

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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2010 in Sacramento, CA by Committee Chair Doug Johnson.

Present:

Johnson, Doug	DiTomaso, Joseph	Conser, Christiana
Lydick, Julie	Warner, Keith	Guise, Vince
Brandon, Victoria	Hoffman, Robert	Fox, Andrea
De Leon, Ricardo	McDowell, Karen	Goldsmith, Jay
Randall, John at 1:00 p.m.		

Absent:

Arcularius, Linda	Sonnabend, Zea	Schierenbeck, Kristina
Godfrey, Larry	Pattison, David	
Maddux-Gonzales, Mary		

Opening Comments:

Dr. Robert Leavitt, CDFa, said that he and CDFa Deputy Secretary David Pegos had presented the draft Strategic Framework to the Secretaries of the ISCC agencies, and that all the agency representatives were very impressed with the work up to now. Four public listening sessions have been held. Comments received at the listening sessions, as well as those received via mail and e-mail will be used to finalize the Framework. A Specialty Crop Block Grant has been awarded to the California Farm Bureau Federation for CISAC work in the amount of approximately \$150,000. Contract paperwork has not yet come through.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

MOTION: Joseph DiTomaso moved that the minutes from the CISAC August 19, 2010 meeting be approved as distributed. Seconded by Christiana Conser. Ayes – all. No's – none. Abstention – none.

Open Issues

CISAC Secretary Position.

A position of CISAC Secretary was discussed. Duties would include coordinating with ISCC agencies with CISAC chair and co-chair, preparing a final version of the minutes, and handling procedural questions. Victoria Brandon has been doing these activities, and was suggested as the obvious choice. Victoria agreed to serve as CISAC Secretary, if selected.

MOTION: Andrea Fox moves to create the position of CISAC Secretary with duties as described, and to select Victoria Brandon to be CISAC Secretary. Seconded by Christiana Conser. Ayes – all. No's – none. Abstention – none.

Bagley-Keane Open Meeting Act.

David Pegos, CDFA Deputy Secretary, recommends that ISCC and CISAC solicit CDFA staff counsel on the legal obligations/for transparent public process. Because these bodies were not created by executive order or statute, it is thought that the law does not apply, but certainly will want to follow the spirit of the law. If the bodies are formalized in the future, these measures will become mandatory

Open CISAC Seats.

Several CISAC members have resigned due to lack of time or loss of position, and the terms of several others will expire at the end of 2010. The following five individuals need to be replaced:

Dolezal, Robert (resigned, no longer in his position with CANGC)

Faria, Dennis (end of term)

Chavarria, Gabriela (resigned, no longer in her position with NRDC)

Batkin, Ted (end of term)

Tomlinson, Rick (end of term)

Betsy Peterson has filled Robert Dolezal's position as director of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

MOTION: Joseph DiTomaso moves that Betsy Peterson be asked to complete Robert Dolezal's term. Second by Keith Warner. Ayes – all. No's – none. Abstention – none.

The ISCC will be selecting qualified applicants for the open positions. CISAC recommended looking for representation from the following communities

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
Environmental Toxicology
Aquatic Invasive Species
Equine Industry
Human Health

Pesticide Expertise
Native American representatives
Agricultural representatives
Environmental Groups

CISAC would like to have the new members in place for the January 2011 meeting. The call for nominations should be posted on the website as soon as possible to start the selection process.

Dr. Robert Leavitt recommends trying to get someone from Pesticide Action Network of North America to CISAC.

Christiana Conser recommends considering the Environmental Defense Fund as an option as well.

Andrea Fox recommends adding someone from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Because three of the four spots are being vacated by representatives of agricultural commodity producers, the will of the group was that at least two of the spots should be filled with new representatives from the agricultural community to maintain the existing balance.

Strategic Framework.

Public Listening Sessions:

Redding: Low attendance, constructive recommendations.

Berkeley: 15-20 in attendance, mostly critical re: pesticides, human health.

Sacramento: 10-15 in attendance, constructive comments.

Orange County: None attended.

The current Draft Framework will be amended in response to comments received during the public comment period, which will end on October 22. The goal is to have a final draft completed by October 25, for presentation to ISCC for review and possibly approval by Nov. 1.

