

Montana Invasive Species Council (MISAC)

MEETING MINTUES

Montana FWP Headquarters, Helena, MT

Meeting 5/27/15

Council Attendees:

Amy Gannon – Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Bryce Christiaens – Missoula County Weed District
Dave Burch – Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Floyd Thompson – U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Gary Adams – USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Jane Mangold – Montana State University Extension
Jeff Baumberger – Bureau of Reclamation
Lindy Garner – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Mark Aagenes – Trout Unlimited
Mike Miller – Montana Department of Transportation
Mark Reller – Bonneville Power Administration
Patricia Gilbert – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (via conference call)
Steve Bekedam – National Park Service (Yellowstone)
Steve Hertel – Private Landowner
Steve Tyrrel – Industry representative
Steve Wanderaas – McCone County Conservation District
Tom Boos – Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
Virgil Dupuis – Salish Kootenai College

Other Attendees:

Stephanie Hester – Montana DNRC
Alicia Stickney – Montana DNRC
Ian Foley – Montana Department of Agriculture

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions-round robin

Bryce kicked off meeting

- Patricia brought idea of bringing stakeholders to meeting to present on different aspects of invasives work. This meeting includes 4 presentations: Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable, FWP Aquatic Invasive Species, MDA Pest Management Program, Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign
- Message: need to interact with public and provide them an opportunity to share concerns/issues

Montana Invasive Species Stakeholder Listening Sessions

(see Appendix A—separate document)

Alan Rollo-Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable Presentation

MT FWP AIS-Tom Boos

Presentations are available on request.

Administrative Business

March 24 meeting minutes

- Move to approve—Steve Hertel
- 2nd by Jane Mangold
- Motion passed (unanimous)

>>>ACTION: Post minute to MISAC website (done)

MISAC Biography Exercise—Mark Reller provided overview of results (see Appendix B—separate document)

Bottom Line: What's needed?

- Sustainable funding
- Coordination & cooperation among networks, partners
- Prioritize and risk assessments
- Avoid duplication. Streamline effort
- Clarify roles and identify gaps

Discussion:

- Lindy and Tom—what about extracting information for resources, e.g. subject matter experts?
- Jane—answers were cursory. Just scratched the surface
- Lindy—information can help us solve problems; understand who to contact, etc.
- Steve B.—what is the purpose? Will this be used as guidance?
- Amy—didn't notice insect or forest issues. Need to make sure summary is comprehensive if used as guidance.
- Mark R—some insect and forest issues in detail.
- Virgil—reaching out to tribes to get more information. Many tribes don't even have a weed coordinator. Gary—has POCs for tribes.
- Bryce—exercise just meant to serve as groundwork. We'll be using as a baseline. Might consider more quantitative approach to priorities. Bottom Line: What Can MISAC do for YOU?

>>>ACTION: Incorporate bio info. into program assessments

MISAC Coordinator Position

- .5 FTE position approved and included in HB2. Begins July 1, 2015
- Stephanie Hester will serve role
- Once MISAC identifies priorities, coordinator work plan will be developed.

>>>ACTION: SH to work with DNRC HR on position description. Coordinator work plan to be developed beginning July 1 based on MISAC priorities

Financial Report/Budget1

2,000 Avista

10,000 Msla County

10,000 DNRC AIS

\$22,000 (minus meeting expenses to date)

- Other organizations are expected to contribute
- Funds are available for council functions

Mission & Vision Discussion

Introduction by Chair

- Exec committee charged with drafting mission by-laws, etc. Draft vision and mission are presented are straightforward and reflective of neighboring states
- Hold off on MOU among agencies until we have a project identified

>>>ACTIONS in red: Edit documents according to the following:

- Add “invasive” definition to Article I, Section 3. Remove paragraph after Article I, Section 4 (9)
- Dave to reconcile document with Governor’s appointee handbook to make sure they are inline. Add “in accordance with Governor’s Appointee Handbook” to certification line.
- Check into DNRC legal review of document

VISION edits

- Jane-“substantive” change is difficult to measure. Agreement to remove word.
- MISAC no authority. Can we be driving and coordinating force? Edit language to describe a more supportive then authoritarian role.
- Revised vision statement “Our vision is for the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) to foster coordinated efforts in Montana that lead to positive change in the prevention, management, reduction, and eradication of invasive species.”

MISSION edits

- Mark A—Mission. Natural resources refers to using natural resources for economic gain. Has different connotations. Do we want to be specific about the resource vs. the resource\$?
- Agreement. Change natural resources to “ecological” to read “Our mission is to protect Montana’s economy, ecological resources, and public health and safety by...”

