

MEETING MINUTES

These abbreviated summary minutes will become the official adopted minutes at the next Montana Invasive Species Council meeting when they will be approved. Until then, they are considered a draft.

Meeting/ Project Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	June 1, 2022	Time:	9:00 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Emily Moran and Anna Passage	Location:	Montana Capitol, Room 102, and virtual via Zoom
Attendees			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (County Weed Districts – Chair), Tom Woolf (Fish Wildlife and Parks – Vice Chair), Steve Wanderaas (Conservation Districts – Vice Chair), Andy Welch (Hydropower Representative), Paul Rossignol (Wildlife Organization), Charles Headdress (Fort Peck), Bob Cloninger (MT Department of Transportation), Jane Mangold (Montana State University – Extension), Mike Bias (Fishing Organization), Jasmine Chaffee (MT Department of Agriculture), Bob Gilbert (Private Landowner), Dennis Longknife Jr. (Fort Belknap), Amy Gannon (MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation), Leigh Greenwood (Conservation Organization), Jan Stoddard (MT Department of Commerce), Martin Charlo (CSKT) Steve Tyrrel (Agriculture Representative).</p> <p>Liz Lodman, Emily Moran, Stephanie Criswell, Jorri Dyer</p> <p>Other Attendees: Molly Masters (MRCDC), Ian Foley (MT DoA), Sara Owens, Liz Werk, Cassidy Bender, Dan Rostad (YRCDC), Colin Threlkeld (CEMIST), Bryce Maxell (MNHP), Mindy Wilkinson, Wendy Velman (BLM), Gary Adams (APHIS)</p>			
Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Roll call	Bryce opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.		
Administrative Business	<p>Action Item: Approval of March 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Motion: Jane Mangold to approve the March 2, 2022, meeting minutes. Second: Bob Gilbert Discussion: None Public comment: None Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously.</p>		
AIS Grant Cycle #2	<p>Liz Lodman, MISC</p> <p>Seven applicants within the second AIS Grant Cycle, one of the applicants was not funded, others received partial funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yak Valley Forrest Council, a new applicant for education outreach and monitoring. • Flathead Lake Biological Station for research. • Whitefish Lake Institute, partial funding for improved deacon unit for Whitefish Lake. • Yellowstone Conservation District for videos about Clam Eradication project on Lake Elmo. • Clearwater Resource Council for monitoring on several lakes in the Seeley-Swan area. • Missoula Weed County District for preparation of flowering rush biocontrol agent. • Little Bitterroot Lake Association Project was not funded 		
AIS Update	<p>Tom Woolf, Fish Wildlife and Parks</p> <p>All watercraft stations are open. Intercepted 21 boats with mussels so far, most boats were dry</p>		

docked with dead mussels but some are recently out of the water. These boats are decontaminated, locked and require a dry time. Many boats have recently been purchased from the Great Lakes or online. About a third to quarter of boats are destined for Montana and the rest are headed for Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

The new [Call Before You Haul](#) program spearheaded by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission targets the state's Department of Transportation nation-wide so they can inform commercial transporters about inspection requirements. Commercial transporter calls the number, then the message is transferred to the destination state. Western states work together and share information with each other about commercial haulers.

We have great partnerships with county conservation districts and tribes to manage inspection stations. Over 13,000 inspections conducted so far this season.

Early detection crews are surveying waterbodies; no invasive mussels or other AIS have been detected so far this season.

Tiber reservoir is no longer considered a mussel positive waterbody. FWP continues to survey Tiber and other waterbodies around the state to look for invasive mussels and other AIS. FWP would like more partners to help with early detection and look for AIS.

- Tiber has not officially been delisted, waiting for final notice from Secretary of State office. All Tiber boat ramps are open.

FWP continues to do education and outreach through a media campaign, leveraging the message with partners so we can get the Clean-Drain-Dry message out to the community.

- Recent [AIS video](#) about boots and gear has been shared is well received. Many times, people don't think about waders and hip boots as a pathway to spread invasive species.

