

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>MISC</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>January 8, 2020</b>	<b>Time:</b>	10:04am-2:07pm
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Grant Carson, Stephanie Criswell</b>	<b>Location:</b>	State Capitol Building, Helena
<b>Attendees</b>			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (Missoula County Weed District – Chair), Bob Cloninger (MDT), Tom Woolf (FWP), Steve Wanderaas (CDs), Christy Clark (MDA Representative), Jane Mangold (MSU-Ext.), Andy Welch (Northwestern Energy), Bruce Anderson (private landowners), Dennis Longknife (Fort Belknap)</p> <p>MISC Members via phone: Alec Underwood (MWF), Amy Gannon (DNRC Representative), Jan Stoddard (DOC Representative), David Brooks (Montana Trout Unlimited), Laurie Shafer (Fort Peck Assiniboine &amp; Sioux Tribes), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Steve Tyrrel (Ag. Industry)</p> <p>MISC Federal Partners: Gary Adams (USDA-APHIS) (phone), Monica Pokorny (USDA NRCS), Jessica Zarate (USFWS) (phone)</p> <p>Other Attendees: Grant Carson (DNRC, MISC Assistant), Mark Bostrom (DNRC, CARDD) Kate Wilson (DNRC, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Hallee Kansman (University of Montana, MISC legal intern), Tahnee Szymanski (DOL)</p>			
<b>Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Welcome	<p>Bryce opened the meeting at 10:04. Round robin introductions.</p> <p>Quorum confirmed</p>		
Oct. 17 meeting minute approval	<p>Steve Wanderaas motioned to approve minutes  Second: Jane Mangold  Discussion: none  Public Comment: none  Action on motion: motion passes unanimously</p>		
Coordinator Updates (provided by Bryce)	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FY20-21 budget that was approved was provided as a handout, as well as expenditures to date. Two largest expenditures have been council member travel and education and outreach. Remaining Windfall contracted funds for education and outreach that were accrued from the 2019 biennium have mostly been spent down through exhibiting at events, developing the website, and developing and producing materials for the Squeal on Pigs campaign.</li> <li>A total of \$17,000 (\$7,000 FY20, \$10,000 FY21) was allocated this biennium for the upcoming summit (NAISMA conference). Discussion scheduled later in meeting re: allocating a portion of those funds to sponsor the NAISMA/MISC conference in October.</li> <li>Funding for FY20 budget must be spent or accrued by the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2020).</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Quality Council meeting next week. MISC not scheduled to present. DOL will present on feral swine, update EQC on summit at end of last year, upcoming events, and progress on Squeal on Pigs campaign. Agenda is available online. Tom presenting on AIS Summit.</li> <li>MWCA meeting next week, Bryce will be staffing.</li> <li>MAGIE meeting Great Falls 16-19.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive Species Rotunda Day has been scheduled for 2021 legislative session Jan 27. This is a better timing than 2019 session.</li> <li>• Saltcedar team meeting being scheduled for mid-February. Diorhabda will be a main topic on the agenda.</li> <li>• Steve Wanderaas noted that CEMIST personnel is stepping up to staff Ag. events.</li> <li>• Dennis Longknife will be attending a mosquito conference in Great Falls week of January 13.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> If members/partners are attending a meeting/event that is not captured on the events list, let Stephanie or Grant know so it can be recorded and if you need outreach materials to distribute at the event.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Stephanie or Grant to send Saltcedar doodle poll currently out to schedule upcoming meeting.</p>
AIS Summit	<p><b>AIS Summit</b> takeaways (round robin from members)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with legislature in the interim.</li> <li>• It was evident there is a lot of Interagency cooperation and coordination is happening to keep mussels out, e.g. coordination and partner staffing of check stations</li> <li>• Willingness and excitement to share ideas and get different perspectives (format of small tables helped)</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview of AIS Summit provided by Tom Woolf</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Distribute Tom Woolf's PowerPoint, Grant sent 1/9/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program has gone through significant changes</li> <li>• Program has become more stable/proactive and Summit was an opportunity to work with partners to see where to take program in future</li> <li>• Impressive interest shown by partners and the public</li> <li>• Took place Dec. 4- 5 summit at Carroll College. Over 130 attendees from 50 organizations and agencies, most from Montana.</li> <li>• Provided opportunity to acknowledge successes. Identify gaps and needs.</li> <li>• Tom provided an overview of the 2-day agenda.</li> <li>• Recommendations and next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Address gaps in law and rule</li> <li>○ Expand partner involvement in AIS prevention, early detection and outreach</li> <li>○ Expand engagement with legislature (both agency and local interests through partners)</li> <li>○ Improve watercraft inspection station operations through quality control measures.