

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	August 21, 2018	Time:	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Hallee Kansman	Location:	Little Bighorn College, Crow Agency
Attendees			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (Missoula Co.), Dennis Clairmont (CSKT), Dave Burch (MDA—proxy for Kim Mangold), Mike Miller (MDT), Steve Wanderaas (McCone Conservation District), Tom Woolf (FWP), Dennis Longknife (Fort Belknap), Mike Miller (MDT), Gail Whiteman (Crow Tribe),</p> <p>MISC Members Phone: Jan Stoddard (DOC), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Steve Tyrrel (Ag representative)</p> <p>Other Attendees: Stephanie Hester (DNRC, MISC Coordinator), Bryce Maxwell (Montana Natural Heritage Program), Lauri Hanauska-Brown (FWP), Hallee Kansman (University of Montana Law School), Rachel Frost (Missouri River Conservation Councils/CEMMRT), Bob Cloninger (MDT), Becky Kington (MWCA), Alyssa Piccolomini (MDA), Amy Adler (Rosebud Co.), Seanna Torske (USDA), Molly Hammond (MSU Ext.), Harold Guse (FWP), Barb Beck (FWP), Gary Wiens (Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association)</p>			
Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Introductions	<p>Chair Christiaens opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin introductions • Quorum confirmed 		
May 23 Meeting Minutes	<p>Copies of the minutes from the May 23 meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting.</p> <p><i>Motion:</i> Steve Wanderaas. motioned to adopt the May 23 meeting minutes as provided. Dave Burch seconded</p> <p><i>Discussion</i> – Dennis Clairmont requested that the minutes be revised to reflect the accurate acreage of Ventenata around the Bison Range. Minutes state 100,000 acres, but it's closer to 30,000 infested acres. Stephanie will revise minutes.</p> <p><i>Public comment:</i> none</p> <p><i>Vote:</i> unanimous approval. Motion passes.</p>		
Other MISC Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private landowner position filled • Still have vacancies with Northern Cheyenne and Little Shell tribes • Radio show on Voices of Montana on Monday; Steve Wanderaas August 27 		
MISC Revised Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to revise budget to account for grant funds not awarded • Shift costs from unallocated budget line to cover law review, summit, listening sessions; increase to \$32,000 (MISC Revised) • NISC budget zeroed out by end of October <p><i>Motion:</i> Dave Burch motioned to adopt the revised budget as presented. Mike Miller seconded</p> <p><i>Discussion</i> – none</p> <p><i>Public comment:</i> none</p> <p><i>Vote:</i> unanimous approval. Motion passes.</p>		
Montana Weed Control Association Presentation	<p>Beck Kington provided an overview of the Montana Weed Control Association's history and current projects and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1920s first spotting of Knapweed • 1940s and 50s Association was formed • Professional organization for county weed districts; provide training (how to write grants and mill levies), publications, private commercial applicators, scholarship program, first noxious weed trust fund in the nation 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 voting members • MWCA Annual Conference is slated for January 7-9, 2019 <p>2019 Proposed legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to add the word “education” in the County Weed Act and petition for additional funding for the County Weed Act • Increase the license fee by \$1; loss of revenue with purchase of permanent plates
Project Updates	<p>Law Review, listening sessions, and Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of compendium is near final; interest in PDF version being available prior to Summit • Will work with Windfall to generate hard copies but recognize it is a living document that will likely change after the legislative session. Consider that in printing costs. • Reviewed draft Summit agenda • Upcoming listening sessions: Aug. 21, Billings; Aug. 28, Ft. Peck; Sept. 11, Kalispell • Discussed the concept of a study bill for next session • Summit registration fee poll: Consensus that \$50 is reasonable • Educational booths available for Thursday and Friday <p>Western Governors’ Association (WGA) Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative (BISI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WGA workshop will be held the day before the Summit starts on November 14 • Registration fee is \$125, MISC will pay for voting members • Event will be livestreamed • MISC is working with WGA on agenda. Reviewed draft agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Suggestions to add Ventenata, rush skeletonweed, phragmites (along railroads), and Dyer’s woad information in case studies section of WGA <p>Missouri River Invasive Pilot Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Pilot to enhance invasive mussel coordination in the Missouri River System; approval to broaden scope to statewide perspective • Final pilot meeting scheduled for Aug. 28 at Ft. Peck • NISC Deliverables-due Sept. 30, 