

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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on March 22, 2012 in Sacramento, by Committee Vice Chair Victoria Brandon.

CISAC Members Present:

Atkins, Bob	Brandon, Victoria	Buhr, Karen
Christiana, Conser	Cummings, Lou Anne	DeLeon, Ricardo
DiTomaso, Joseph	Goldsmith, Jay	Guise, Vince
Johnson, Doug	Lydick, Julie	Martin, Marcy
Pattison, David	Peterson, Betsy	Randall, John
Wall, Robin	Wright, Helene	

CISAC Members Absent:

Cranney, Jim	Forster, Richard	Fox, Andrea
Godfrey, Larry	McDowell, Karen	Merrill, Jeanne
Schierenbeck, Kristina		

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

Albrecht, Courtney	Condos, Nick	Espinoza, Alexandra
Leavitt, Robert	Lugo, Matt	Morris, Amber
Pegos, David		

Opening Comments:

Vice Chair Victoria Brandon welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. She informed the Committee that she and Doug Johnson attended Weed Awareness Day at the Capitol and distributed the Strategic Framework to every Legislative Office. David Pegos and CDFA staff will work on mailing the Strategic Framework to the remainder of the CISAC distribution list.

David Pegos gave an update on his recent trip to Washington DC, for the National Invasive Species Awareness Week. There were several different states in attendance with innovative outreach and education methods. Texas has an outreach campaign titled “Hello Invasive Species, Goodbye Texas” which California could use for specific invasive species such as “Hello European Grape Vine Moth, Goodbye Grapes.” This type of

messaging would be ideal for tailoring outreach to specific pests without having to create a new campaign for each one. Another inventive outreach tool that was introduced is a game called Whack-a-Mussel, similar to the Whack-Mole game that is used in arcades and at fairs. The machine has messaging on it about invasive mussels and is a good way to educate people while having fun. In addition to education and outreach there was an informational presentation given by a Representative from Maryland about using their planning authority to fight against invasive species. For example if there is a water pipe being replaced in an area where there are invasive weeds surrounding it, the weeds must be removed before the pipe can be replaced. This is a creative way to regulate invasive species and is something California should look into. David is going to make contact with the Representative from Maryland to inquire about her attending a future CISAC meeting to enlighten the Committee on their efforts.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Approval of minutes

Bob Atkins requested that acronyms be spelled out. Vince Guise suggested making the “Public Comment” section of the meeting minutes italicized. Robin Wall asked that her affiliation be changed from the Department of Homeland Security to US Customs and Border Protection. Karen Buhr was indicated as absent at the previous meeting and will be moved to “Members Present” as she was in attendance.

Motion: Approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 CISAC meeting with approved edits.

First: Bob Atkins

Second: Betsy Peterson

Abstaining: Joseph DiTomaso, as he was not present at the January 19, 2012 meeting

New Committee Members Oath of Office:

CDFA Undersecretary, Sandra Schubert, called on Bob Atkins, Karen Buhr, Lou Ann Cummings, Marcy Martin, Robin Wall and Helene Wright all of which are new Committee members and asked that they stand, raise their right hand and repeat the oath after her, all of them completed the oath and were sworn in. She congratulated the new members and thanked the Committee for all of their hard work and time spent on CISAC.

DISCUSSION:

Discuss Implementation of Strategic Framework and Year Ahead:

The CISAC charter set out two tasks for the Committee to complete. The first task was to develop a statewide living list of invasive species and the second was to create a Strategic Framework for addressing invasive species in California. Both tasks have been accomplished. CISAC was awarded with funding through a Specialty Crop Block Grant to assist with completing these and other tasks. With the grant expiring in December 2012, the Committee needs to use the remainder of the funding that is allocated for

printing and an education and outreach campaign. There has been an effort on developing a Farmers Market brochure, however, it is not complete and still needs work. Committee members discussed possibly hiring a coordinator to help with implementing actions from the Strategic Framework and tasks from the Specialty Crop Block Grant. Julie Lydick informed the Committee that the Forest Service has competitive grants that could possibly assist with securing a grant coordinator as well as funding for implementing some of the actions in the Strategic Framework. For the short term immediate needs of CISAC such as hiring a coordinator or contracting with an organization to complete the outreach campaign and implement actions from the framework the Committee agreed to revive the Communications and Outreach sub-committee that was created at the first CISAC meeting. The Committee members that agreed to be on the Communications and Outreach Sub-Committee are Doug Johnson, Karen Buhr, Jay Goldsmith, and Helene Wright. Keith Warner, Jeannie Merrill and Bob Atkins may be interested in participating as well.