</li> <li>○ Continue engagement and communication on AIS program activities and progress to partners and the public.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recommendations will be integrated into the upcoming AIS strategic plan (last updated in 2004) that will be drafted in 2020.</li> <li>• AIS 2020 plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looking at opening watercraft inspection stations in March, starting with Ravalli and Dillon stations.</li> <li>○ Longer hours and season.</li> <li>○ Over 30 partner-operated and FWP-operated stations, all utilizing same training and following the same protocols.</li> <li>○ Focus on quality assurance at stations</li> <li>○ Continue early detection and monitoring and train partners to get more eyes looking for AIS</li> <li>○ Treat new AIS detections of aquatic weeds and species, e.g. Asian clams</li> <li>○ Expand outreach efforts; target specific user groups and specific areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will add AIS to prohibited species list until we have an official AIS list.</li> <li>○ Exploring a rapid response exercise for Fort Peck 2020 (contact Tom Woolf if want to be involved)</li> <li>○ Draft AIS strategic plan</li> <li>• Notes from the Summit are being finalized and will be distributed.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed next steps from law review at AIS Summit. Input from participants and legislative panel highlighted the need to work with legislators and UC3 now to identify how best to address issues in the 2021 session. Need to start working together on these issues beginning this spring. Discussed issue of redundancy in laws regarding mandatory inspection of boats coming from Columbia River Basin and the ballast tank decontamination bill. Might look at fixing that redundancy for next session.</li> <li>• With delisting of Canyon Ferry, that funding is freed up and can be reprogrammed to extend season and operating hours.</li> <li>• AIS grant application cycle is currently open and closes Jan. 23. AIS grant review committee will evaluate proposals and provide funding recommendations to Council prior to April meeting. Second day of April meeting will be grant hearings, deliberations and voting on funding recommendations that will go to DNRC for final approval.</li> </ul>
Feral swine action items and talking points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tahnee Szymanski from DOL provided update on feral swine issue Feral Swine Summit last November was successful and launched Squeal on Pigs campaign</li> <li>• Action items from Summit include the following main categories of work (Stephanie previously distributed list of action items):</li> </ul> <p>1. Education and outreach 2. Reporting and response 3. Monitoring 4. Policy discussions</p> <p>Post summit updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When TipMont receives call, it will be transferred to Squeal on Pigs phone line.</li> <li>• Reportings have increased, e.g. stray pot belly pigs in Billings.</li> <li>• Saskatchewan has asked if they can adopt Squeal on Pigs campaign.</li> <li>• Have had many requests to present to various groups about the issue</li> <li>• Have tightened up messaging, re: hunting feral swine</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need unified messaging. Talking points are in final draft stage.</li> </ul> <p>Action: Distribute talking points when available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tahnee provided outline of what would happen if there is a feral swine report. DOL has rough response plan. Reports are diverse, so it's difficult to have a specific plan. The first step is reaching out to the appropriate responder—DOL, FWP, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services and verify siting. If confirmed DOL will partner with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services for surveillance and eradication.</li> <li>• Question if USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services is equipped, trained and available. They are equipped and available. Training in Texas is in process.</li> <li>• Funding is available through USDA or general fund.</li> <li>• Discussion around finding funding for monitoring. Before funding, pressing need is to prioritize monitoring needs and high priority areas.</li> <li>• Discussion about tabletop exercise to increase preparedness and demonstrate to public that DOL has issue under control. DOL has been training on ICS and is on board with TTX. Consensus to schedule TTX.</li> </ul> <p>Action item: DOL to follow-up with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services and DES about TTX. Schedule after Texas training.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: Tabletop will help with public outreach and demonstrate response readiness.</li> <li>• Tahnee happy to take input on talking points and response framework</li> <li>• MT Wildlife Federation has been providing feral swine outreach to constituency and making progress on hunting message.</li> <li>• Upcoming events/actions: Summer PNWER meeting will be held at Big Sky in July., Canadian Federal Government is conducting horizon scan to see how to handle issue in province. Feral swine will be highlighted at NAISMA in October.</li> </ul>