2018; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Mussel Early Detection and Rapid Response” strategic plan for coordination—complete 2. EDRR project partner workshop---complete, Jan. 29, 2018 3. Coordinated EDRR Invasive Mussel plan for the Missouri River Basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tiber and Canyon Ferry quarantine and containment plan is out for public comment—in process ◦ RR Guidelines--complete ◦ GIS-based map—complete ◦ CEMMRT strategic plan--complete ◦ Partnership agreement—in process 4. White paper-in in process (MISC members to provide input) 5. Economic impact report—due from UM by Sept. 15 • Montana Water Resources Conference in October (Billings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Outreach and education for the locals – Where are the inspection stations located? Traffic analyses <p><i>Motion:</i> Dave Burch motioned to sign on to the invasive mussel coordination partnership agreement. Steve Wanderaas seconded</p> <p><i>Discussion</i> – none</p> <p><i>Public comment:</i> none</p> <p><i>Vote:</i> unanimous approval. Motion passes.</p> <p>Science Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed eDNA science advisory panel. Roll of MISC is complete. • Recommendations passed to partners (WGA, Western Regional Panel, Meridian) • Strong model moving forward • Other potential issues in developing another science advisory panel:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bio-control agent for Houndstongue (out of Canada); recommendations for cross-state actions and path forward • Ventenata <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is this a good fit for science panel or just raise awareness? ○ Wyoming more concerned about medusahead than ventenata ○ Wyoming wants to work with MT ○ MISC would like to take this on. MDA and MISC to pull together work group ○ Lack of applicators in MT • ACTION: Add science advisory panel as action item to next meeting agenda • DEQ not requiring not requiring weed districts to inspect new gravel pits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION: SH to follow-up with DEQ <p>Interagency ICS Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SH has been pursuing concept of pulling together a team to go through ICS training for invasive species response ○ SH to send scoping document ○ DNRC Director and Governor supportive of project <p>All-taxa response template</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task in framework to create a template that could be customized for any invasive species ○ Contractor is working on guidelines Draft will be available in the next couple of months
<p>Species and Vector Updates</p>	<p>EDRR update (MT FWP) – Chronic wasting disease; 3 different regions; centered around Helena (Harold Guse, Barb Beck)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows up in Mule Deer bucks initially • Response was handled using incident command organization • Small amount of funding available from grant for response • Effort to move up to highline this year and then in the southwest region next year • What is the geographical scope? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drawing zones out from incident areas • Prion disease, malfunction of the proteins; no cross-species incidents on record <p>Bullfrog update (Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Bryce Maxell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flathead meeting – sightings (Savage Mine near Sydney; Tongue River; Powder River; Custer Forest) • Custer Forest population possible test site for removal • Develop response and surveillance plan for wetlands • Education materials given to public to discourage bullfrog transportation in the Flathead Valley • Bitterroot, Lower Clark Fork, Yellowstone → locations where there will be no eradication efforts due to widespread populations, however there will be maintenance efforts to halt the spread • Bullfrogs do well with chytrid fungus <p>Whitenose Syndrome (Lauri Hanauska-Brown)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease has killed between 6-7 million bats • Economic benefit of bats was \$680 million/year in the corn industry • Four possible vectors known in Montana bat species • No known positive identification in MT, but the spread is moving westward quickly • Need for further education regarding WNS and conservation of bats • Might be like West Nile in birds and needs to run its course • Include WNS in listening sessions to gather stakeholder views? How do we incorporate this in the list? • Lewis and Clark Caverns bats—staff informs visitors about disease and works to prevent new introductions by asking visitors a risk survey <p>Donated hay (Andy Fjeseth, Rachel Frost)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranch-aid: accepting only certified weed-free hay • DES cooperation • Hay hotline – can put hay listings online

