

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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on January 19, 2012 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Doug Johnson.

CISAC Members Present:

Brandon, Victoria	Buhr, Karen,	Christiana, Conser
Cranney, Jim	DeLeon, Ricardo	Forester, Richard
Fox, Andrea	Goldsmith, Jay	Guise, Vince
Johnson, Doug	Lydick, Julie	Martin, Marcy
McDowell, Karen	Pattison, David	Peterson, Betsy
Schierenbeck, Kristina	Wall, Robin	Wright, Helene

CISAC Members Absent:

Atkins, Bob	Cummings, Lou Anne	
DiTomaso, Joseph	Godfrey, Larry	Merrill, Jeannie
Randall, John		

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

Espinoza, Alexandra	Morris, Amber	Pegos, David
Webster, Austin	Kelch, Dean	Leavitt, Robert
Sawyer, Susan		

Department of Fish and Game Staff Present:

Ellis, Susan

Opening Comments:

Chair Doug Johnson welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online.

TRANSITION CEREMONY

Secretary Karen Ross, on behalf of the ISCC, welcomed the new Committee members and thanked the current members for all of their hard work and dedication. Doug Johnson was presented with a plaque of appreciation for contributing his time and efforts while serving as the Committee's Chair. Andrea Fox took over as the new Chair and Victoria Brandon as Vice-Chair.

PRESENTATION:

Re-Envisioning pest management- Dr. Jim Carry, UC Davis.

In pest management we cannot eradicate our way out of invasive species problems in California. We have to re-think this problem and reconceive pest management and biology. There are four main drivers for change: (1) USDA and CDFA's budgets decreasing; (2) increase in exotic pest outbreaks; (3) continuing environmental concerns and; (4) demands for scientific accounting. Science itself is changing and there is a need for a new strategic framework. Invasion biology, integrated pest management and area wide management need a paradigm shift. The goal is to develop general protocols and scientific principles that apply to all pests and then each would have specifics for management and attempting eradication. The first step in developing the strategic framework is to create a white paper policy forum. A retreat is being organized for a small group of big thinkers to come together and work on creating the white paper. After the white paper is complete the next steps would be to have workshops, protocol development, and then completion which could possibly end in a symposium. CISAC can contribute to this process by critiquing the white paper and other documents produced throughout this process as well as engaging in a larger discussion about paradigm change.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nan Wishner-The current paradigm and approach to invasive species isn't working. As a result we need to reinvent. Our current approach is not working because it costs taxpayers a lot of money for the personnel required to manage quarantines and to address all the various control and eradication methods. Most importantly the use of chemical pesticides costs each individual by impacting our shared environment and our health. California Environmental Health Initiative (CEHI) urges CISAC to reconsider their support for CDFA's Pest PEIR and center their attention on supporting an independent PEIR that would focus on non chemical alternatives.

Jane Kelly- Member of CEHI and co Lead for two native habitat restoration projects. Concerned about introduced species but also concerned about the amount of pesticides used to address the problem. The current approach to pest management is unsustainable in terms of increasing economic impacts on farmers, health and environmental effects and the cost to taxpayers. We need a new approach to pest management led by an independent institution such as UC Davis. There needs to be an independent evaluation of all practices and recommendations for change. CEHI is part of an expanding coalition that includes 39 groups and cities that oppose CDFA's pest PEIR. Rather than continuing to expand that coalition, CEHI could be devoting their time and energy to providing a public perspective to form an independent 21st century invasive species management program based on the work of Dr. Carey and others at UC Davis.

Lynn Elliot-Harding- Member of CEHI and part of the 5th generation born on a family farm. As a registered nurse the medical literature shows that herbicides and pesticides are causing irreparable damage to public health. Many pesticides included in CDFA's Pest PEIR can cause health defects. CEHI would be glad to help bring in scientific health professionals if CISAC would like a panel to discuss the health impacts of the pesticides being used in California.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bagley-Keane Open Meeting Requirements- Michele Dias, CDFA

Bagley-Keane is found in the Government Code and covers all state boards, commissions and advisory committees that were created in statute or government order. CISAC was created under neither of these circumstances; however, CISAC has volunteered to apply Bagley-Keane to their meetings. Requirements generally include that you publicly post meetings notices, prepare public agendas, and conduct your business in the open where the public can attend. A meeting occurs when there is a quorum of a body that comes together, that's majority plus one. If less than a quorum attends you cannot take action on any item. You are allowed to contact members on the committee to discuss an item on the agenda. However, you are prohibited from calling members on the committee with the intent of influencing a decision later. If a member of the Committee would like to attend a meeting via conference call, the location where they are making the call from must be made available to the public. In regards to accessing records, any items that are handed out to the Committee should be made available to the public as they enter a meeting room. The Committee is allowed to have closed sessions; they are usually limited to personnel matters and litigation. If Bagley-Keane is violated, any decisions that were made while under violation would be overturned. During meetings, Bagley-Keane requires that the public have opportunity to comment before actions are taken. This can be done on a decision-by-decision basis or on a consolidated basis prior to decisions being made.

