

**Illinois Invasive Species Management
Terrestrial Plants Committee
September 16, 2021
10:00AM**

Present: Chris Evans, Kellie Schmidt, Evan Barker, Aaron Hager, Cathy Ward, Kelly Neal, Dan Connelly, Clair Ryan, Philip Cox, Brian Aaron, Mark Jirik, Marc McCormack

Agenda

1. **Update from General Council Meeting** – Presented by Chris Evans
 - Larger council met in late July and Chris gave an update from our committee, in addition to Pests & Pathogens, chaired by Tricia Bethke
 - Aquatics committee, led by Dr. Ruben Keller, still being formed, and Wildlife Committee, led by Mike Wiefer? is still being formed
 - Discussed need for sharing/storing files for committees
 - Gmail address for Invasive Council has been created, in addition to file storage setup, for a history, consistent point of contact in the case of future turnover
 - Lot of conversation around reporting, responsibility to the public/education, priority of items the council will need to address
 - Council concluded that it doesn't make sense for each committee to use the same protocol for assessment but that each committee will determine the best course of action for their taxa
 - DNR is looking at the potential for hosting a public facing website
 - Annual meeting will be hosted on December 7, open to the public – will keep the committee posted on what will be presented, speakers to be scheduled, etc

2. **Review of Assessment Protocol Data from Other States** - Presented by Claire Ryan
 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SPREADSHEET ON GOOGLE DRIVE](#)
 - MIPN board recently published a paper regarding invasive risk assessment that Clair shared with our committee
 - Clair has summarized and linked to all available protocols in the chart
 - In most states, the decision point is linked to the literature review and then is determined by a vote
 - The other way to do it is with a score sheet and some numeric score
 - When Indiana and Ohio first developed their protocols, it wasn't to regulate plants, it was just to put plants on a list. Ohio doesn't take any economic factors into account
 - Missouri is the outlier in the Midwest because they use a purely data driven approach, evaluated by experts in the field
 - Iowa and Kentucky don't have a risk assessment protocol
 - The Illinois protocol listed in the chart is from the previous iteration of the council; it was not a quantitative analysis. It was a council discussion and was a vote to recommend for regulation only.
QUESTION: Is the council in the position to affect the Noxious Weed Law? As a subcommittee, one of our recommendations could be that we recommend that the Noxious Weed Law have stricter enforcement and more funding to enforce.
 - States that are having a great deal of success fighting this are the ones who are stopping plants before they come into
 - Is it possible we could take a look at emphasis on both the Noxious and Exotic laws because the agencies don't have the resources to enforce the plant side of the work. Their resources are focused on pesticides.
 - On the industry side, growers look at reasonable substitutes when states determine that something is invasive. They respond to supply/demand. It is our responsibility from an ecology and economic perspective to find a replacement.
 - **Next Step:** Subgroup will be formed to evaluate the plant protocols – Chris, Evan, Brian – email Chris with your input by October 15

3. **Overview of Communication/Awareness Pieces from Other States** – Presented by Kellie Schmidt
 - [VIEW PDF OF SLIDES](#)

4. Review of Other Business

VIEW MEETING NOTES FROM JUNE MEETING

- a. How do we propose a change to the Exotic Weeds Act from the species listed in the act to the listed in the administrative rule, similar to how it is done in the Noxious Weed Law. Having species listed in administrative rule would make it easier to make corrections when necessary. Example: A big box store selling *Frangula alnus*, which just changed from *Rhamnus frangula* (honest mistake due to the name change).
 - If we could get a change to the law so it's in the admin rules, it would be easier to take action (Lowes in Springfield was selling a plant that had a name change but was indeed regulated)
 - Committee would need to write up a proposal for the rules change to be taken to DNR
 - **Action Item** – Phil to take the lead on this process; committee will have an opportunity to review and vote
- b. Plan for creation of materials to give businesses that mistakenly sell plants listed in the acts, and/or handout before as a preventative measure.
- c. Plan for creating watch list(s) for educational/awareness purposes to help spread the word about invasive tendencies
- d. Plan to develop contemporary reporting mechanisms for both invasive species sales violations and new invader infestations
- e. Should our committee consider interacting with additional state agencies? For example, making a recommendation to change mowing schedules for interstate highways to help reduce seed spread of species such as *Dipsacus*?

NEXT MEETING – We will meet in January. Kellie will send a doodle poll for everyone to fill in their availability.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Presentation outline of the Past History of the Invasive Species Council Effort in Illinois
https://igia.memberclicks.net/assets/Invasive_Species/Plant%20Council%20History%20handout.pdf
2. Illinois Invasive Species Council Bylaws
https://igia.memberclicks.net/assets/Invasive_Species/IISC%20By%20Laws%2011-20.pdf
3. Illinois Invasive Species Council Members
https://igia.memberclicks.net/assets/Invasive_Species/IISC%20Council%202021-22.pdf
4. Terrestrial Plants Committee Members
https://igia.memberclicks.net/assets/Invasive_Species/Terrestrial_Plants_Committee_Members.pdf
5. Illinois Regulations Regarding Invasive Plant Species
https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/illinois_regulations_regarding_invasive_species_updated_2015.pdf