

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Office of Invasive Species Coordination**

**Fifth Floor**

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Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Invasive Species Council  
**FROM:** Steve Sanford  
**RE:** January 29 Meeting Notes

**DATE:** 3 February 2009

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the New York Invasive Species Council was held at the Agriculture & Markets Headquarters on Thursday, January 29. Eight of the 9 member agencies were represented:

Jackie Moody-Czub, Co-Chair, DAM  
Chris Amato, DEC, Co-Chair, DEC  
Mary Ivey, DOT  
John Wimbush, DOS  
Kurt Weiskotten, Thruway Authority  
Pam Otis, OPRHP  
Dan Spada, APA (and Curt Stiles on conference phone)  
Howard Goebel, Canal Corporation

The Council was joined by several members from the New York Invasive Species Advisory Committee:

Jim Hood, NYISAC Chair, NYSFOLA, Lake George association  
Troy Weldy, The Nature Conservancy  
Beth Seme, Council of Agricultural Organizations / NYS Turfgrass Association  
Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program  
Laura McCarthy, Audubon New York  
Hilary Smith, TNC / Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program  
Nicole Willis, NY Farm Bureau (on conference phone)

Brian Nearing, Science & Environment reporter for the Albany Times-Union newspaper attended the first half of the meeting.

In a departure from the Council's first three meetings, this meeting was not webcast. This decision was made after receiving a legal opinion from DEC's Office of General Counsel that the Council was exempt from the requirements of Executive Order # 3. In light of the constrained budget environment, the Department cannot support discretionary expenditures.

The Council worked its way through the entire Agenda as planned. Unsurprisingly, the Spending and Budget items garnered substantial attention. There was also considerable interest in recent invasions, especially Asian Long-horn Beetle in both Staten Island and Massachusetts. Following are some of the key discussion points and deliverables:

### **1. Council Processes**

The Council agreed to discuss, at our next meeting, how it might advise the Governor's office on budget matters. This discussion would also help the Council to clarify its mission, roles, and decision-making procedures. In the same vein, the Council will clarify the assistance it needs from the Advisory Committee.

Before the next meeting, OISC will take the lead on a) developing some alternatives regarding the Council's communication with the Governor's Office and b) getting legal advice on this topic.

### **2. Four-tier Lists**

OISC Regulatory Coordinator Dave Adams presented an update on the progress of the Four-tier List report development. He will be asking Council members to comment upon the process, timeline and a "tool" that is designed to objectively assess the potential invasivity of plants. Ultimately, the concepts in this tool will be adapted for use with animals and also to evaluate social values. A formal request will be e-mailed shortly.

### **3. Voluntary Codes of Conduct**

The *Voluntary Codes of Conduct for Government* were first discussed at Meeting # 2. The Council agreed to try to accomplish internal agency review by early March so that the Council could potentially announce its adoption of the Codes in time for Earth Day 2009 (late April). *Draft Codes*, along with annotations that relate them to Title 17 (ECL Article 9-17, New York Invasive Species Council), have been distributed to Council members by OISC Director Steve Sanford. Although the *Codes* were originally developed to guide the use of plants, the *Draft* expands their scope to include animals as well.

### **4. Economic Stimulus Projects**

Many agencies have already responded to requests for projects that could be funded through a federal economic stimulus package. "Phase I" proposals have generally focused on conventional infrastructure construction projects. Although the first package has not been finalized, many anticipate additional opportunities. In order to prepare for future opportunities, both the Council

and the Advisory Committee will develop lists of potential projects; each project would be described conceptually with a rough estimate of its cost. A formal request will be e-mailed shortly.

## **5. Eradication Grant Strategy**

The Council reviewed the past and current delivery of the eradication grants. 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. Members agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

## **6. Next Meeting**

Co-Chairs Moody-Czub and Amato will schedule Meeting # 5 about 3 months from now. An inquiry for available dates will be e-mailed soon.

Potential agenda items discussed include:

- Discussion of Council processes (as described above)
- Update on Asian Long-horn Beetle invasions and responses (invite Jerry Carlson)
- Continue discussion on eradication grant strategy
- Invasive Species Research Institute (invite Holly Menninger)
- Budget & Spending

Although these notes are not intended as complete minutes *per se*, I would welcome any corrections or suggested additions.

SJS

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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 5<sup>th</sup> 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