

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	May 23, 2019	Time:	1 pm - 3 pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Hester	Location:	DNRC Headquarters, C.M. Russell
1. Attendees			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (Missoula County Weed District – Chair), Amy Gannon (DNRC), Bob Cloninger (MDT), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Tom Woolf (FWP), Steve Wanderaas (CDs), Kim Mangold (MDA), Jan Stoddard (Dept. of Commerce), Jane Mangold (MSU-Ext.), Alec Underwood (Wildlife), David Brooks (Fishing)</p> <p>MISC Federal Partners: Gary Adams (USDA APHIS), Michelle Cox (USFS), Monica Pokorny (NRCS)</p> <p>Other Attendees: Dave Burch (MDA), Stephanie Hester (DNRC, MISC Coordinator), Patrick Plantenberg (ISA Rocky Mountain Chapter), Celestine Duncan, Liz Lodman (FWP)</p>			
2. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Introductions Bryce Christiaens	<p>Chair Bryce Christiaens called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round robin introductions and roll call Quorum confirmed <p>(Action items are in red)</p> <p>Bryce thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in this off-cycle meeting during such a busy time of year.</p>		
Administrative Business Bryce Christiaens and Stephanie Hester	<p>April 10, 2019 Meeting minutes for approval</p> <p>Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned to adopt the meeting minutes. Alec Underwood seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: Edit status of second action item to in progress. Meeting was held to further discuss a plan for applying for a permit for interstate movement of Diorhabda.</p> <p>Vote: All in favor, motion passes.</p>		
Aquatic Invasive Species Local Capacity Funding Mark Bostrom Tom Woolf Steve Wanderaas	<p>Mark Bostrom provided an overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division had excess state special revenue authority for the AIS account in the 2017 biennium Used excess authority to execute contract with McCone CD to coordinate local support to assist FWP with inspection stations Tom and Steve toured eastern Montana to identify priority sites for watercraft inspection stations and visit with conservation districts about their interest in operating them. Great opportunity to build capacity with CDs and tap into local knowledge and resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWP had a contract with Garfield CD last season to operate Flowing Wells station. Was very successful and ran smoothly. No staff turnover FWP has ceiling on what they can pay inspectors and staffing has always been a problem. Districts don't have the same pay limitations. As well, districts are better in tune with local workforce. FWP has always had difficulties hiring and retaining watercraft inspection staff Will this help with enforcement capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. Will be able to use funds to contract with local law enforcement 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure if this will be a one-time-only opportunity but would like to institutionalize effort • How does this benefit CDs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CDs testified at legislature on how AIS prevention promotes conservation ◦ Helps them build conservation programs and capacity ◦ They receive 10% administration, which goes a long way ◦ CDs have genuine concern for resource and that's why they are engaged • Funding is intended to fill gaps in strategic locations to implement the statewide perimeter defense strategy and build local capacity • MISC identified as organization to help coordinate and prioritize projects • Is there interest in MISC being a project partner? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Needs to be coordinated with state program ◦ Since Tom (program lead) and Steve are MISC members, seems like a natural fit for MISC involvement ◦ MISC can be bridge in helping to improve AIS program since its purpose is to be a coordinating body for invasive species issues • Tom provided an overview of some of the identified priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Expand operation season and hours for stations at Nashua and Flowing Wells ◦ Make the Wibaux station fully functional. This has been the most difficult station to find staffing for and provide oversight (FWP manager is located in Billings). ◦ Powder River CD interested in a station in Broadus, which would plug a big hole in southeastern Montana perimeter defense ◦ Big Horn CD interested in opening a new station around St. Xavier ◦ Assistance with Dillon station • All of these priorities have been previously identified by stakeholders across the state • Tom would like to establish an advisory group for AIS statewide. This would be an opportunity to start developing this group. <p>Motion: David Brooks motioned to form an AIS advisory committee under MISC that would work collaboratively with FWP and CDs on this project and prioritize projects. Jane Mangold seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: Mark clarified that the contract is between McCone CD and DNRC. Technical lead is Tom Woolf, contract manager is Stephanie Hester. Any ad hoc committee would work with all these entities.</p> <p>Vote: All in favor, motion passes.</p>
<p>AIS Grant Program</p> <p>Mark Bostrom</p>	<p>Mark Bostrom provided an overview of changes to the funding source for the AIS grant program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding through HB 411 changes the way AIS grants are delivered and managed. • Previously AIS grants were housed within the Reclamation and Development Grants (RDG) program as a crucial state needs • Funding has been allocated at \$500,000 per biennium for the last several sessions • In the 2019 session, AIS grant funding was removed from RDG and now resides in title 80-7-1017, which is the invasive species grant account established in the 2017 legislature. Title 80-7-1018 provides rule-making authority. • Through HB 411 this past session, \$278,000 per year was allocated to the AIS grant fund in title 80. • In statute MISC is identified as an organization to provide input into funding decisions. Specifically, "(5) If the governor appoints an advisory council on invasive species, the department of natural resources and conservation shall consider recommendations by the advisory council for awards made under this section." • Non-profits are now eligible to apply for funding. Under RDG, only governmental entities were eligible. • Program can be patterned after the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program to create consistency for applicants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify a clear set of priorities for applicants and for the Council to rank grants. • Great opportunity to improve on Noxious Weed Trust Fund model • Grants are for any project along the invasion curve including research <p>Motion: David Brooks amended his previous motion so that the new advisory group established to set priorities for CD AIS capacity funding will also determine next steps for redesigning and rulemaking for the new AIS grant program and that Tom Woolf will serve as Chair. Jane Mangold seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: Discussion included amending first motion to create one advisory council to work on project prioritization for AIS CD capacity funding and next steps for building the new AIS grant program.</p> <p>Vote: All in favor, motion passes</p>
<p>Be a Smart Ash campaign and outreach event</p> <p>Stephanie Hester</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tree Pest Committee met in April. One of the outcomes of the meeting was a recommendation that MISC adopt the Be A Smart Ash campaign and provide resources for outreach about emerald ash borer prevention and preparedness. There are several upcoming events that target key stakeholders including the Northern Rockies Tree School 2019 Conference, October 7-9, Bozeman • The campaign creators (cities of Denver and Boulder) will provide campaign materials gratis for Montana customization • Could use Windfall contract to do the customization and web work. • Leigh Greenwood and Laurie Kerzicnik have offered to help work on content. Amy Gannon said she would also help if project proceeds. • Patrick Plantenberg suggested that MISC add an urban forestry representative. Amy represents DNRC and by extension coordinates with Jamie Kirby <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has there been an evaluation of public response to campaign and its impact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get metrics for behavior change ○ Discuss with urban foresters first to get their input since they are target audience. Montana Urban and Community Forestry Assn (MUCFA) meeting in June. Patrick and Amy to coordinate a discussion with urban foresters at MUCFA meeting or other venue. ○ Add to July agenda for MISC action • Would this be served better as a regional campaign vs. state, e.g. Don't Move Firewood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie to discuss with other state invasive species council coordinators
<p>Wrap-up Public Comment Adjourn</p>	<p>Agency and partners updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark provided an overview of MISC budget for 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal services for MISC and UC3 - \$165k/yr. ○ Operations for MISC - \$50k/yr. (was \$45k in 2019 biennium) ○ UC3-\$40k/yr. ○ AIS Grant \$278k/yr. ○ Add budget discussion to July meeting agenda to allocate MISC budget • Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most member terms begin and end at the same time. According to statute, member terms are to be staggered. Governor's office plans to appoint half of the members for another 4-year term so membership is staggered. • Science Advisory Panel on <i>Mogulones crucifer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Panel workshop took place April 30-May 1, 2019 ○ Working on final recommendations and workshop notes ○ Draft recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Petition weevil for biological control agent of houndstongue

