

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on September 21, 2011 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Doug Johnson.

CISAC Members Present:

Brandon, Victoria	Hoffman, Robert	Johnson, Doug
Lydick, Julie	Pattison, David	Peterson, Betsy
Randall, John	Schierenbeck, Kristina	Sonnabend, Zea

Via Webinar:

Christiana Conser	Goldsmith, Jay
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CISAC Members Absent:

Arcularius, Linda	DeLeon, Ricardo	DiTomaso, Joseph
Fox, Andrea	Godfrey, Larry	Guise, Vince
McDowell, Karen	Warner, Keith	

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

Espinoza, Alexandra	Pegos, David	Zadig, Dorthea
Dean Kelch		

Department of Fish and Game Staff Present: Susan Ellis

Opening Comments:

Chair Doug Johnson welcomed the committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. He informed the committee that he participated in presenting invasive species issues to the State Board of Agriculture on August 24. The Board wanted to know what needs to be done and was directed to the recommendations in the Strategic Framework. The Department of Fish and Game's ongoing vision process will be discussed today: former CDFa secretary AG Kawamura is involved in a similar visioning process related to the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, and has invited Johnson to address that group about invasives issues.

Kristina Schierenbeck reported that *Ludwigia decurrens* (winged waterprimrose) has recently been discovered in Butte County rice fields and that growers are extremely concerned.

Julie Lydick reported that she has inquired about funding opportunities and that the Forest Service has applied for \$25 million for invasives work in California and Hawaii.

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross addressed the committee. She acknowledged that lack of funding has made it extremely difficult to address the invasive weed problem effectively. She reported that the next Farm Bill could further reduce funding. On the other hand the importance of preventing and controlling invasive species is obvious. Identifying high risk pathways is a top priority, and great strides have been made in integrating agricultural inspections with US Customs and Border Patrol (“thugs, drugs, and bugs”) and developing new technologies at ports of entry. CISAC has an important role to play in all of this.

David Pegos said that Secretaries Ross and Laird have asked him to express thanks to CISAC for work on the Strategic Framework. He distributed an individually addressed and signed letter of appreciation to each of the members present and will send copies by mail to those absent.

Approval of minutes

Motion: approve the minutes of the July 13, 2011 CISAC meeting as presented

Made by: David Pattison

Second: Kristina Schierenbeck

All in favor

PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Invasive plant working group (Dean Kelch)

Weed funding has been greatly reduced, and further reductions are anticipated (\$8.4 million in 2010, \$4.2 million in 2011, \$1.3 million projected in 2012), with no statewide funding at all for weed management areas (WMA) in 2011 and 2012; 98 percent of WMA expenditures went to weeds that affect natural areas (as well as many other categories); many weeds that are not specifically characterized as field weeds also affect farmers seriously. Forestry weeds include those on disturbed soil after timber harvest.

American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds have made it possible to pursue management programs for weeds that could not be pursued previously, but that this source is about to disappear. Control efforts follow a predictable pattern: 90 percent or more of an infestation is eradicated in the first year or two, but it’s necessary to go back and recheck for a number of years afterwards to prevent re-infestation. With funding drying up it’s going to be very hard to find the comparatively small sum of money needed for follow up work. Progress made during past years could all be lost under these circumstances.

The previous funding pattern is not sustainable because it was so dependent on state general funds, so a robust approach in the future will depend on a high level of collaboration, with the inclusion of stakeholders who might have a pipeline to specific funding sources as well as broadly based stakeholder groups who can provide effective lobbying.

Motion: form a Working Group on invasive plants
Made by: Victoria Brandon
Second: John Randall
All in favor

Doug Johnson, John Randall, Christiana Conser, and Kristina Schierenbeck offered to participate. Johnson will see if Joseph DiTomaso and Jay Goldsmith are also available. The top working group priority should be to identify core functions that state should assume despite the no-money atmosphere, and to think creatively about possible funding sources.

(b) Quagga mussel resolution (Denise Rushing, Lake County Board of Supervisors)
Supervisor Rushing distributed a resolution unanimously adopted by the Lake County Board of Supervisors asking the Governor to declare a dreissenid mussel state of emergency and recommending certain specific actions:

1. Enact legislation giving local jurisdictions the same authority as Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to tag and quarantine boats;
2. Increase funding by increasing boat registration fees and adding fees to water distribution billings;
3. Implement a statewide program that imposes quarantines on boats that cannot be adequately decontaminated;
4. Share DFG funding sources with local jurisdictions;
5. Establish an aggressive educational component about the dangers of mussel contamination;
6. Enact legislation requiring jurisdictions that are infested with mussels to quarantine departing vessels; and,
7. Maintain 24/7 coverage at existing border stations, and establish inspection stations on major north/south roadways.