CISAC Proposal for Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding:

Specialty Crop Block Grants are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and are awarded for projects that enhance the competitiveness of California Specialty Crops. CISAC was awarded with a Specialty Crop Block Grant in Fiscal Year (FY) 11/12 for \$152,000 to be used for committee member's travel costs, developing a strategic framework, contractors, and public outreach. The CISAC pre-proposal that was recently submitted for a FY 12/13 Specialty Crop Block Grant was accepted. The pre proposal requested \$172,000 over the course of 2 years for establishing a health working group, establishing a rapid response working group and holding an invasive species conference. The full proposal is due March 26, 2012 and will be submitted through California Bountiful. Doug informed the Committee that a key aspect of the proposal is collaborators and asked that Committee members assist in getting letters of support. After giving thought to the three main goals submitted in the pre-proposal Committee members discussed the idea of attending other key agencies and organizations conferences rather than holding an all taxa conference of their own. The Committee agreed that they would rather attend conference but was unsure if the grant proposal could be changed. David Pegos spoke with CDFG staff and informed the Committee that they can alter their proposal to include conference participation rather than holding a conference but it could affect their chances of receiving the grant. It was decided that the decision to alter the grant be left to the discretion of the authors; Doug Johnson, Victoria Brandon and Andrea Fox.

Public Comment on Grant Proposal:

There were no comments from the public.

Motion: To proceed with applying for a Specialty Crop Block Grant

First: Jay Goldsmith

Second: John Randall

All in favor

PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Climate Change and Invasive Species - Courtney Albrecht, Branch Chief for Pest Exclusion, CDFA

Invasive species are pests and organisms that are introduced into an area beyond their natural range and become pests in a new environment. Invasive species can move into new areas deliberately, accidentally, or naturally. The geographical scale and rate at which invasive species are moving into new areas is much greater than what they used to be, for reasons such as globalization, and increased trade and travel. Climate change can add to the impact of invasive species because of increased temperature, increased CO₂ and extreme weather events. The effects of global climate change on cultivated and wild plants are unpredictable. However, there are some general potential effects such as increased temperature which could cause heat stress to plants that are grown in areas that are already at the top of their temperature tolerance, drought which would lead to less water availability for cultivated plants, and flooding which could cause root rot and nutrient deficiency.

Environmental conditions caused by global climate change can increase the impact of some invasive species, for example the cactus moth which is native to the Caribbean is believed to have spread into Mexico via hurricanes in 2005. Some may ask what will a new climate look like in California, and with no real way of knowing there are only predictions. If the Sacramento Valley was to become warmer in the winter it could be more conducive for exotic, subtropical fruit fly infestations. Warming trends could also lead to an increase in the number of generations per year for certain insects or an expansion of their range. But not all predictions from global climate change are negative, for instance increased warming trends could make it impossible for the gypsy moth to complete their life cycles as they need the cool temperatures to survive. Other potential outcomes that are specific to CDFA are increased introductions of invasive pests and increases in range, possible finds of new species, a larger range of affected hosts and longer durations for quarantines. In order to prepare as much as possible for the future, CDFA continues to combat invasive species by maintaining the core functions of the pest prevention system, dedicating time and resources to scientific research, engaging the public, and utilizing crucial information and recommendations provided to them by committees and councils such as CISAC.

(b) Pathways Report- Christiana Conser, UC Davis

This pathways report was conducted to provide a scientific analysis of the high risk pathways for novel invasive species to enter into California. It supports the CISAC Strategic Framework recommended action for Prevention and Exclusion: "Identify and address new and existing pathways for entry and movement of invasive species." The types of pathways analyzed in the report are natural, man-made, intention and unintentional. The methodology used for completing the pathways analysis is from the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), they created a pathway tool-kit that can be found on their website in which they outline how to complete a risk assessment. The pathway coding system used is from NISC as well. Pathways were broken up into three different types; transportation pathways, living industry pathways, and miscellaneous pathways (accidental, bioterrorism etc.). To do the analysis, all species on the CISAC

list that are not currently found in California were used. There are some species with missing information that can be added later if needed. There was a web and literature search conducted for each species to identify all pathways in which they can enter the state. The pathways for each species were then divided into three groups; 1.) primary pathways, being the pathways the species are most likely to enter by; 2.) secondary pathways, which species are less likely no enter through and; 3.) tertiary pathways that are even less likely for species to enter. All relevant notes were documented for each species such as their hosts and native origin. References were documented as well. All of the data collected is now in the process of being compiled by pathway code, taxa group, sub-taxa group and threat level. Some of the next steps for the analysis are to have experts review the information for accuracy, address any information gaps there may be and fill in missing information for species that are on the CISAC list so they can be added to the analysis. Another possible next step that is included in NISC report is assigning threat levels for species based on threats to human health, economic health, and ecosystem health. The last recommended step in the NISC report is to tie the pathways analysis report to an agency response.