BYLAWS edits

- We have language to address new appointments, etc. if and when MISAC is extended beyond.
- Objectives out of executive order
- Dave-Article I, Section 2 and Section 4, #3,4,5. The “in Montana” reference isn’t necessary we are the Montana council. Mark—delete “in Montana” It’s unnecessary. Need to extend beyond borders. Agreed. Remove “in Montana” from above noted sections.
- Amy-Article I, Section 3, last paragraph. What do we mean by “Humans?”
 - Discussion about how specific to get in identifying what species MISAC addresses. Decision to leave vague and include the previously adopted invasive species definition.

- Dave—We are fostering coordination not administering program or setting policy. Recommend changing first sentence in **Article I, Section 4, #8** to: **“To collaborate with agency personnel, local efforts, and the scientific community to encourage statewide priorities.”** Agreed.
- Dave—Section 3, #9. What are the priorities? Edit to reflect state-wide priorities once established.
- Lindy—Article II, section 5. Need to address agency in Section 6. **Add “or agency” after “similar interest.”**
- Floyd—Article III, Section 5. Administration. Would like to see something about executive committee will formulate agenda. Agreed. **Add “formulate agenda and arrange plan, and preside over.”**
- Article III, Section 8. Bryce--Chair is also liaison with Governor’s office. **Add “along with the Council Chair” after A Council Coordinator.**
- Coordinator position description needs to be drafted, discussed, and finalized. It will be an attachment to bylaws.
- **Combine Article V: section 1 and 2 since they are duplicative**
- Virgil-does chair get to vote? Mark-chair votes last so gets deciding vote. Covered by Robert’s Rules.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT edits

- Amy-3rd bullet of Statement of Commitment. **Change “supervise and direct” to “Participate”**
Approved by group.

Move to approve vision, mission, bylaws, and statement of commitment subject to incorporating approved upon edits, Dave Burch reconciling with Governor’s Appointee Handbook, and legal review by DNRC.—Tom Boos

- 2nd by Mark Agnes
- Motion passed (unanimous)

New appointments

- Chas Cartwright has resigned due to health reasons
- Look at applications on files. Ask FBC for recommendations.
- Motion to make recommendation to gov. office to allow FBC to complete application and be considered with other applicants. Steve Wanderass seconded.

>>>ACTION: Members to promote position to natural resource groups. Christiaens and Hester to work with Governor’s office on process.

Communication with Representative Groups

- How can this group communicate with other groups we work with and how do other groups provide information to us?
- Tom-need a system to detail how communication should flow back-and-forth
- Gary-communication tree might be one way to fulfill need

- Lindy-go back to the questionnaire to see how communication-related questions were answered
- Stephanie—what about invasives news?
- Mike-responsibility of council member to report to and from MISAC
- Steve W-approaching private industry. Need a set list to go to industry with. What are concerns? Suggestions for xyz.
- Will revisit communications tactics with strategy, prioritization

Projects

Invasive Species Summit and Program Assessments

- Historically aquatic invasive species summit takes place every 2 years.
- At this point, makes sense to have all invasives summit
- Would build network of who we represent, what information we want to gather, and who should attend summit

Discussion

- Q: Are we ok with having a summit this fall/winter? How would we format?
 - Lindy-what is the purpose of the summit?
 - Bryce-a workshop to gather information for gap analysis
- Bryce-has looked into to an AIS audit/summit with full-panel of experts to go through workshop with stakeholders (workshop is for all invasives, audit is AIS only)
- Tom-has been involved in Midwest summits. A ton of work. Coordinator involved to plan and implement. That's what I envision for this summit but more of a focus on working groups to accomplish MISAC goals. Would be good to pull council and community together.
- Steve Tyrell—Is this redundant to MT Weed Control Assoc? Has similar strands. How do we differentiate so we aren't redundant?
- Bryce—this would help us fulfill our mission. Use first one for gap analysis. Second one how did we do. More subject-matter oriented.
- Mike Miller-how to identify stakeholders and pull together?
- Gary—should be outreach event too. Make sure not during same time as MWCA.
- Dave—first one was all-taxa. Was a day and a half. Has historical documentation from summit. **Will send to Stephanie.**
- Dave—would hope some of the gap analysis would be defined before summit. Bryce—yes, we could start the leg work
- Steve T—identify major themes to focus on. Just a starting point. Otherwise feels unfocused.
- Dave—that's my concern. Would it be better to have gap analysis first and then summit or vice versa?
- Bryce—based on discussions with members, there is a lot of interest in AIS assessment. Have proposal that allows outside stakeholders to work in field and do Q&A using panel of experts (tailored to needs of state). This would give us a structure (known model) and then we can do one for pests, terrestrial, etc. Need a product that addresses issues by next legislative session.