Colusa, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties have passed similar resolutions.

Lake County's inspection/sticker program, which relies very heavily on volunteers, was described. The county has discussed enabling legislation with State Senator Noreen Evans and Assemblymember Wes Chesbro, but nothing has been drafted yet.

Susan Ellis: a mussel emergency task force meets quarterly, and border stations already receive some money from boater registration fees. DFG is also conducting several research programs including veliger viability in bilges, and has evaluated water bodies throughout the state for their risk level depending on water chemistry, with the objective of directing funding towards those most vulnerable. It has been determined that the mussel situation does not meet Office of Emergency Services criteria for an "emergency."

It was suggested that CISAC establish a Working Group on mussels, but since experts Ricardo DeLeon and Karen McDowell were not present this proposal was postponed to the November 9 meeting, as well as the question of whether CISAC should endorse some or all of the recommendations in the Lake County resolution.

(c) California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (Project Director Melissa Miller, Natural Resources Agency)

AB 2376 (2010) required the Natural Resources Agency to develop a Strategic Vision for DFG and the Fish & Game Commission. This process began in June with the appointment of a broadly based 54-member stakeholder advisory group and a much smaller blue ribbon citizen commission whose members have broad policy experience but do not represent specific constituencies. The vision will be broad in scope but not as detailed as a strategic plan. A draft will be available for public comment by late fall and finalized by February 2012. The timing has been established to meet constraints of the budget and legislative schedules, with the objective that recommendations can be enacted as soon as possible. Since invasive species are a major issue for DFG, and CISAC has already started thinking in terms of the big picture, it is asked provide input. Information about the whole process is available at www.vision.ca.gov.

(d) California aquatic invasive species (AIS) rapid response (Susan Ellis)

DFG is investigating creation of a rapid response fund and possible funding options. If historically underestimated non-market impacts are included, the estimated cost of dealing with AIS is \$9 billion. The recommendation is to start with a \$1-2 million rapid response (RR) fund that could be financed from a portion of user fees that total nearly \$17 million and to set this up as a non-lapsing fund that accrues from year to year. RR decisions could be made by a single agency, by several agencies collaboratively, or by a stakeholder group. The advantage of the former is quick action, and of the latter broad-based support and outreach opportunities. (Full June 2011 report can be downloaded at: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=36250>)

STATUS UPDATES

(a) “Buy It Where You Burn It” firewood campaign (David Pegos)

CISAC passed a resolution in support of this campaign at the July meeting. Sample flyers and posters were passed around similar to those developed in Oregon and Washington. Materials have been sent to National Parks in California, and a website (www.firewood.ca.gov) has been created. In the future, billboards will be erected (funded by a US Fish and Wildlife grant), and a video, frisbees and playing cards devised. Julie Lydick: USFS has included a firewood message on fire permits issued to campers and on woodcutting permits.

(b) Farmers’ market outreach campaign (Doug Johnson)

Andrea Fox has requested an extension on the Specialty Crops Block Grant that is funding this effort. A draft brochure (distributed) is nearly done but a lot of work is needed on outreach mechanisms and methods for gauging effectiveness. We will need to run the messaging by many stakeholders.

(c) CDFA’s Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (Dorthea Zadig)

The scoping report will be out soon (probably by the November 9 CISAC meeting), will summarize comments received to date.

(d) Pest Management Symposia (David Pegos)

The CDFA is planning a series of symposia on 21st century pest management with the first meeting occurring in late October or early November and focused on identifying challenges. Broad participation in the dialogue is desired, in a format similar to the USDA forum held in Fresno in August 2010: Each meeting will start with presentations followed by round table discussion, breakout sessions, and a final unified wrap-up discussion. Subjects will start with those pests important to CDFA and might move into other areas later. Everything is on the table. In the meantime University of California, Davis, scientists including Jim Carey and Frank Zalom are working on a complementary project that CISAC hopes to hear about at the November 9 meeting. CISAC will receive notification of the symposia subjects and schedule.