Framework changes to be made primarily by Doug Johnson, Andrea Fox and Victoria Brandon. CISAC members will participate in a conference call on October 25 to discuss any changes made to the Framework document.

Statement of Agreement.

Doug Johnson describes the sign-on letter formally acknowledging agreement with the CISAC Statement of Principles (adopted December 2009), which needs to be approved for circulation to agencies and non-governmental organizations. Signatures can be submitted by fax or email, as provided on the Statement of Agreement. The objective is to expand the stakeholder network and list of partner organizations: All CISAC members are encouraged to circulate the Statement of Agreement as widely as possible.

MOTION: Victoria Brandon moves to release the Statement of Agreement for distribution to partner organizations. Second by Joseph DiTomaso. Ayes – all except Ricardo De Leon. No's – none. Abstention – Ricardo De Leon.

Online Invasive Species List.

Doug Johnson receives auto-generated email when comments are submitted or someone is added as an editor. Now have capability to respond to comments. Specific topic questions will be directed to:

Ricardo De Leon: Invertebrates
Vince Guise: Diseases
Christiana Conser: Plants and Algae
Larry Godfrey: Arthropods
Julie Lydick: Vertebrates

Goal is to answer all questions.

Specialty Crop Grant.

CISAC has received a 12 month grant for \$158,000. Funds are designated specifically for: travel, printing costs, tech writer, consulting and research, web design, and contractual coordination. Need to do a review and progress report to ISCC and stakeholders by this time next year.

Josh Eddy, CDFA Information Officer informs committee that funds will be available for expenses incurred after October 1, 2010. Costs related to this meeting and the Framework listening sessions can be covered under this grant.

David Pegos, CDFA Deputy Secretary, reminds committee that these funds are not unrestricted. Funds are designated for specific uses as outlined in the submitted plan. CISAC will need USDA approval if it wants to make significant changes to grant fund uses.

David Pegos, CDFA Deputy Secretary, informs committee that new grant availability comes out in November, recommends applying for federal funds again.

Andrea Fox recommends creating a new working group to help administer the grant. Doug Johnson suggests coupling this with discussion about future work and fundraising

for CISAC. Christiana Conser and Jay Goldsmith volunteered to serve on this working group.

CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura.

CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura commends CISAC on all the hard work they are doing and for their commitment to helping advise the ISCC on invasive species policies.

Final comments.

Keith Warner suggests some type of report to the California Legislature from ISCC on progress.

David Pegos, CDFA Deputy Secretary, advises to make it one of the recommendations in the strategic framework.

Doug Johnson agrees it would be helpful to point out areas of success and obstacles. Karen McDowell recommends making it mandatory that a written report is submitted to state agencies.

David Pegos, CDFA Deputy Secretary recommends setting up a CISAC booth at the next Agricultural Day event hosted by CDFA.

Victoria Brandon recommends presenting PowerPoint presentation/Invasive Species video and Public Service Announcement (PSA) video to legislature.

Keith Warner reminds CISAC that specialty crop grant applications are submitted in spring.

Dr. Robert Leavitt, CDFA Plant Director, reminds that the Specialty Crop grant will require quarterly and annual reporting.

Joseph DiTomaso suggests that a page or two could be submitted on National Invasive Species Council.

Robert Hoffman will attempt to find some funding for another video dealing with aquatic invasive species.

David Pegos CDFA Deputy Secretary, informs CISAC that it will be difficult to air any more of the PSA videos until after the election because the time slots have been booked by candidates.

Karen McDowell announces that the Aquatic Western Regional Panel comes October 2011 to San Francisco.

Director Robert Leavitt, CDFA, announces that as CISAC moves forward in the future, it may become a more formal group. CISAC may consider a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or Governors Edict to achieve this objective.

Dorthea Zadig recommends again to CISAC that as soon as feasible CISAC be advised by legal counsel.

Doug Johnson opens the meeting to public comment.

No public comments are forthcoming.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by Doug Johnson, Committee Chair. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 in Sacramento.

Minutes submitted by: Matt Lugo, CDFR

Approved by: Victoria Brandon, CISAC Secretary