Update on neighboring stations and programs:

- All Idaho check stations are open but have challenges staffing stations. Last year they consolidated two stations in Henry's Lake area (Highway 20 & 87) to one location and stopped inspecting north bound traffic last year. They are looking at inspecting north bound traffic this year. This remains a critical corridor for boat traffic into YNP and the Madison river area.
- North Dakota and South Dakota have stations focused on boat ramps. Midwest states are eligible for Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) funds through the Army Corps of Engineer to open stations. Montana conservation districts are encouraging Dakota districts to get involved with inspection stations. Montana's risk reduces significantly if the states work together.
- Canadian traffic remains low but expect an increase this summer. The Eureka station is open. Alberta inspects south bound traffic at Port of Coultts border crossing on I-15.

Steve Wanderaas: Next week at National Conservation Districts norther region meeting in Fargo, Steve, Dean Rogge and Zach Crete will advocate for more CDs be more involved in AIS prevention.

<p>Firewood Science Advisory Panel Update</p>	<p>Amy Gannon, DNRC Leigh Greenwood, North America Forest Health Program Director, The Nature Conservancy</p> <p>The Firewood Science Advisory Panel met in Missoula on May 3-4, 2022.</p> <p>Objectives: To evaluate opportunities for managing out of state transport of firewood into Montana; to optimize the current external quarantine on ash material and understand enforcement or outreach options; to explore opportunities to promote in-state firewood production and commercial distribution while managing forest conditions; and to optimize public outreach by pulling resources among diverse stakeholders.</p> <p>Panelists: Jan Stoddard (MT Commerce), Pat Doyle (MT FWP), Kevin Kanduch (logger), Josh Vlach (OR taxonomist), Megan Schultz (UM-ITRR), Jesse Webster (TN Great Smokey Mountain NP park forester).</p> <p>Day 1: Structured presentations and background information from panelists about firewood as a resource issue. Day 2: More in depth discussion of SAP objectives and development of key findings.</p> <p>Topics centered around markets, policy, and outreach and education. Discussions included firewood exchange feasibility, opportunities for consistent funding, outreach to non-resident hunters, regional firewood policies, target audience demographics, information on firewood sourcing website/app, Made in Montana labeling, obstacles for commercial firewood vendors, markets for small diameter material, and proper corporation labeling of Montana produced firewood.</p> <p>Leigh Greenwood was awarded a hatchet of appreciation for all the messaging she has done for the State of Montana.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is risk of pallets as a vector for hitchhiker pests/insects? Interstate movement of pallets are regulated on a state-by-state basis. Probably doesn't have pests but there is no regulation or treatment to guarantee it. Pallets can be used as firewood or re-entered into the commercial environment if facilities are available. Pallets are a separate issue from firewood with different strategies. • What is strategy to inform in-state communities about diseased wood (Dutch elm disease) to prevent movement to another city or county? There needs to be a multi-tiered outreach system to address different risks i.e., movement from out of state and movement within state. Each requires a different communication message. Communication is ongoing with city arborists, MT Urban and Community Forest Association, MT Association of Cities & Towns, Association of MT Turf and Ornament Plant Professionals, and Nursey and Landscape Association.
<p>Montana Salt Cedar Team</p>	<p>Dan Rostad, Yellowstone River Conservation District Council Molly Masters, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council Colin Threlkeld, Central & Eastern MT Invasive Species Team</p> <p>Informational update about Montana Salt Cedar Team and invasive woody plant control to include salt cedar and common buckthorn, which hosts a soybean aphid that would be destructive to crops. Want a long term, wide-scale effort to implement in multiple counties and river systems. Plan to secure funding, build a team and create a strategy that include mapping, outreach, treatment and coordination with conservation districts. The team needs funding and facilitator. Salt Cedar Team has a planning meeting in Lewistown on June 22, 2022.</p> <p>Salt cedar consumes 10 gallons of water per day, which is detrimental in drought areas. It affects the high flow channels in flood plains, causing more erosion to occur. Common buckthorn hosts a soybean aphid that would be destructive to crops. Yet to be determined if Russian olive will be included in the plan.</p> <p>Stephanie Criswell: Invasive woody plants are an "orphan" species that needs attention. Looking to</p>