Overview of the ISCC and CISAC- David Pegos, CDFA

The ISCC is chaired by the Secretary of CDFA and vice-chaired by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Its members also include Secretaries from the Environmental Protection Agency, Business Transportation and Housing, Health and Human Services, and the Emergency Management Agency. The ISCC's purpose is to coordinate comprehensive efforts to prevent invasive species from entering the State and to eliminate, reduce and mitigate impacts of invasive species that are presently in California. The primary functions of the ISCC are to use their programs and authorities to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species through rapid detection and response, monitoring invasive populations, restoring native species and invaded ecosystems, conducting research, developing new technologies and promoting public outreach and education about invasive species. CISAC was appointed by the ISCC and tasked with making recommendations to develop and prioritize an Invasive Species Action Plan along with other duties. Since being appointed, CISAC has created a list of over 1700 invasive

species that are in the State or have a reasonable likelihood of entering. The Committee has also developed a Strategic Framework for addressing invasive species in California.

DISCUSSION:

Bio security Requirements- Rick DeLeon, Metropolitan Water District

We can use the water industry as an example of questions and concerns that have come up in regards to biosecurity. The water industry is considered a potential target for terrorism because it represents critical infrastructure, is associated with the government, and public health is at stake. Potential terrorist threats were classified on the basis of cyber attacks, physical destruction of facilities, and the element of contamination from biological and radiological chemicals. The Bio Terrorism Act was established in 2002. One of the key requirements of the Act was to prepare a performance of vulnerability assessment that would highlight what areas are most vulnerable. After the assessment was prepared and submitted it was then a requirement to develop a plan to reduce those vulnerabilities, also known as hardening the system. Every water utility in the country was required to follow this process and submit their vulnerability assessments to the Environmental Protection Agency, who regulates the drinking water industry. These assessments are not available to the public. There are some similarities to a vulnerability assessment and a pathways analysis. When completing the pathways analysis CISAC needs to consider how much information should be readily available to the public.

Robin Wall- US Customs and Border Protection

Agro-terrorism is the use of or threatened use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents against one or more components of food sectors. Agriculture is subject to terrorism for many reasons; minimal security to farm structures, highly concentrated in livestock, disease agents require little to no expertise to handle, agro-terrorism agents are easy to conceal and distribute, and the cost effective is a small amount compared to the damage that can be caused.. Biosecurity programs attempt to prevent harm from intentional or unintentional introductions of organisms to human health, animals and infrastructure. The pathways for agro-terrorism vary, from the crops to livestock to food processors and restaurants. CBP Agriculture Specialists are tasked with protecting international borders from plant animal diseases and the intentional introduction of harmful pathogens and byproducts.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

(a) Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011 CISAC meeting.

Made by: Victoria Brandon

Second: Christiana Conser

All in favor, none opposed, one abstaining: Richard Forester, because he was not present at the November 9, 2011 meeting.

(b) Overview of Travel Expense Claims

Committee members are entitled to reimbursement for travel costs. The rates at which they will be reimbursed are the same as CDFA's rates. Travel expense claims are to be completed and turned into Andrea Fox, Chair of the Committee, who administers the Specialty Crop Block Grant that currently covers travel expenses.

(c) Select the 2012 Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for keeping track of key decisions made at the meetings and conferring with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion: Nominate Christiana Conser as the Secretary of CISAC

Made by: Victoria Brandon

Second: Betsey Peterson

All in favor; none opposed.

(d) Set the 2012 Meetings

The committee was given a choice of meeting on either the third Wednesday or Thursday of the month, four or six times a year.

Andrea asked the committee how often they would like to meet and those who wanted 6 times a year raised their hands and those who wanted 4 times a year raised theirs. There was not a strong enough movement to switch to four times a year, so the decision was to stick with six times a year. The dates for the 2012 meetings are, May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15.

(e) Letter from Secretary Ross regarding Quagga/ Zebra Mussel

Secretary Karen Ross received a letter from the Lake County Board of Supervisors asking for action to the legislature in regards to the Lake County Resolution. The committee was asked by Secretary Ross to review the letter and develop recommendations to present to the ISCC.

Motion: Create a Sub-Committee on Invasive Mussels to address the letter from the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

First: Victoria Brandon

Second: Kristina Shreinbeck

All in favor; none opposed.

Mussel Sub-Committee volunteers: Jay Goldsmith, Victoria Brandon, Richard Forester, Rick DeLeon, and Karen McDowell.

PRESENTATION:

CAPS Program- Dr. Jack Qiu, USDA APHIS

The Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) was created in 1982 by the USDA and distributes federal funds to agencies and stakeholders for surveillance, detection, and

monitoring of agricultural crop pests and biological control agents. The Objectives of the CAPS Program are to promote early detection, safeguard America's agriculture, and support US export.

