

**CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CISAC)
MEETING
CDFA AUDITORIUM**

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on May 10, 2011 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Doug Johnson.

CISAC Members Present:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Brandon, Victoria | DiTomaso, Joseph | Fox, Andrea |
| Godfrey, Larry | Goldsmith, Jay | Guise, Vince |
| Hoffman, Robert | Johnson, Doug | Lydick, Julie |
| McDowell, Karen | Peterson, Betsy | Warner, Keith |

CISAC Members Absent:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Arcularius, Linda | Conser, Christiana | De Leon, Ricardo |
| Pattison, David | Randall, John | Schierenbeck, Kristina |
| Sonnabend, Zea | | |

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff Present:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Espinoza, Alexandra | Estep, Casey | Leavitt, Robert |
| Lugo, Matt | Pegos, David | Ross, Karen |
| Zadig, Dorthea | | |

Opening Comments:

Committee Chair Doug Johnson and CDFa Secretary Karen Ross welcomed the committee, staff and members of the public participating in person and on-line.

Approval of Minutes.

Since the minutes of the March 9 meeting were not available until immediately before the meeting, approval was postponed until after the lunch break hour in order to give members an opportunity to review them. Written public comments submitted at the March meeting were distributed, and will be included with the minutes as an addendum.

CISAC Meeting Minutes on Website.

All previous meeting minutes will be posted on the website. This meeting is being broadcast live on the web and is also being recorded.

Strategic Framework Update.

A second draft of the Framework was released for public comment with a deadline of June 17, 2011. Comments will be accepted via the ISCC website, telephone, fax, and email. A Listening Session will also be held on Thursday May 12, 2011 at the California Environmental Protection Agency, with a simultaneous webcast. CISAC members Doug Johnson, Andrea Fox, Betsy Peterson, Vince Guise, Christiana Conser, and Larry Godfrey will attend the Listening Session in person, and others may participate via the web. CISAC will revise the Framework draft after comments are received, and present it to ISCC for further revision and approval.

ISCC updates.

ISCC is aware of actions to date, wants to be fully engaged, and will meet in person to adopt the Framework. Full transparency is the objective, and dialogue is under way. Secretary Ross has met with members of the community to discuss the Strategic Framework and invasive species control programs, and expects to meet with experts from the University of California soon.

Invasive Species List and Scorecards.

The Invasive Species List website was projected on the screen and the process discussed. Both comments and responses are automatically recorded chronologically. A number of new reviewers have signed on recently, with many saying that the list and process are extremely useful. The Specialty Crop Block Grant that CISAC received this year includes funding to revise and adapt list design and add new content. At the present time the list is very accessible to reviewers but could be made more valuable as a communications tool aimed at the general public. It could also be improved by including processes for prioritizing pending threats, for formally categorizing information on pathways, and for identifying gaps in existing programs. It is questionable whether the public has been sufficiently informed about the existence of the list, which could be a tool to encourage citizen science: we need informed citizenry and public engagement, especially in this time of extreme budgetary constraint when cuts are reducing the state's ability to respond. Collaboration with federal partners, business leaders, and academia is essential. It would also be useful to prepare a written protocol on the criteria used in the scorecards, since it's important for the public to know that the choices aren't arbitrary.

Farmers' Market Outreach Campaign.

Andrea Fox handed out first draft printouts of the brochure that CISAC plans to distribute at farmers markets, and asked the committee to critique the design and messaging. A number of suggestions were made that she will pass along to the designer to incorporate in a second draft. After the brochure is ready we need to work with markets on distribution, and later to get feedback to evaluate effectiveness.

Report from CDFA entomologist Dr Kevin Hoffman.

Tracking of exotic fruit flies has been ongoing since the 1950s, and specimens from two new species were recently collected in Orange and Los Angeles counties. Existing quarantines on the Oriental fruit fly in Los Angeles and the Mekong fly in Kern County will end at the beginning of June. Monitoring for the red palm weevil continues in

Orange County, with no new finds this year although there have been unconfirmed reports of a related species in San Diego County. There is no evidence that the Asian citrus psyllid has moved into any additional counties, though there have been several recent additional discoveries in known counties, including more than 400 finds spread over 200 square miles in Los Angeles County. Treatment is ongoing, with 20,562 square miles currently under quarantine. Huanglongbing, the citrus disease carried by the psyllid, has not yet occurred in California. The European grapevine moth program has knocked down the populations: so far this spring 50 moths have been trapped in Napa, eight in Sonoma, and several in Santa Clara, compared to more than 70,000 captured in these counties by this time last year. Growers have been very cooperative, as have homeowners.