- Tom—are the contractors not able to do other issues.
 - Bryce—there focus is aquatics. What is the end goal by sunset? If goal is for statewide invasive plan, will we get there starting with aquatics only.
- Bryce—we don't have a lot of time. If we have aquatics in place, that would give us a deliverable and momentum to have council sunset renewed.
- Mike—we need to find a way to bring other issues in. Can't just address aquatics.
- Steve T—a lot of the overarching themes are the same whether aquatic or terrestrial or pest
- Jane—how much was the quote? Bryce - \$15,000. Seems like we don't have funds to do it all. Approach it as if this is the model (aquatics). Use that model to address other issues. Seems like we choose aquatics as the first step.
- Tom—or change the model
- Bryce—assessment process
 - ID broad issues
 - Panel comes out for field visits—watercraft station, infested area
 - Panel meets with locals
 - Recommendations
- Jane—seems like a good model. Aquatics seem to have been a struggle. Good place to start. From a larger perspective gives us a model to address other issues. We can't look at everything.
- Steve B—could dig deep on one issue or surface level on all issues.
- Steve T—is there a single-subject topic we can address? A priority?
- Gary—if we just focus on AIS, and everything off the table, afraid we will miss the important topics.
- Tom—I don't see how gap analysis will help us? start with mission statement, how do we get there. What end product do we want, recommendation for all taxa. Vs. prevention detection and monitoring.
- Lindy—Concerned about waiting 7 months to identify priorities. What if we take objectives and address each one with stakeholders. Bring that information back and identify priorities. An alternate approach.
- Steve W.—I know what I want from local folks at home. I need funding. RMFWR needs funding. We all need funding.
- Tom—that takes planning
- Jane—would we want to focus our data acquisition around themes—management, eradication, control, etc.
- Tom—you can't ask for funding if you don't know what you need it for. Define need—prevention, control, eradication?
- Steve W.—the system is not working.
- Steve H—we need to figure if there is a gap, define the gap, then the solution to fill gap. We aren't here to be an aquatic specialist. Responsibility is to work with what is out there and how do we make it better. We need to fill in the gaps.
- Steve T—Counties take different approaches. Clear guidance for consistency across counties would be good, but weed boards and county attorneys all have different interpretations.

- Gaps—funding, legal. Tom. Is this a beginning framework?
- Steve W—met with local weed guy. Lack of funding monumental. Coordinator has heartburn about weed law.
- Dave—56 counties, 160 county commissioners, 56 weed coordinators, 56 county attorneys, 180 weed board members, etc. It's complicated. Understand it's frustrating.
- Gary—support groups already working. Focus on work that is not being addressed.
- Jane—you could look at it from the other side. We are working on it, but struggling.
- Dave—terrestrial work is in pretty good shape—mostly internal. Pests and aquatics have less support.
- Bryce—at legislature aquatics keep coming up with no solutions. Seems like good opportunity to address grey areas.
- Dave—recommend to governor that AIS group get funding for gap analysis. Let governor and legislature fund work. Terrestrial weed world we are in great shape, lots of things going on, gaps are more internal. Best we can do is support them. Aquatics funding gap. Pests, big gap little attention.
- Tom—we can be support network to help other taxa. The connection between problems and solutions.
- Bryce—would like groups to come to us for help.
- Lindy—Need a combination of doing work and making recommendations
- Jane—Can we take good aspects of terrestrial work and apply to aquatics? Identify those experience across all taxa?
- Lindy—merge weed laws, if a priority, have them come tell what not working, what they need, morph into recommendation for next session.
- Mark A.—from aquatics perspective we've had people come in and try to help but there is a tremendous amount of information to learn from terrestrial. We are still dealing with some incredibly basic stuff. There has been progress, but we need MISAC and other stakeholders to help us. We are not even sure what the next thing to ask for is. We have a lot of learning left to do. The AIS group is an informal group pushing agencies. That work group has fallen apart a bit. E.g. Unaware of AIS legislation before it was introduced.
- Lindy—for me the question is, do we need to put on a summit to get information?
- Steve T—collective knowledge around table is far and wide. Should we go beyond table to get perspective? If so, how do we do it? What would be adequate to address our responsibilities?
- Steve B. all have problems and diff perspectives. Need more of a collective perspective. Can we go beyond this table to get more info, then that raises the question, survey, interviews, panel, summit? That is what I am hearing.
- Bryce—an additional set of eyes outside of group would be good perspective.
- Steve B—surveys capture broad audience. Needs to be constructed properly. Provides immediate data. Eye opening to see what other groups are doing.
- Steve W—conservation districts start resolution process and go to legislature to ask for money. Plan to do that for terrestrial problem. MISAC could support this effort.
- Tom—we have priorities 1-9. Perhaps we start working on each item? Is this our road map?