(e) Strategic Framework (Doug Johnson)

The Framework was adopted by ISCC on August 2, and design work is now complete. As soon as a cover letter from Secretaries Ross and Laird is received, 1500 copies will be printed. A distribution plan will be sent out later. Johnson distributed a discussion draft on implementation. Suggestions: include outreach pathways to reach different stakeholder communities; funding should be the top priority since without it nothing can be implemented, but on the other hand attractive programs are needed to attract the funding. Perhaps it would be useful to compile a list of possible funding sources.

(f) Invasive Species List and Scorecards (Christiana Conser)

Part of the Specialty Crop Block Grant was earmarked for the continuing refinement of the list and the attribution of pathways to each species. The National Invasive Species Council has already developed a pathway list and coding system. So far this effort has consisted of a “quick and dirty” analysis categorizing primary, secondary and tertiary pathways for a subset of the list for each taxonomic group. The committee (led by Conser and including the chairs of each taxonomic working group) has four tasks: develop a list of agency and academic experts, using list reviewers and personal networks as a starting point; update the information for all species; pathway analysis; and a re-check of the list to see other species need scorecards. Everything will be pulled together for a report later. John Randall: if prioritization is the purpose of the matrix perhaps it would be more efficient to ask experts to address that question directly. Susan Ellis: the USGS website already lists pathways for most AIS. It’s important to tap into existing information wherever possible.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Review member terms

CISAC has five current vacancies, and the terms of a number of other members will end at the end of 2011. Of these Victoria Brandon, Christiana Conser, Joseph DiTomaso, David Pattison, and Betsy Peterson will renew, and Robert Hoffman, Zea Sonnabend, and Keith Warner are terminating. Andrea Fox is shifting to a full three-year term with the intention of renewing for a second term at the end of 2012, and the preferences of Linda Arcularius are still unknown [she later confirmed that she will terminate]. Furthermore, Julie Lydick is retiring at the end of the year so her position will also be vacant. The appointments of Ricardo De Leon, Jay Goldsmith, Larry Godfrey, Vince Guise, Doug

Johnson, Karen McDowell, John Randall, and Kristina Schierenbeck will not expire until December 2012.

Victoria Brandon: applications should be invited for all these vacancies with some of them filled for two years instead of three in order to maintain an orderly succession.

Doug Johnson: when applications are released current members should spread the news in their own stakeholder communities in order to encourage a broad pool of qualified applicants. David Pegos: the announcement will be made as soon as possible, with the objective of seating new members in January 2012.

Succession of officers

ISCC has decided that henceforward CISAC chairs should serve for a one year term, to be automatically succeeded by the vice chair, with the outgoing chair serving on the executive committee along with the chair, vice chair, and secretary.

Motion: confirm Andrea Fox as 2012 CISAC chair

Made by: Victoria Brandon

Second: Kristina Schierenbeck

All in favor

Motion: choose Victoria Brandon as 2012 vice chair

Made by: Kristina Schierenbeck

Second: Betsy Peterson

All in favor

Selection of a 2012 secretary was delayed to the November 9 meeting, with all members in the meantime requested to think of a suitable candidate. In the future, minutes will be taken by Alexandra Espinosa (CDFA), with supervision and verification by the secretary. Doug Johnson will chair the November meeting and hand off to Andrea Fox in January.

January meeting scheduling

A Doodle poll will be sent to all continuing members in order to select a January 2012 meeting date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nan Wishner, California Environmental Health Initiative.

She welcomes the symposia proposal, and hopes it will include an in depth policy review and an invasive species visioning process focusing on the costs and benefits of the current paradigm. Transformation from the ground up is needed, not just modification to the current system. Ideally the evaluation should be conducted by an independent agency, and should precede the Program EIR process because going ahead with that first sends a mixed message. The UC Davis process has been under way for the past year with the goal of devising a completely transformed pest management paradigm. She recommends that CISAC hear a presentation from Drs Carey and Zalom and asks why this was not scheduled at the current meeting.

Jane Kelly, California Environmental Health Initiative.
She objects to the Program EIR process and lists a number of other environmental and health organizations that share concerns. Structuring the EIR around treatment methods is inappropriate. The UC Davis process goes beyond policy to focus on operations; she regrets that CISAC has not had an opportunity to hear from Carey and Zalom.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Brandon, CISAC secretary.