

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	August 30, 2017	Time:	10-4 meeting
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Hester	Location:	Montana State Capitol, Room 152
1. Meeting Objective			
Administrative matters, program updates, new business			
2. Attendees			
<p>MISC Members: Bryce Christiaens, Tom Woolf, Leigh Greenwood, Steven Bekedam, Dennis Clairmont, Kim Mangold, David Brooks, Amy Gannon, Jane Mangold, Mike Miller, Steve Wanderaas, Steve Tyrrel, Gary Adams, Stephanie Hester</p> <p>MISC Members Phone: Monica Pokorny, Lindy Garner</p> <p>Other Attendees: John Tubbs, DNRC Director; Mark Bostrom, DNRC; Dave Burch, MDA; Hope Stockwell, LSD; Canon Luerkens, DOC; Beth Saboe, Montana PBS; Erik Hanson, CSKT; Bryce Maxell, MT Natural Heritage Program; Dave Burch, MDA; Paul Kusnierz, Avista (phone)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Introductions	<p>Bryce opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round robin introductions Meeting being recorded <p>AIS Program Update (Tom Woolf)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom sends bi-weekly updates on AIS operations. Green Mountain Reservoir, CO—quagga mussel veliger detection Detection comes after 5-yr mussel-free status In Montana 50,000 inspections entered in system so far, 15 mussel fouled vessels Most stations open through Oct. 15 No adults or veligers detected in MT samples thus far (2 week turnaround time on samples) Sniffer dogs will be deployed in early October to search for adult mussels at Tiber/CF RFP for AIS marketing plan in development 2018 planning—electronic data system for WIP, partnerships for station operations, local E&O especially to non-traditional stakeholder groups, e.g. irrigators ICS training (Red Sky) scheduled for early next year <p>ACTION: Tom Woolf to work with Kim on outreach to agricultural industry. Meetings to industry begin in October.</p>		
New Member Orientation	<p>Bryce and Stephanie provided an overview of the council mission, history and accomplishments for new members. Also provided information on travel reimbursement policy (MCA 2-18-501 through 2-18-503).</p> <p>ACTION: New members to contact Stephanie if additional information or orientation is needed</p>		
Administrative Business	<p>May 31, 2017 minute approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned to approve minutes, Kim Mangold seconded Discussion: none Vote: unanimous approval <p>MISC Charter and By-law updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie updated the charter to reflect changes based on HB 622 and provided an overview of the changes MISC's purpose includes a new part specifying that "The purpose...and to coordinate with public and private partners to develop and implement statewide invasive species strategic plans." Federal engagement discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under HB 622 federal partners are non-voting members but MISC is required to engage with federal agencies and seek active participation Discussion about defining agencies as federal liaison positions 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MISC members commented on the value to having consistent representative from federal agencies ○ Consensus on defining expectations are for federal partners as follows: to continue participating in all meetings and to be a liaison to council and to facilitate coordination and communication between the council and their agency and connect to agency expertise and resources ○ Consensus on defining role as “agency representative” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible agency representative to reach out to: Custom and Border protection (CBP), USDA ARS, USDA FSA, BIA • US FWS representative will be Lindy Garner or Bill Sparklin • NGOs, stakeholder groups, and technical experts can be added as ex-officio members • Include catch-all language to cover additional membership we haven’t thought of • Consensus on continuing with executive committee format with two vice chairs • Leigh did not receive packet from Governor (SH to follow-up) <p>ACTION: Stephanie to collect charter corrections, edits, and update agency representative clause</p> <p>Executive Committee Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryce asked for interested parties. Steve Wanderaas and Tom Woolf volunteered. • Motion: Steve Tyrrel motioned to elect Steve Wanderaas and Tom Woolf to serve as vice-chairs for the next two years, Amy Gannon seconded • Discussion: none • Vote: unanimous approval <p>General MISC updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie provided an overview of membership composition and vacancies. Current vacancies include private landowner and tribal nations—Ft. Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Canon Luerkens attended meeting representing Department of Commerce. Canon reported that Jan Stoddard, Bureau Chief, Industry Services and Outreach has been appointed by the agencies director • Several recommendations were put forward for the wildlife organization vacancy. Stephanie will follow-up on leads • Discussed tribal vacancies. Members provided tribal contacts and ideas for outreach. Stephanie will follow-up on leads. • Stephanie announced that Kate Wilson will be joining as DNRC’s invasive species outreach specialist. She starts October 2. • The first UC3 meeting is scheduled for October 4 • MISC will need to do some fundraising to accomplish work plan. MISC received a \$60,000 grant from the National Invasive Species Council. DNRC has a request \$80,000 for UC3 and \$50,000 for science advisory panel through a Western Governor’s Assoc. initiative (see details later). • Meeting schedule & location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decided on quarterly meetings with subcommittee meetings scheduled as needed ○ Discussion about meeting location. Consensus to continue meeting in Helena but to coordinate future meetings with other opportunities that are topic-specific, e.g. eastern heath snail tour <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie to continue outreach for membership vacancies. Members to continue to provide leads. Stephanie to send copy of recruitment to tribal nations. • Bryce to draft request for federal agency participation • Members to send Stephanie upcoming meetings and other venues to recruit members and provide MISC updates/info. • Send funding opportunities to Stephanie • Stephanie to schedule next meeting for mid-November <p>Director Tubbs Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Tubbs provided a fire season update and the incoming donated hay issue as a result • The incoming hay continues invasive species to Petroleum and Garfield counties • The hay is critical to feed livestock despite it not being weed free • Task force is being recruited for fire recovery. MISC has a role in fire recovery. <p>Further discussion on donated hay</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCS developed a flyer for BMPs for donated hay • Hay is being tracked in Circle, MT. To date, 17 different states, 39 MT counties donated • NWTF has \$150,000 for emergency funding • Americorp members will do monitoring • Goal is to keep feed locations controlled and contained and a multi-year monitoring effort • Hay can also move fire ants, non-native worms, mollusks, and other insect and disease threats • MDA has hay hotline that now addresses donated hay for disasters situations. Lots of applications have come through, so anticipating increased demand. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide Director Tubbs with list of MISC members to participate on the fire recovery task force—Monica, Lindy, Steve T., Bryce, MDA 2) Stephanie to draft press release about donated hay and invasives issue. Review with Monica, Lindy, Kim Mangold, Steve T. <p>Break for lunch</p>
MISC projects and activities	<p>The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bryce introduced Beth Saboe with Montana PBS. Beth is working on a 30 minute documentary on AIS scheduled to air in October.</p> <p>Stephanie provided an overview of DNRC and MISC projects and activities in progress, scheduled, and delegated by the legislature through HB 622 to be completed in the next two years. Through HB 622, DNRC was provided with funding and capacity to expand and develop an all-taxa invasive species program for Montana. DNRC Invasive Species Program will focus on all-taxa policy, education and outreach, and coordination through the Council and the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3). New activities prescribed by HB 622 are in alignment with the Invasive Species Framework. DNRC and FWP are coordinating on activities to avoid duplication and to leverage resources.</p> <p><u>2019 Legislative Priorities</u></p> <p>The following items have been identified as priorities for DNRC and/or MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firewood regulations (MISC) • Identify a new funding source for AIS grant funding and separate from the Reclamation and Development Grants Program (DNRC) • General IS funding for MISC and UC3 (DNRC, MISC, UC3) • Comprehensive invasive species law review for creation of a Montana Invasive Species Act (MISC) <p><u>All-taxa invasive Species E&O</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft communication plan in hand. Ready for finalization and implementation • Develop all-taxa invasive species website and related materials • Develop internal and external communication systems • Regional and provincial coordination • Increase engagement with tribal nations • Table, attend, speak at relevant events • Participate on relevant coordinating committees, boards, etc. • MISC and UC3 related E&O <p><u>HB 622 Implementation</u></p> <p>Data Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNRC and the Montana Natural Heritage Program in coordination with FWP have partnered to expand the state natural resource information system (NRIS) to include AIS species data. Bryce Maxell, program manager, provided an overview of the scope of work NRIS work products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build framework and integrate invasive species data into NRIS ○ Develop species accounts for 22 AIS ○ Centralize survey and detection info/develop predictive distribution models • Discussion about what the 22 species on the list for NRIS species accounts. • Dave Burch described the petition process for adding species to the terrestrial weed list. Currently, aquatics and riparian species are on the list, although FWP has authority for true aquatics. • The group discussed the need for a separate aquatics list maintained by FWP. Consensus on pursuing separate lists through invasive species law review. • A Montana forest pest list does not exist.