- Lindy-assessments will give us a tool to answer EO priorities 1-9
- Possible approach--AIS assessment, terrestrial survey, pest workshop.
- A list of species is needed. That is part of the legal gap. Need a process to get species on the list.
- Ian—as a user of deliverable. I want a prioritized list of worse invasives. This is the first product from other states invasive councils.
- Dave—having groups come in will help us identify gaps. Base summit on gaps. That would drive recommendations.
- Mark R—build political base of support so we have stakeholder support.
- MISAC needs to be sounding board for issues and bring those to governor
- Steve Bekedam—need price tags tied to problems. Concrete strong evidence on problems build the case for funding.
- Bryce—is there a summit to occur this winter?
 - Gary-yes, Steve W.-Yes
 - Bryce-bare-bones summit would be aquatic oriented. It should be all taxa though.
 - Gary—make sure we can apply process for other taxa
- Gary-let's compile ideas for summit topics.
- Amy—can contribute to summit but not assessment
- Tom-can't we come up with own assessments?
- Mike-summit needs to be all encompassing. Until recent budget constraints. MDT willing to put funding towards specific funding need. Concerned about contractors knowledge of topic.
- Agreement to develop constituent surveys for aquatics, pests, terrestrial. Questions to constituents (meeting June 2 to formalize questions)
 - Tom-aquatics
 - Dave-terrestrial
 - Gary-pests
- Mark R--option to take baby steps; take Tom and Gary and Amy's work talking with constituents. Use that to shape future contracts, and summit. **Jane will help on question review.**
- Jane-look at common themes for invasion ecology. As questionnaires are put together we need to identify those common themes.
- Virgil-need to think about how we interface with MWCA.
- Stephanie—consider a stakeholder analysis
- Jane-motion to have a summit in Feb/March 2016. Format to be determined.
 - Gary – 2nd
 - Motion passed.
- Tom-propose word change to Vision--Prevention, detection, rapid response, and management.
 - Tom-move to change verbiage in Vision
 - Gary Adams-2nd
 - Motion passed.

>>>ACTION: Schedule Invasive Summit, edit Vision statement, develop constituent surveys

AIS Sampling Field Guidelines

- Bryce asked Council members for comments on the AIS Sampling Field Guidelines. Members have input.
- Virgil-
 - don't use flower as identification. Only blooms small amount of time
 - Need mention of permit requirements on tribal land
 - Herbicide-look at different herbicides for flowering rush (not just Habitat)
 - Mark-aquatic folks not comfortable until thorough review
 - Hold off on approval until peer review

>>>ACTION: Members to send feedback. Want peer review before MISAC endorsement

Montana Invasive Species Stakeholder Listening Sessions (cont.) (see Appendix A)

Ian Foley, MDA Pest Management Program

Shantell Frame-Martin, Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Thoughts

- Next meeting date: meet every two months—end of July, end of September
- Turn in travel forms.
- June 10—Port Pest Risk Committee Meeting (Tom Boos to attend)
- SH – facilitate rather than note take
- John Kaplan—funding for federal agencies Healthy Habitat Council. Potential new speaker.

Action Items

- 1) Post adopted minute meetings from 3/27 on MISAC website (Hester-done)
- 2) Incorporate biography and stakeholder roundtable info. into program assessments (TBD)
- 3) Edits to vision, mission, bylaws (Hester-in progress)
- 4) Reconcile vision, mission, bylaw document with Governor's Appointee Handbook (Dave Burch-done)
- 5) Legal review of vision, mission, bylaws (Hester-in progress)
- 6) SH to work with DNRC HR on position description. (Hester-in progress)
- 7) Nominations for Natural Resource position
 - a. Members to promote position to natural resource groups.(all)
 - b. Christiaens and Hester to work with Governor's office on nomination process.
(Christiaens/Hester)
- 8) Questions to constituents (meeting June 2 to formalize questions) (Boos, Adams, Burch)
- 9) Dave send historical summit info. to Stephanie (done)
- 10) Schedule next two meetings (done)
- 11) Send feedback on Montana AIS Sampling Field Guidelines (all)