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garfield County problem; no quality control from the semis • Local newspapers to broadcast the availability of the donated hay <p>Feral horses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred value to the tribes • Allotment issue in open range land; patchwork of tribal, private, and state-owned land with no fencing • Horses are crowding out native species (elk) and overgrazing. Rangeland down to gravel in places • Cattle owners supportive of implementing a strategy to combat feral horses • Issue – animal rights activist groups • Suggestion – development program amongst troubled youth, prisoners, etc. • ACTION: MISC to work with tribes, DOL, and BLM on issue and potential solutions <p>Pineshoot Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer (Leigh Greenwood)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to deregulate has not been published and so there is no current action • All states in the National Plant Board are creating a working group to write a model template for state-based firewood regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Proxy for federal regulation • MT does not regulate firewood and so is not in the working group • No set timeline for publishing on the federal register <p>Ventenata and Medusahead (Dave Burch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming looking to coordinate with MT (Slade – WY) • Aerial applicator to take fly-over pictures of total affected acreage • Suggestion – list in counties to move forward • Suggestion – Department of Ag. to have control over hay programs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Park County, Teton County, and Sheridan County requires tarping and permit from weed district • Is ventenata going to be like cheat grass? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Is it economically feasible to list the grass? ◦ Livestock will eat cheat grass, but not ventenata • Must consider revegetation efforts if spraying for the ventenata • Ventanata being found across the state • ACTION: MISC to work with MDA and Wyoming on issue <p>Japanese Longhorn Beetle (Alyssa Piccolomini)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2001 sightings in Billings; increase in 2009 ◦ 2017 Lake Elmo sightings ◦ 2018 last year for funding from CAPS ◦ ACTION: SH to send email regarding Tree Pest Chair and Board
Education & Outreach	<p>Contract with Windfall for design and development of materials and website (invasivespecies.mt.gov) has been initiated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Work plan complete ◦ Creative briefs complete. Style guides in development ◦ Summit postcard and posters provided <p>Windfall provided overview of workplan</p> <p>MISC report from 2016-July 2017 finalized</p>
Wrap-up and Adjourn	<p>AIS Update and EQC AIS funding proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tom provided an AIS update and an overview of EQC's funding proposal. The 2017 AIS funding package terminates June 30, 2019. <p>National Plant Board Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leigh attended the meeting ◦ It was reported at meeting that eradication of Asian long-horned beetle is looking good. It will take years to eradicate, however. Three biggest infestations are in: Long Island, NY, Worcester, MA, and Ohio ◦ Spotted lantern fly was a big topic, but not a big issue for Montana

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese beetle-Oregon and Vancouver, Canada, have populations and have invested hugely in eradication efforts because of impacts to the West. <p>Montana Natural Heritage Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed data exchange with EDDMapS Worked out process with FWP for AIS data exchange <p>Department of Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed plan expires this year. Working on an update Concerned about ventenata <p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting is scheduled for January 15 in Helena Consensus to hold phone meeting in October in advance of Summit ACTION: SH to set-up October meeting
Other Business Public Comment Agenda Items Adjourn	<p>No public comment or new business</p> <p><i>Motion:</i> Dave Burch motioned to adjourn. Mike Miller seconded</p> <p><i>Discussion</i> – none</p> <p><i>Public comment:</i> none</p> <p><i>Vote:</i> unanimous approval. Motion passes.</p>

Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	SH to revise meeting minutes re: ventenata acreage and post	Hester	9/1/18	Done
2	SH to send info. about Voices of Montana MISC segment	Hester	9/15/18	In process
3	SH to provide WGA with suggestion for terrestrial weed response case study/panel	Hester	9/1/18	Done— added to agenda
4	MISC to work with MDA and WY on ventenata issue	Hester/Dave Burch	9/15/18	In process
5	Add science advisory panel topic as an action item to next meeting	Hester	9/15/18	In process
6	SH to contact DEQ about new gravel pit permitting	Hester	9/15/18	In process
7	SH to send Interagency ICS scoping document	Hester	9/15/18	In process
8	MISC to work with Tribes, DOL, and BLM on feral horse solutions	Bryce, SH, Dona, Gail, Dennis	Ongoing	ongoing
9	SH to send email to Tree Pest group re: Chair vacancy and to discuss Japanese beetle issue	Hester	9/15/18	In process
10	SH to set-up October meeting	Hester	9/15/18	In process