ACTION: FWP to review list of 22 species. (Research nativity of fragrant water-lily)

Funding

- HB 622 authorizes up to \$177,821 in federal match of state funds. DNRC is looking for funding opportunities to fund priorities and secure match.

MISC Activities

- Continue to implement framework
- Develop Independent Science Advisory Panel
 - Intent is to create and maintain an independent panel to serve the state by providing independent scientific advice and recommendations regarding scientific issues related to invasive species in the state. Initially, the panel will focus on AIS issues and could expand to an all-taxa panel.
 - Potential models to review: NW Power and Conservation Council, APHIS new pest advisory group, North American Plant Protection Organization

ACTION: Stephanie, Tom, David, and Gary to develop model for panel

- National Invasive Species Council (NISC) grant deliverables-due Sept. 30, 2018
 1. Invasive mussel early detection rapid response strategic plan for coordination of relevant government agencies.
 2. Coordinated invasive mussel EDRR/control and containment plan for the Missouri River system.
 - a. FWP is tasked with this plan through HB622
 - b. Steve T. provided an overview of the Central Eastern Montana Mussel Response team developed to provide outreach to agricultural groups about invasive mussels and develop a local response plan
 - c. FWP will coordinate with the Central Eastern team on this plan
 3. Missouri River EDRR workshop/exercise
 4. White paper to include a systematic evaluation of successes, challenges, and measures taken to overcome challenges in EDRR project partner coordination.
 5. Cost-benefit analyses for the EDRR Missouri River Invasive Mussel plan
- 2018 Invasive Species Summit
 - Last summit was held in April 2016
 - Discussion about when to hold summit, location, and theme
 - Discussion and consensus about holding the summit in central/eastern Montana and focusing on the Missouri River control and containment plan and outreach to agricultural community
 - Consensus to hold summit in fall 2018 rather than spring

ACTION: Jane, Tom, Bryce and Stephanie to begin Summit planning

- Coordination with the Western Governor's Association (WGA) on invasive mussel prevention
 - DNRC and FWP participated with the WGA and federal agencies to develop *Safeguarding the West from Invasive Species: Actions to Strengthen Federal, State, and Tribal Coordination to Address Invasive Mussels* https://www.eenews.net/assets/2017/06/26/document_pm_03.pdf.
 - Subsequent to the release of the document, the WGA put out a call for western states to apply for funding to implement the actions in the plan.
 - DNRC requested \$80,000 to support the UC3 and \$50,000 for MISC's science advisory panel. FWP submitted a request to fund research for survivability of veligers in ballast tanks and to implement a Clean Marina program (education for moored boats).
- WGA Invasive Species Data Management project—due Sept. 29
 - WGA has an initiative to create a risk-assessment of the top-100 invasive species in the West.
 - WGA has requested that western states including Montana participate in a survey to identify the state's top aquatic and terrestrial invasive species for both established species and incoming threats. Level of impact is the criteria.
 - FWP will submit lists for AIS; MDA will submit the terrestrial lists; and MISC will provide submissions for both

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project team to develop list: Amy, Jane, Leigh, Gary, David, Tom, Dave, Mike <p>ACTION: Project team members to send Stephanie individual lists for compilation. A call will be scheduled to reconcile lists prior to submission.</p> <p>UC3 status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Upper Columbia Conservation Commission was created to focus on EDRR activities in the Columbia River portion of Montana and to coordinate with regional partners in the Columbia River Basin Six of the nine members have been appointed First meeting scheduled for Oct. 4 at DNRC Forestry Office in Missoula First meeting will focus on identifying priorities and a work plan The UC3 will coordinate with MISC <p>DNRC's administers an AIS Grant Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded nearly \$200,000 of \$500,000 biennium allocation Assess and improve program DNRC plans to work with the next legislature to separate the AIS grant fund from the Reclamation and Development Grants Program
Firewood Subcommittee Report	<p>Firewood subcommittee requested that MDA consider quarantine authority to prevent firewood from coming into the state while gap in authority exists. Discuss possible application of quarantine authority to allow the movement of firewood within the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISC firewood subcommittee met with MDA to discuss MDA can transfer quarantine authority to another state agency. MDA has authority but no resources to administer. Authority is likely a carryover from when MDA had authority over timber quarantine. Once separated from MDA, authority not removed. It's an unfunded authority Decided agency directors from MDA, FWP, DOC, and DNRC discuss issue and decide on resolution Next steps to reconvene subcommittee in November to develop briefing for directors There is also a voluntary quarantine option that can be exercised working with MDA in ground zero situations. Group also discussing education and outreach to firewood sources and to make the regulation incentive-based vs. regulatory. USDA may deregulate emerald ash-borer and pine shoot beetle in 1-5 years Would be good to consider that possibility in forming regulations
MT Invasive Species law review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to review various authorities and statutes for invasive species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities Grant programs (AIS grant fund source) Anything in statute Plan for how agencies coordinate Possibility to enlist student to compile information or work with Consensus to proceed with review and it's a high-priority <p>ACTION: Bryce to initiate review and form subcommittee</p>
AIS Oversight Committee	<p>Mussel Response recommendation to a post-season review of 2017 program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWP internal review being conducted Need public component Council can help facilitate public effort <p>ACTION: Steve W., Steve T., Dennis, David, Bryce and Tom to initiate post-season review</p>
Rapid Response Planning	<p>Montana Dreissenid Rapid Response preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISC developed an initial rapid response plan as directed by the Mussel Response Team That plan has been provided to FWP, and Tom and Stephanie have been working on improving the components of the plan to be prepared for an invasive mussel detection. The components are in draft form and include: protocols for initiating a response, appendices with further detail/background/checklists, etc., and a gap analysis Stephanie and Tom will coordinate on developing a work plan to address gaps to further develop the documents into a comprehensive set of guidelines. Customization of these documents for the Missouri River system and Columbia River Basin is