Adjourn for Lunch. (12:00 noon – 1 p.m.)

REPORTS

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Conference – Little Rock, AR

Karen McDowell reports on a recent Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. The combination of tornadoes and floods in the Middle West has affected fish farms which contain Asian black carp for snail control, scattering fish and merging ponds and making it likely that these fish will become a problem. Within the past year lionfish have spread throughout the Caribbean. The Task Force is forming subcommittees, working on best management practices for the pet industry, and revising recreational guidelines. McDowell now chairs the 19-state Western Regional panel.

Oregon Invasive Species Council Presentation on the “Don’t Move Firewood: Buy it Where You Burn It” Campaign.

Lisa DeBruyckere of the Oregon Invasive Species Council provided a presentation on the “Don’t Move Firewood: Buy it Where You Burn It” campaign to prevent the spread of forest pests. This Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) program can easily be adapted for use in California. A variety of outreach materials (posters, videos, billboards, and handouts) were directed at campers, urging them to buy firewood at campsites instead of bringing it from home. The most effective single tool was a message posted on state and national park website reservation systems, saying “don’t move firewood.” Surveys after the campaign indicated that 58 percent of campers changed their practices, and 70 percent of those who spoke to a park ranger or campsite host did so. Interstate and inter-regional retail sales of firewood are also a huge problem, requiring a combination of outreach, voluntary action, and government regulation. Firewood is a very decentralized industry and a national campaign is needed.

Discussion: This Pacific Northwest (PNW) program provides an excellent messaging model. The objective is not to stop firewood importation, but to get people to think about the consequences of their actions, and to encourage the industry to adopt heat-treatment as a norm.

Motion: CISAC endorses the campaign materials and strategies developed by the PNW firewood task force, and encourage the California task force to find funding sources to implement the program.

Made by: Julie Lydick

Second: Vince Guise

All in favor.

California Department of Fish and Game – Update on the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in California.

Martha Volkoff of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) discusses the agency's efforts to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels. Quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead in Jan 2007 and have since infested twenty reservoirs and lakes in southern California as well as the Colorado River and Aquaduct. A population of zebra mussels was also discovered in an isolated reservoir in San Benito County. An interagency team consisting of many state agencies, several federal partners, and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District meets quarterly, with the goals of preventing further introductions, containing current infestations, and possibly eradicating certain populations. Fish and Game Code (FGC) section 2301 authorizing inspections and response plans is set to sunset in December 2011, with extension legislation now in progress. FGC code 2302 requires reservoir managers to establish prevention programs. DFG has also created a canine program, with about twenty dogs currently in service, and a statewide monitoring program. A number of local prevention, inspection, outreach, and monitoring programs also exist. Between January 2007 and December 2010 CDFA inspected 500,000 vessels at border stations, and found mussels on 748 boats, which were all quarantined. Outreach materials specific to both infested and non-infested waters have been created, as well as a guide for decontaminating different kinds of boats and a guidebook for water managers on how to monitor for mussels and prevent their spread. A report from the Mussel Summit held in October 2010 is expected soon. In the future the agency wants to implement an action plan, improve laws and regulations, develop more funding, revisit outreach materials, and improve susceptibility data sets.

CDFA Feral Pig Presentation.

Dorthea Zadig of the California Department of Food and Agriculture discusses a proposal to prevent the spread of feral pigs in San Diego County: this population is small and isolated, offering the potential for eradication. CDFA is collaborating with DFG to determine the best strategy.

Severe CDFA budget cuts impacting invasive species programs were mentioned at the March 9 meeting: CISAC would like more information about specifics. Even though the state is facing major fiscal constraints, it's important to preserve minimal funding rather than allowing very effective programs to disappear completely. Leavitt: many business leaders have been involved in making these tough decisions. Some programs such as the Noxious Weed Program and Biological Control Program have been severely trimmed but with infrastructure kept in place so that they can be fully implemented again after the economy rebounds.

Approval of March 9 Minutes. Several CISAC members provided corrections. Future minutes will incorporate oral public comments by providing the name of the commenter and subject discussed.

Motion: That the transcript of written public comments is attached to the minutes as an addendum, and the draft posted to the website, pending approval of the corrected version at the next meeting.

Made by: Victoria Brandon

Second: Andrea Fox

All in favor.

Video: The 30-second PSA video prepared by the PNW firewood task force was shown: California has been given permission to distribute this effective outreach tool.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10AM on Wednesday July 13, in Sacramento.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Brandon, CISAC secretary.