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop protocol and system for assessing non-target impacts ▪ Need mitigation strategies in place since non-target species include threatened and endangered species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stephanie was on a panel with other state invasive species coordinators at the Western Plant Board Meeting last week. Discussion centered around the need for a coordinating body to support state councils. The Western Governors' Association has suggested filling this role through their invasive species initiative ○ At the June 4 executive committee meeting, MISC's work plan will be discussed ○ Due to a lack of interest/people's availability the Ft. Belknap tour and tribal forum meeting will not be scheduled this summer. It was suggested that the fall might be a better time to schedule since many people are in the field during the summer. • Dave Burch's last day is tomorrow. Congrats! • Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant coordinator position is open • Cara Riwai-Couch will be taking over as the Bureau of Reclamation representative on MISC. She will join us at our July meeting. • Bob Cloninger—Mike Miller's job as noxious weed coordination for Dept. of Transportation has not been posted. Bob will continue to serve on MISC until the position is filled. Position may open in July. • Roadside reclamation position—hoping to fill in July • MSU Ext. interviewing for wildlife specialist first week of June. Depending on the successful candidate's background and experience, this new hire to be a resource to MISC <p>Public comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none <p>Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned to adjourn meeting at 2:40 pm. Kim Mangold seconded.</p> <p>Discussion: N/A</p> <p>Vote: All in favor, motion passes.</p>

3. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Check with Be A Smart Ash Campaign to see if they've evaluated impacts of the campaign and if it fostered behavior change	Stephanie Hester	7/1/19	No response
2	Reach out to urban foresters and get input about adopting the campaign	Amy/Patrick	6/1/19	Done
3	Stephanie to reach out to other state invasive species coordinators about interest in making this a regional campaign	Stephanie	7/1/19	Done
3	Add Be A Smart Ash action item to July's agenda	Stephanie Hester	4/20/19	Done
4	Add MISC budget discussion and allocation to July's agenda	Stephanie Hester	7/1/19	Done