chairman Jim Hood described recent activities. The Committee has charged a small team to prepare a “white paper” on the potential for a “boat transport law” that would regulate the movement of IS via boats and trailers.

5. Eradication Grant Strategy

The Council continued the discussion from the last meeting. Discussion focused on ways to increase the strategic benefit of the program. One specific recommendation was to enable the use of grant funds for follow-up monitoring. OISC will draft a standard/minimum set of requirements for future monitoring. The monitoring protocols would allow use of grant funds for monitoring but cap the proportion; they would also describe a role for citizen science. Finally, the Council also discussed and generally supported the potential for a third type of grant program: one for agricultural projects. DAM will draft a conceptual proposal.

6. Four-tier Lists

OISC Regulatory Coordinator Dave Adams presented an update on the progress of the Four-tier List report development. He asked the Council members to comment specifically on the “socio-economic tool process” and whether to consider recommending the regulation of individual species regionally within the State. The group also discussed the potential for increasing the participation and engagement of the nursery and other industries. OISC will explore possibilities with Ag & Markets staff. Finally, Dave requested help in drafting certain sections of the report, a preliminary draft of which will be available for Council review sometime during the summer.

7. Voluntary Codes of Conduct

The *Voluntary Codes of Conduct for Government* were discussed very briefly. A version developed by Ag & Markets will be circulated for Council agency review. A key unresolved question is whether all Council agencies can adopt a single code or tailor individual codes to each agency.

8. Economic Stimulus Projects

Two proposals have been developed for potential funding through a future federal economic stimulus package. These will be shared (e-mailed) with the Council and the Advisory Committee shortly to spur additional ideas and conceptual proposals.

9. Research Institute

New York Invasive Species Research Institute Coordinator Holly Menninger presented an overview of the newly-founded institute. She described the cataloguing of researchers and research funding sources and also the establishment of the Research Advisory Board. The Board will provide the basis for ISRI’s recommendations to the Council regarding research needs, priorities and opportunities. The Council will discuss research needs at a future meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Co-Chairs Moody-Czub and Amato will schedule Meeting # 6 when information from the EPF cash management plan is available. In the meantime, an inquiry (Doodle.com poll) for available mid-late summer dates will be e-mailed soon.

Finally, the Council expressed interest in trying to schedule a fall meeting coincident with the 2009 NY Association of Conservation Districts in Lake George, October 19/20, as offered by AC Local Government rep Tom Nichols. OISC will follow up on behalf of the Council.

As ever, I would welcome any corrections or suggested additions to these notes.

SJS