	<p>MISC for coordination support and partnership with Salt Cedar Team.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is status of mapping the extent of salt cedar and common buckthorn along Yellowstone? No maps of common buckthorn. Some mapping of salt cedar. • What techniques and treatment options are being considered? Fort Peck has used arial and backpacking treatment. Yellowstone has treated by boat, atv, cut stump, and foliar. Treatment has not been consistent and shows the need for a coordinator to create a plan, get support/funding and create state-wide management plan.
<p>Feral Swine Response Planning</p>	<p>Liz Lodman, MISC Jared Beaver, Montana State University – Extension, Wildlife Specialist</p> <p>Feral swine authority falls under the Department of Livestock. MISC and DoL are holding a meeting and tabletop exercise with agencies that would be involved in a feral swine response, to identify resources/capacity, and begin process to create an MOU with these partners. The meeting will be held in Helena on June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit is in Calgary on July 24-28, 2022. One full day will be dedicated to invasive species, feral swine in morning and AIS in afternoon. • The Squeal on Pigs! Campaign provides good resources and is incorporated into many publications, including hunting regulations. Department of livestock receives all calls/reports.
<p>Noxious Weed Education Campaign</p>	<p>Jane Mangold – Montana State University – Extension</p> <p>Noxious Weed Education Campaign coordinator Shantell Frame Martin is a Montana State University employee supervised by Jane. The coordinator position has been funded through noxious weed trust fund grants for the past 10 years. On the ground project funding has come from USFS, BLM, DNRC, MDT.</p> <p>Noxious weed trust fund for last funding cycle only funded the coordinator at 30% of the request. Campaign does not have funding to support the coordinator at full time for another year. Starting July 1, the coordinator will work at ¾ time until February or March for 2023. The campaign activities were prioritized for full, limited, and no capacity and was shared with the steering committee for review. It is unclear what will happen to the campaign after February or March of 2023. This could be an opportunity to re-imagine to an all-taxa campaign that could increase opportunities of funding?</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the dollar amount for the coordinator? Currently \$20-\$30k shortfall for the coordinator to be full time. Typically ask for \$70-\$75k to cover overhead and salary. Currently funded at \$25k but have been able to adjust cooperater funding agreements. • Is there a portion of the Noxious Weed Trust Fund available for education? The trust fund can support research, education, development and local co-ops. One pot of money funds all 4 projects. Funding recommendations are based on application scoring, past performance, and remaining funds is taken into consideration for funding recommendations. The money comes from general fund (90k), interest from the trust, license plate fee, federal funding, and reverted money from projects. Also allowed to accept donations (but never received any). • Many comments that this position is very important.

<p>AIS Grant Program Application Revisions</p>	<p>Tom Woolf – Fish Wildlife and Parks</p> <p>The AIS Grant review committee examined the grant guidelines and made revisions to improve the grant application process, make more effective, and address some recurring issues with scoring the grants. See document here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do applicants have an opportunity to learn why their grant proposal was turned down? Yes, we provide a grant brief with all comments from the grant review committee, good and bad. • Some projects don't fit these criteria, especially capacity building. Will there be an additional category for capacity building? <p>Liz and Emily will word smith and edit the document. Propose to approve the document at an upcoming Executive Committee Meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Framework Update Plan</p>	<p>Bryce Christiaens, MISC chair Mindy Wilkinson</p> <p>Exercises that MISC has conducted on the Framework indicate that some language changes are needed but a major overhaul of the Framework is not needed. The effort has shifted to determining what Framework items should MISC take on. Stakeholder input is needed to identify priorities that MISC can address and will form the MISC workplan. The Summit will revolve around the input received from stakeholder input. Mindy shared the planning document.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity to update the framework and to join the summit planning committee. Focal areas around the listening session and Summit include the following. Please send more ideas to Liz and Emily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science advisory panel suggestions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Past review and areas where we can expand • Economic impact of invasive species suggestions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can combining efforts between economic and tourism research be beneficial • Suggestions for increased collaboration with law enforcement to improve compliance with existing laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there laws that would benefit from better coordination or increased enforcement. Discussed deleting "law enforcement" and just say "suggestions for improved compliance." • Suggestions for increased capacity for existing invasive species management programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can we brainstorm unique solutions for capacity needs (people and funding). Council agrees to combine capacity discussion and funding discussion into one. • Statewide priority species for prevention and management • Funding mechanisms and priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggested combining this with the capacity topic <p>Suggestion from council to add a question about successful outcomes to focus areas.</p> <p>The council discussed the list of stakeholders and identifying which council members would make contact to invite them to listening sessions. Stakeholders missing from the list includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden County extension agents to Montana State University Extension agents & subject matter specialists • Universities - faculty, researchers, and professors • Hunters • Firewood, wood products and logging groups • Beekeepers • Irrigation groups/districts • Agri Industries • Hydropower groups/co-ops • Outdoor recreation and tourism <p>It was suggested that focus area questions be discussed at the INCA response training in August and</p>