NAISMA	<p>Kate provided update on NAISMA Conference planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled for October 6-8 in Whitefish.</li> <li>• Attendance projected to be around 400 attendees. Some space constraints</li> <li>• Field trips confirmed for Glacier, CSKT's Blue Bay Cannery. Others being planned.</li> <li>• Upcoming planning meeting will focus on agenda and speakers. Action: Please send ideas for sessions or speakers to Stephanie</li> <li>• Call for abstract will be coming out soon (late Jan/early Feb.)</li> <li>• Draft schedule provided in meeting packet</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on MISC meeting that week and MISC budget for event and for sponsoring conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently scheduled to meet October 5.</li> <li>• Discussion to have quarterly meeting a few weeks earlier to strategize and prepare for meeting.</li> <li>• Consensus to reschedule meeting for mid-September.</li> </ul> <p>Action: Cancel October 5 meeting and reschedule for mid-September</p> <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephanie provided projected budget for event in meeting packet and sponsorship packages based on previous events</li> <li>• NAISMA open to MISC tailoring a sponsorship package</li> <li>• Travel and lodging costs will be higher based on location than previous meetings. Projected budget reflects this.</li> <li>• Discussion on sponsorship level. NAISMA projected budget scenario (see materials) provides a sponsorship at \$7,500. Consensus that there is flexibility in budget to increase sponsorship level to \$11,000</li> </ul> <p>Discussion about what MISC will be getting out of sponsorship dollars. Consensus to increase sponsorship support.</p> <p>Action: Members to confirm whether they plan to attend conference. Stephanie to work with Jane and Bryce to develop sponsorship package and present to NAISMA.</p> <p>Steve motions to increase summit budget to \$20,500, \$11,000 of which goes to sponsoring the NAISMA conference.  Bruce Anderson Seconded  Discussion: none  Public comment: none  Action on motion: Unanimous approval.</p>
Project Updates	<p><b>All-taxa guidelines—updated reporting section</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leigh provided updates on reporting section of guidelines</li> <li>• Edited version of reporting section provided in meeting packet</li> <li>• Biggest change is directing public to reporting section of new website. Organization that receives report will direct call to appropriate agency if initial report is not provided to correct organization</li> <li>• Will add adoption of guidelines as action item for April meeting</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Eastern heath snail science advisory panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to appoint chair to lead panel—action item for today. Ian and Gary able to provide support but not chair committee. Stephanie volunteered.</li> <li>• Had kick-off call for panel on April 7 to refine purpose, outcomes questions, and potential panelists</li> <li>• Categories identified for panel: prioritize basic biology information needed, prevention of movement, e.g. monitoring/survey (reports of range expanding), containment strategy (satellite populations established from moving hay, gravel, etc.), available management options.</li> <li>• Timeframe dependent on availability of Australia panelist</li> </ul> <p>Steve Wanderaas motioned for Stephanie to be appointed as chair of Eastern heath snail science advisory panel. Christy Clark seconded Discussion: none Public comment: none Action on motion: Unanimous approval</p> <p><b>Listing Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leigh Greenwood chairs committee and provided update. Committee met in early November.</li> <li>• Went through a variety of scenarios regarding “orphan” species and how they interact with various lists, e.g. Yellow flag iris</li> <li>• Identified several action items. Biggest item focusing on trying to resolve confusion between various FWP lists for controlled, uncontrolled and prohibited lists.</li> <li>• Also discussed AIS being listed on MDA Noxious Weed List. Since FWP has authority, discussed idea of providing agency with rule-making authority to list species. Include management authority to address species.</li> </ul> <p>Action: send Hallee’s notes and action items from meeting (done)</p>
