

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 16, 2013

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on January 16, 2013 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Andrea Fox.

**CISAC Members Present:**

Bob Atkins, Victoria Brandon, Joseph DiTomaso, Andrea Fox, Larry Godfrey, Jay Goldsmith, Vince Guise, Doug Johnson, David Pattison, Betsy Peterson, Kristina Schierenbeck, Robin Wall, Helene Wright,

**CISAC Members Absent:**

Karen Buhr, Christiana Conser, Jim Cranney, Lou Anne Cummings, Richard Forster, Marcy Martin, Jeanne Merrill, John Randall, Sheri Smith,

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

Secretary Karen Ross, David Pegos, Dean Kelch, Austin Webster

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Staff Present:**

Susan Ellis, Lisa Corvington

**Opening Remarks:**

Chair Andrea Fox welcomed Secretary Ross, staff, and members of the committee and public participating in person and online.

**Transition ceremony.** Secretary Ross thanked Andrea Fox for her service as CISAC chair during 2012, and presented her with a plaque as an expression of ISCC's appreciation. She welcomed Victoria Brandon as incoming chair.

**CISAC member updates**

- Doug Johnson announced that Cal IPC has published two manuals on weed prevention BMPs that will be available in print and online at [www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention](http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/prevention);
- Doug also recommended that the CISAC website add a link to the Best Management Practices found on the Cal IPC website.
- Joe DiTomaso announced that the Weed Control in Natural Areas book will be available by Tuesday January 22, 2013 for sale through Cal IPC.
- Helene Wright let the committee know that treatment and eradication of the European Grapevine Moth was going very well and was nearing completion.

- Vince Guise added that it was due to the cooperation of agencies, home owners and others involved and has provided a good demonstration of the program's success.
- Kristina Schierenbeck suggested that a subcommittee be created to identify an agricultural economist to serve on the committee.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Doug Johnson introduced presentations by Sustainable Conservation program director and Plant Right supervisor Bob Adams, Kelly Schoonmaker from Stop Waste/Bay Friendly Landscaping, and CDFA botanist Dean Kelch.

**(a) Bob Adams: Sustainable Conservation** is a non-profit that promotes partnerships between business and agriculture; using a voluntary approach, their mission is to prevent the sale of invasive plants in California. The California Horticultural Invasives Prevention (Cal-HIP) partnership is developing a definition of invasive plants, and has put together a starter list of 19 plants that are (a) known to be invasive and (b) thought by the industry to have good potential for elimination from the trade. A parallel effort is attempting to determine horticultural alternatives that are non-invasive. With help from volunteer Master Gardeners, they have been conducting a nursery survey for the last 3 years to determine which plants are being sold where and in what type of retail outlet. They have discovered that small independent nurseries tend to offer a wider variety of invasives, though in far smaller quantities than the big chains, and that over all there has been a significant reduction in number of invasives sold over the past ten years, partly because of increased awareness of invasive issues. Much of this information has been posted to the Plant Right website.

The problem is complicated because the fragmentation of the nursery industry (with many small separate businesses) impedes communication, because many new plants are being developed, some for use within the state and some for export, and because plants are sold under many different names. New science-based risk evaluation tools and protocols allow plant developers to predict whether a plant is likely to become invasive more accurately and quickly, and a rapid screening tool to evaluate entire inventories is currently under development. Plant Right has started a pilot partnership with retail nurseries in which they provide information in exchange for an agreement not to sell known invasives -- which unfortunately consumers continue to request.

Discussion. Kristina Schierenbeck: recommends planting California natives. Vince Guise: CDFA is engaged in expanding the list of prohibited plants. Joe DiTomaso: the original list of 19 plants is outdated, and most of them are no longer sold. A new list under preparation will include aquatics. Dean Kelch: recommends that water hyacinth be included on the Plant Right invasives list. Bob Atkins: the pet trade brings in known invasives, including plants. Vince Guise: internet sales represent a vast hole in regulation.

**(b) Kelly Schoonmaker. Bay Friendly Landscaping**, a joint powers agency that includes the cities and county of Alameda uses education, incentives, and (ultimately) enforcement

to reduce the use of invasive plants in landscaping. They have instituted a green waste landfill ban, and established sustainable landscaping requirements for new buildings based on Cal-IPC's Don't Plant a Pest list. Cal Green is a statewide sustainable building code with voluntary tiers. In 2011 a stakeholder committee recommended that all permitted projects should avoid invasives; the recommendation got lots of support but was not made a requirement, largely for procedural reasons. Problems include lack of a standard definition of an invasive plant and objections from landscape architects doing historic preservation projects that involve invasives such as Canary Island palm. The code revision proposal will be reviewed in the summer of 2014.

**(3) Dean Kelch (CDFA)** discussed the state invasive plant listing system, There are two separate weed lists. One list, internal to CDFa, rates weeds as A, B, C depending on both their actual or probable potential for invasiveness and their potential for eradication. It is an analytic tool without prescriptive authority. An "A" listing is reserved for weeds that are not yet established and would have very severe impacts. Weeds of minor impact are on the "C" list, and so are those so widely established that there's no possibility of getting rid of them. In contrast the much shorter Section 4500 list designates "noxious weeds" that can't be brought into California, sold, or cultivated, with enforcement authority granted to county agricultural commissioners. At the present time plants may not be added to the noxious weed list if they offer any sort of economic benefit, such as being sold in nurseries, but this restriction may be revised.

Discussion. Bob Atkins: some established plants on the C list might be responsive to biocontrol. Joe DiTomaso: there is only 33 percent overlap between Cal-IPC's list of invasive plants that threaten natural areas and CDFa's list of those harmful to agriculture. Consolidation, with regulatory authority, would be helpful, as would a precautionary/prevention list. Helene Wright: could give a presentation at the next CISAC meeting about work USDA is doing.

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the May 24 and July 19 meetings were still not available. Bob Atkins moved and Kristina Schierenbeck seconded to approve the November 15, 2012 minutes as amended. All in favor, none opposed.

## **WORKSHOP**

The Committee broke into working groups to discuss the implementation status of Strategic Framework provisions, a deliverable for the current SCBG. After the breakout session the WGs summarized their conclusions before the full committee, with brief discussion. A representative from each WG (Leadership: Johnson; Prevention: Peterson; Detection & Outreach: Brandon; Eradication: Atkins; Research: Schierenbeck) will insert the WG's findings in a standardized worksheet and send it to Brandon for compilation. CISAC will finalize and approve the assessment and recommendations at the April 16 meeting.

## **UPDATES**

- Website: all CISAC members are invited to submit Invasive Species events for listing on the brand new website calendar. There will be an annual fee of \$29.95 for this feature, payable out of the SCBG or by CDFA.
- Farmers' Market Brochure: the current draft was displayed on the screen. To meet distribution targets, a final draft must go to the printer by the end of next week.
- Ag in the Classroom Fact Sheet: Andrea Fox distributed the near-final version, with a request that any edits be submitted immediately
- 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant: Andrea Fox reported that CISAC has submitted a pre-proposal for a 2013 grant, to finance a number of outreach activities. We should learn in February whether we have been invited to submit a full proposal
- "21<sup>st</sup> Century Pest Management Symposia: David Pegos said the next symposium will focus on invasion biology,
- CDFA Pest PEIR: another extension has been granted, and a public draft is now expected to be available for public comment in December 2013.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none offered

**Next meeting:** The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on April 16, 2013, in Sacramento.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM

Minutes taken by CISAC Chair Victoria Brandon with assistance from Andrea Fox and Doug Johnson

Approved by Secretary Christiana Conser