Farm Bill 10201- Helene Wright, USDA State Plant Health Director

Under the 2008 Farm Bill section 10201, (plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention) it was mandated that the Secretary of the USDA enter into cooperative agreements with the States and the States in return agreed to conduct early plant pest detection and surveillance activities. It was also mandated that the USDA establish threat identification and mitigation programs, conduct risk assessments, and provide funds and technical assistance to specialty crop growers. The key strategies of the Farm Bill are to enhance plant pest and disease analysis and surveillance, target domestic inspection activities at vulnerable points in the safeguard continuum, enhance and strengthen pest identification and technology, safeguard nursery production, conduct outreach and education, and enhance mitigation capabilities.

UPDATES:

(a) Website (Victoria Brandon)

The CISAC website has a section with personal statements from each of the Committee members, new members will need to prepare one to be posted. The Committee suggested that the public comments that were made during the development of the Strategic Framework be displayed on the website somewhere. It was also suggested that the website have a page with links to other important websites pertaining to invasive species. The Committee agreed to look at the website and have a discussion at the March 22, meeting in regards to what they can do to improve the website.

(b) Strategic Framework (Victoria Brandon)

The Strategic Framework is complete and ready to be printed. The Committee agreed to print 2000 copies to be distributed per the list already developed.

(c) Invasive Species List/ Pathways (Christiana Conser)

Started working on the pathways analysis for all five taxa groups on the Invasive Species List in August. The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) has prepared what they call a training and implementation guide for pathways that outlines the process for completing a pathways analysis. There are three main categories, transportation, living industry, and miscellaneous. The species on the CISAC Invasive Species List were coded with the pathways in which they could enter the State using the NISC system. There are a few taxa that still need to be coded due to the lack of information found on them. Once the coding is finished the data will need to be reviewed and the Committee will need to decide on how much information they want to present in the final analysis.

Motion: Form a pathway analysis Sub-Committee to help review data and determine how much information to include in the final report.

First: Cristiana Conser

Second: Betsey Peterson

All in favor; none opposed.

Pathway analysis Sub-Committee volunteers: Betsey Peterson, Cristiana Conser, Kristina Schierenbeck, Julie Lydick, Karen McDowell, Larry Godfrey, and Robin Wall.

(d) Invasive Plant Program Sub-Committee (Doug Johnson)

The Committee's second meeting took place on January 18 at the Natural Resources Building. It was decided that Doug would Chair the Committee. Although the meeting was well attended it is important to get more stakeholders involved such as NRCS, Bureau of Land Management and the County Agricultural Commissioner's. There is a need for a campaign that people can relate to and that will encourage them to help with supporting funding for invasive weeds. The Committee discussed setting clear goals for invasive plant programs and determining a minimum amount of funds needed to keep programs going.

(e) Pest Management Symposium (Doug Johnson)

The First Symposia took place on November 30, 2011 at the Sacramento State University Alumni Center. There were over 200 attendees from various agencies and stakeholder groups. CDFA is planning to hold 5 more symposia with the next one taking place in late April or early May.

(f) AB2367 Fish and Wildlife Vision Process (Doug Johnson)

The Fish and Wildlife Vision Process is legislatively mandated for stakeholder review of the Department of Fish and Game. Karen Buhr with RCD indicated that there is a meeting taking place on January 20, where the sub-committees will pass along their recommendations to the Advisory Committee who will then present them to the Executive Committee. They intend to finish the Vision Process by February 2012.

(g) Sponge Plant Update (Doug Johnson)

South American spongeplant has been known to be in California for several years but was recently discovered in the Delta. There is a fear that this plant may be more detrimental than water hyacinth. Currently, Dept. of Boating and Waterways does not have the authority to treat for spongeplant. Assembly Member Joan Buchanan met with representatives from Fish and Game, and Boating and Waterways in regards to this matter. There was talk of developing a comprehensive vegetation management approach for the Delta. CISAC may be able to help by providing them with information they need to move forward.

(h) Buy It Where You Burn It (Julie Lydick)

The campaign is a cooperative agreement between the US Forest Service and CDFA. The Forest Service is preparing to print post cards with prevention messaging on them that will be distributed to anyone that gets a fuel wood permit. The Forest Service has also

created best management practices to deal with invasive species and firewood that are now being reviewed by Cal Fire and the Board of Forestry. The next Firewood Task Force Meeting will be on February 9, 2012 at the Forest Service Office in Davis.

David Pegos- As part of the outreach campaign there will be posters and billboards with prevention messaging placed in key location around the state. Posters, frisbees and playing cards with information on them will be passed out at campgrounds. Staff will also be attending Wood Turners Conferences and proving them with informational materials.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Karen McDowell- There are new invasive species awards that were developed by the Federal Aquatic Nucleus Species Taskforce in conjunction with the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Nominations are due January 26 and awards will be given for both aquatic invasive species and terrestrial invasive species.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments made.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on March 22, 2012 in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM

Minutes submitted by: Alexandra Espinoza, CDFA

Approved by: Victoria Brandon, CISAC Secretary