	<p>planned and will include exercises and coordination with stakeholders and local responders. Public input will also be sought.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom and Stephanie will be meeting with the Governor's Office and FWP and DNRC directors to brief them on the guidelines for initiating a response and adopt the guidelines to expedite a response • Consensus to change all references from "plan" to "guidelines" • These rapid response documents are living documents and have not been finalized <p>ACTION: Review rapid response guidelines and provide input</p> <p>General Rapid Response plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consensus on developing a template that could be applied to any invasive species detection ○ Good to provide continuity in responding to invasive species detections ○ Consensus to discuss how to move forward at next meeting
Agency/Member Updates	<p>USDA APHIS-Gary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercises available through APHIS workgroup • Consensus to pursue exercise for a plant pest <p>ACTION: Gary to coordinate with Stephanie</p> <p>Missouri River Council—Steve W.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve attended and represented MISC at the event and provided information about invasive species issues in eastern Montana
Upcoming Events	<p>September 5-Jefferson Slough restoration project (Eurasian watermilfoil infestation)</p> <p>Sept. 13-15- Western Regional Panel</p> <p>Sept. 20 – Pest Risk Committee</p> <p>Sept. 25-27-Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent</p> <p>Sept 27-28-MISC report to Environmental Quality Council</p> <p>Oct. 4-UC3 Kick-off meeting</p> <p>Nov. 6-8- North American Lake Management Society (Mussel Response presentation during invasive species sessions)</p>
Public Comment	None
Wrap up	<p>Motion: Steve Tyrrel motioned to adjourn, Jane seconded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: none • Vote: unanimous approval <p>Adjourned at 3:43</p>

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	FWP and MDA to coordinate on AIS outreach to ag. Industry	Tom W. and Kim	Ongoing	
2	New members to contact Stephanie if further new member orientation information is needed	New members	Ongoing	
3	Collect charter corrections, edits, and update agency representative clause. Members send corrections.	Stephanie, all	10/1/17	In progress
4	Continued outreach for membership vacancies	All	Ongoing	
5	Draft request for federal agency participation	Bryce	Sept. 15	Done
6	Send information about upcoming meetings, conferences, etc. relevant to MISC for recruitment and outreach	All	Ongoing	
7	Send funding opportunities to Stephanie	All	Ongoing	
8	Provide list of MISC participants for Fire Recovery Task Force	Stephanie	9/3/17	Done
9	Draft press release re: donated hay and circulate for review	Stephanie	9/7/17	Done

10	FWP to review list of species for data management project	Stephanie, Tom W	11/30/17	In progress
11	Initiate Summit planning—Stephanie to schedule meeting	Stephanie, Jane, Bryce, Tom		
12	Develop model for science advisory panel	Stephanie, David, Tom, Gary	11/30/17	
13	WGA data management project members to complete relevant portions of survey. Stephanie will compile and schedule a call for reconciliation	Stephanie, Amy, Leigh, Gary, David, Tom, Dave, Mike	9/29/17	
14	Initiate MT invasive species law review	Bryce	11/30/17	
15	Initiate post-season review of AIS 2017 program	Steve W., Steve T., Dennis, David, Bryce and Tom	11/30/17	
16	Provide input on Rapid Response Guidelines	All	Ongoing	
17	Gary and Stephanie coordinate TTX exercise for plant pest	Gary, Stephanie	11/30/17	