UPDATES

(a) Website- Victoria Brandon

Since the completion of the Strategic Framework the website has been updated and the new member bios have been posted. The Committee has inquired about having a place on the CISAC website where public comments can be posted and creating a list serv that people can subscribe to. David Pegos informed the Committee that the list serv will be completed by the May 24, 2012 meeting and staff will look into creating a space on the CISAC website where public comments can be displayed.

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

The next step is filling in missing information, mainly whether species are found in California or not. This information will help with completing the pathways analysis. The next major task for the list is to send corrections to UC Davis ICE staff so they can upload the updated list. With the pathways information the Committee needs to decide how they want to present it and if they want to put it on the website with the list. Christiana will send a list of species with missing information to the Committee for help with completing the.

(c) Farmers Market and Ag in the Classroom Outreach (Victoria Brandon/ Doug Johnson)

The Farmers Market brochure needs formatting work and efforts are needed on outreach mechanisms and methods for gauging effectiveness. Another logistic to be worked out is deciding what graphics to use as the ones that are on the brochure now are of poor quality. David Pegos is going to work with CDFA staff to locate some possible graphics the Committee can use.

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

The Sub-Committee met for the second time on March 21, 2012. Although the same issues remain with no real solutions, it is important to keep the discussions going. Farm Bill money is shrinking but with more and more interest in weeds it may be a possible avenue for funding to do on the ground weed management. The Wildlife Conservation Board gives a lot of grants for wildlife protection and there may be some interest from them in helping with on the ground weed work. The basic consensus is that it is up to the local weed management areas to try and secure what funding they can to keep their structure with hope that the budgetary situation will improve.

(e) 21st Century Pest Management Symposium- (David Pegos)

The planning committee had their first conference call and will meet regularly from here on out. The symposium is will take place in May of 2012 with the exact day to be determined soon. The Committee is leaning towards trade for the topic but hasn't made a final decision. As the logistics are worked out, CISAC Members will receive updates via the 21st Century Symposia list serv.

(f) “Buy it Where you Burn It” firewood campaign (Julie Lydick)

US Forest Service awarded CDFA with another \$100,000 to continue the work of the firewood outreach campaign. The Forest Service in Region 5 was recognized with a national excellence in invasive species prevention award for the work they have done with the Firewood Task Force and the National forests on the issue of firewood.

David Pegos informed the Committee that the Firewood campaign will coincide with Memorial Day. There will be billboards put up, posters placed at rest stops and camp grounds and educational materials will be given to anyone who gets a wood cutters permit. The Firewood Task Force is also partnering with USDA, CDFA and Santa Clara County to provide outreach and education at the upcoming American Association of Wood Turners Conference in June.

(g) Fish and Wildlife Vision Process (Doug Johnson)

The last meeting for the Fish and Wildlife Vision Process will take place next week. The draft itself is meant to be very high level envisioning. The concern to have the actual definition of invasive species put into the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Code was addressed. Within 6 months or so, the Law and Review council will go through and do a total revision of the code along with other things. In addition, it was recommended that DFG participate more fully in multiagency activities such as the ISCC. Chuck Bonham has essentially said what he is going to adopt from the recommendations which will start a strategic planning process to match the strategic vision process.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Victoria Brandon let the Committee know that UC Davis will be holding a conference on educating the public about invasive species and encouraged Committee members to attend.

Amber Morris informed that Committee that CDFA, in conjunction with UC Davis, now has a weed free forage and straw suppliers list that is posted on the CDFA website for anyone who needs weed free forage or hay.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Howard- Staff at the Department of Public Health with the Vector Board and Disease Division. The Division is particularly interested in invasive mosquitoes and their associated diseases.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on May 17, 2012 in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

Minutes submitted by: Alexandra Espinoza, CDFA

Approved by: Christiana Conser, CISAC Secretary