Western Invasive Species Council	<p><b>WeISC overview provided by Chair, Justin Bush</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established by Western Governors’ Association because of Invasive Species and Biosecurity Initiative</li> <li>• Western governors supported establishing council to enhance coordination between states, improve communications, and advocate for regional needs at a federal level</li> <li>• Main purpose to address cross-boundary and cross-jurisdictional challenges</li> <li>• 16 western states and territories appointed to WeISC</li> <li>• Stephanie Criswell elected vice chair.</li> <li>• Will be four projects for first year: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mobilizing invasive species data. Develop data standards and sharing info of species distribution across landscapes.</li> <li>2. Cheatgrass and other invasive grass. Forming workgroup for cooperative weed management areas.</li> <li>3. Cheatgrass project 2. This group developing spatial strategy to address management issues at regional scale.</li> <li>4. Transboundary feral swine management group. Create transboundary workgroup and develop action plan for challenges and opportunities to stop Feral swine interstate and internationally.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• WeISC will meet in Denver in April. Will explore signing on to various initiatives, e.g. Play, Clean, Go, Clean, Drain, Dry, coordinating with organizations such as National Invasive Species Council</li> <li>• WeISC will invite Canadian invasive species council to meeting</li> </ul>

<p>Project Updates (continued)</p>	<p><b>Be a Wise Ash</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerald ash borer education and outreach campaign</li> <li>• Be a Wise Ash brochure has been drafted</li> <li>• Stephanie, Amy, Jamie, Gary and other stakeholders are working together to identify other campaign materials</li> <li>• Stephanie working with Jamie on funding proposal from Forest Service to fund campaign development. Draft in meeting packet</li> <li>• Suggestion to develop stickers and billboards for campaign</li> </ul> <p><b>inativespecies.mt.gov</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website is live but has not been formally launched</li> <li>• Request for council members to review and provide comments within next 2 weeks</li> <li>• Partners and stakeholders are also reviewing before launch publicly</li> <li>• Toured site during meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> send edits/comments on website by Feb. 1</p>
<p>Agency and Partner Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Cloninger, MDT – MWCA next week Ventenata big topic for discussion</li> <li>• Monica Pokorny, NRCS – NRCS changing how agency is doing conservation work re: EQUIP funding. CDs and local service centers hosting local working group meetings in communities to identify needs. Invasive species has been topic of discussion.</li> <li>• Jane Mangold (MSU-ext) – Interest from extension agents re: feral swine. Palmer amaranth (annual pigweed) not in Montana but moving north and west. Looking at developing task force to address species. Continue work on annual grasses (developing new brochure). Extension IPM group developing videos (Stephanie promotes in Bulletin)</li> <li>• Christy Clark, MDA – Convention season—doing a lot of outreach. Pulling together potential legislation for next session. Looking at weed seed gravel/invasive species free gravel legislation re: roadside material. Will coordinate with MISC.</li> <li>• Dennis Longknife, Ft. Belknap. Working with BLM on 5-year grassland restoration projects. Training college and high school students to collect native plant information and how to restore grassland.</li> <li>• Steve Wanderaas, CDs – Garfield CD has started hiring for Nashua and Wibaux watercraft inspection stations. Working with Beaverhead CD on running Dillon station. All CD's at Canadian border counties seeking to host feral swine outreach meetings this winter working to target farmers and ranchers.</li> <li>• Bryce Christiaens: Dean Pearson did work to rank invasiveness of plants in Western Montana. Interest in having Dean expand work to eastern Montana. Looking for support from MISC for project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consensus to provide letter of support for NWTF grant</li> <li>○ Need to share results statewide</li> <li>○ Bryce introduced Madeline and Brant, Missoula County Big Sky Watershed Corps members. Brant will coordinate on AIS issues in the Upper Columbia. Madeline will travel around the state doing biocontrol collections.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• UC3 meeting Jan. 29 in Kalispell at Flathead Electric Co-op. There will be a half-day monitoring workshop on Jan. 30.</li> </ul>
<p>Wrap-up</p>	<p>Motion: Jane Mangold motioned to adjourn at 2:07 p.m.  Bruce Anderson seconded  Discussion: none  Public comment: none</p>

	Action on motion: Unanimous approval Meeting adjourned
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Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Contact Stephanie if you need outreach materials for meetings and events	Stephanie	ongoing	ongoing
2	Send Saltcedar meeting doodle poll	Stephanie	Jan. 12	Complete
3	Distribute Tom Woolf's AIS Summit PPT	Stephanie	Jan. 12	Complete
4	Distribute Feral Swine Talking Points	Stephanie	March 1	Complete
5	DOL to follow-up with USDA-APHIS WS and DES about feral swine TTX	DOL	April 1	Complete
6	Cancel Oct. 5 MISC meeting and reschedule for mid-Sept. and mid-Dec.	Stephanie	Feb. 15	In progress
7	Get headcount of MISC members who plan to attend NAISMA. Develop NAISMA sponsorship package	Stephanie, Bryce, Jane	March 1	Complete
8	Send Hallee's notes from Listing Committee meeting	Stephanie	Feb. 15	Complete
9	Send edits/comments to Stephanie re: <a href="http://invasivespeices.mt.gov">invasivespeices.mt.gov</a>	All	March 1	Ongoing