

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 09, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 09, 2011 in Sacramento, CA by Committee Chair Doug Johnson.

CISAC Members Present:

Brandon, Victoria	Conser, Christianna	De Leon, Ricardo
Fox, Andrea	Godfrey, Larry	Goldsmith, Jay
Guise, Vince	Hoffman, Robert	Johnson, Doug
Lydick, Julie	Pattison, David	
Peterson, Betsy	Randall, John	
Schierenbeck, Kristina		

CISAC Members Absent:

Arcularius, Linda	DiTomaso, Joseph	McDowell, Karen
Sonnabend, Zea	Warner, Keith	

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

Dias, Michele	Espinoza, Alexandra	Estep, Casey
Kelch, Dean	Leavitt, Robert	Lugo, Matt
Morris, Amber	Pegos, David	Ross, Karen
Zadig, Dorthea		

California Natural Resources Agency Staff Present:

Corvington, Lisa	Crocker, Don	Ellis, Susan
Ferrara, Todd	Laird, John	

Opening Comments:

Doug Johnson welcomes CISAC members, staff and the public audience. This is the first time CISAC will be broadcasting video and audio feed live over the internet, allowing the public to listen to and participate in the meeting. There are excellent opportunities to collaborate with other states that have invasive species councils, such as Arizona, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, particularly in collaborating on invasive species initiatives, early detection networks, prevention and outreach. There are also opportunities to partner with Federal agencies and with National environmental groups, National agricultural groups, agricultural industry, as well as with the Invasive Species Council of California.

Although California has significant invasive species problem, there are also significant invasive species problems in other states as well, pointing out trying to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes as an example of the magnitude of the problem. The California budget is a major issue to invasive species programs. CISAC has put together a statement of principles as one of its first tasks; believing that addressing invasive species is a fundamental aspect of a sustainable future for California. CISAC believes that addressing invasive species is a cost effective and essential part of a sustainable California.

There is now a new administration, bringing new people and ideas together. Secretary Ross thanked the Committee for all its hard work and efforts to date stating that the documents that she has reviewed are comprehensive and complete and a road map to use moving forward. She has forwarded copies of the draft Strategic Framework document to Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird and California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Diana Dooley. Secretary Laird made a brief appearance and acknowledged the significance of invasive species threats and programs. He pledges full cooperation and support of his agency.

Approval of Minutes.

Kristina Schierenbeck moved that the minutes from the CISAC October 12, 2011 meeting be approved as distributed. Her motion was seconded by Vince Guise. The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed. These now will be posted on the CISAC website for the public to view.

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.

The Strategic Framework was drafted and released last fall for public comments and review. Four listening sessions around the state were held to hear public comments. From those comments and reviews submitted, an edited version of the Strategic Framework was made. The edits that were made are documented and will be released on the website, along with the second draft of the Strategic Framework. A graphic designer has been selected when the final text of Strategic Framework is ready for publication. The cover page of the document has been selected.

Invasive Species List and Scorecards for California Website update.

Over 100 reviewers are on the UC website. The site is collecting the group knowledge as a living list and is an expanding resource upon to which to refer to. CISAC members have been participating in responding to comments left by reviewers of the list. It was acknowledged that an option could be to track the number of hits on the website, or the most viewed pages looked at to gauge interest in the website.

Statement of Principles List.

There are now approximately 39 signatories of the CISAC Statement of Principles, found on the CISAC website, agreeing that addressing invasive species is critical to a sustainable future for California.

Specialty Crop Block Grant. (SCBG)

Andrea Fox and Doug Johnson have been collaborating on administering this grant. The grant is for 2011. The funding is to help fund follow-up and publication of the Strategic Framework, as well as maintain and expand the UC website. Another use of the funds will be a public outreach campaign, including handouts for distribution at farmers markets to expand the knowledge and public awareness of invasive species.

It was announced that a pre-proposal for a new Specialty Crop Block Grant for the next three years beginning 2012 was denied.

The US Forest Service pays over \$200,000 per year to the CDFG for Weed Management Areas (WMA) and now that program is being eliminated by CDFG. It was suggested that perhaps a portion of the funding can be redirected to help with WMA issues concerning forested lands.

Public Comments.

The remainder of the morning was spent listening and responding to public comments.

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

Strategic Framework implementation.

Willingness of CISAC members to participate in working groups was discussed at length.

CISAC Working Groups on Public Health.

CISAC acknowledges public health is a major concern for the public. Discussion occurs regarding creating or encouraging creation of a working group to specifically address public health concerns. The public health member has vacated her position. It was discussed inviting a staff member of Health and Human Services to next CISAC meeting to give advice on how to achieve those goals.

Details of the Strategic Framework discussed.

There was some discussion among the top priorities of the Strategic Framework.

State Budget Impacts.

Robert Leavitt talked about the proposed cuts to CDFG in Governor Brown's budget. Cuts to general fund to CDFG of \$15 million this year and \$15 million next year. Industry and CDFG have been working together to decide where cuts could be effectively made. Plant Division is where most of the cuts will come. – CISAC members Julie Lydick, John Randall, Jay Goldsmith and Vince Guise available to put together an assessment and make recommendations of how their respective invasive programs will be affected by budget cuts.

Statewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

Robert Leavitt and Michele Dias, CDFA staff counsel discussed CDFA's intent to produce a statewide programmatic EIR. At this time a website is under development to support this project.

The goal is to make this a totally interactive PEIR. It will focus on eradication and control methodologies; not specific pest species. There has been a public contract process. A contractor had been chosen, Horizon Water and Environment has been selected to do the PEIR. The notice of preparation will be out in mid spring; this will be where the process starts. There will be scoping sessions to take public comment. At the same time, a technical advisory committee will be formed. Once the draft document is published there will be another series of public meeting to give the public maximum input to the PEIR.

Red Palm Weevil Video

Adrian Woodfork, CDFA Public Affairs, presented the two red palm weevil videos, English and Spanish versions. These will go on CDFA website. Copies have been provided to the California Date Commission, as well as the CISAC members.

Final comments.

Doug Johnson opens the meeting to public comment. Public comments are received and responded to. Public comments included on separate attachment. (March 9, Public Comments Received)

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Doug Johnson, Committee Chair. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 in Sacramento.

Minutes submitted by: Matt Lugo, CDFA

Approved by: Victoria Brandon, CISAC Secretary