	<p>that listening session information be provided on website.</p> <p>The council would like background information and a set out questions/discussion points to share when inviting to listening session. Mindy will provide this information. Council members are free to reach out to other constituents not on the stakeholder list.</p> <p>Stakeholders can attend listening sessions via zoom or in-person. Discussion is intended to be informal and written comments will be accepted if someone can't attend the listening sessions. Each session is schedule for 2-hours. Mindy will provide a summary of listening session at September meeting.</p>
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Summit Discussion	<p>The October summit will provide an opportunity to further discuss the priorities that were identified from the August listening sessions.</p> <p>Discussion around Summit priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing from neighboring states • Legislative policy champions • What is the council overlooking and create a path forward to address • Highlight successes in invasive species management • Make this a working meeting that will have a product • Create all-taxa list of invasive species • Share that most invasive plants have been modeled by MNHP <p>To do list resulting from listening session and summit discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise focus areas based on suggestions • Expand stakeholders lists and which council member will make contact/invitation • Create targeted questions for council member to share with stakeholder invitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Create a one-pager on MISC, who we are, what we have accomplished to share with the stakeholder groups • Identify topics from listening session responses that rise to top, share at next MISC meeting and help formulate the Summit agenda • The product from the Summit will be a MISC work plan with concrete timelines and recommendations and a revised framework.
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2022 Agency & Partner Updates	<p>Jasmine Chaffee: Noxious weed awareness week is June 5-11. Dept of Ag is creating a guide for counties and others to help share information. The Governor has signed a proclamation.</p> <p>Gary Adams: We found one spongy moth and will be putting out more spongy moth delineation traps this week.</p> <p>Leigh: Spongy moth often provide great case studies for rapid response and can be used for success stories.</p> <p>Bob Gilbert: Asian Jumping Worms are in Wisconsin and Minnesota; Montana needs to be on the lookout for them.</p> <p>Bryce Christiaens: There has been a report of a pet nutria on a leash in Missoula.</p> <p>Tom Woolf: Lake Elmo is filled with fish and fish habitat, no evidence of live Asian clams so far. Yellowstone CD has a \$50,000 legislative allocation to targeted clam control and are looking to install a self-contained cleaning station at Lake Elmo that could be used by public to clean boats, beach toys and gear.</p> <p>Bob Cloninger was recognized for his service on the MISC council. Bob is retiring from MDT and this is his last MISC meeting.</p> <p>Jan Stoddard: Report on visitor season, seeing a huge booking for Glacier and Yellowstone National</p>
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	<p>Park even with rising gas prices. Tourism industry is trying to disperse people away from heavily traveled areas so you may see recreationists in places never seen before. Expecting more than 12 million visitors this summer.</p>
Wrap-up Adjourn	<p>Location for next meeting will be Helena Capitol on September 7, 2022</p> <p>Public Comment: None</p> <p>Motion: Steve Wanderass moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Bob Gilbert Discussion: None Public Comment None Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously Meeting adjourned: 3:12 pm</p>

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