

Jill Carr - minutes of November 10th

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Invasive Plants Council

Minutes November 10, 2003

Present: Dr. Anderson, , Comm. Gresczyk (Melanie Attwater sitting in), Mr. Larson, Comm. Leff, , Dr. Mehrhoff, Dr. Musgrave,.

Absent: Mr. Goodwin, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Sutherland.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Chairman Leff in Room 1A of the Legislative Office Building.

Chairman Leff noted that Rep. Roberta Willis and Rep. Pat Widlitz were in attendance.

Dr. Mehrhoff presented a preliminary list of approximately 100 plants to be considered for inclusion on the invasive plant list. He summarized that the list will be the "green list" plus three additions; water hyacinth, water lettuce and giant salvinia. Dr. Mehrhoff said that the suggestion from the subgroup was to break up the list into sets of 25 to be voted on at each meeting.

Chairman Leff suggested that there are so many obvious selections that they could vote on those now and leave the questionable ones until later in the process. Dr. Anderson felt it would be more fair to provide people the list ahead of time that they would be voting on so that people could make thoughtful decisions. The consensus of the group was that four groups of ~25 would work best. The four groups will be voted on in the next four meetings and they consist of:

1. Aquatics
2. Trees, Shrubs and other woody plants
3. Herbaceous (part 1)
4. Herbaceous (part 2)

The council considered the issue of municipal regulation. Dr. Anderson feels that there should be one

list for the state, period. There is enough confusion on the part of the public without having to worry about each town having different rules. There was unanimous agreement on this issue.

Dr. Mehrhoff suggested that the differences between the invasive list and the ban list needed to be stressed and the lists needed to be kept separate.

Dr. Anderson stressed that it was important to have the ban list in advance in order to give public notice for hearings on the list.

Educational Issues will be the next topic for the council to tackle. Chairman Leff noted that there are groups already out there who do education such as IPANE, industry, Dept. of Ag., DEP, ...etc.

Dr. Anderson suggested that it would be great to bring people in and have them tell us what they are doing for education. It was decided that the next meeting different groups would present to the council what education they provide. Each group will be given approximately ten minutes. The tentative groups to present are:

1. Federated Garden Clubs
2. Donna Ellis from the Invasive Plant Working Group
3. DEP
4. industry
5. Ag. Experiment Station

There was a discussion about changing the times of the next two meetings. The November 25th meeting will be moved from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM and the December 11th meeting will be moved from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Dr. Anderson asked if proxy votes or substitute representatives will be allowed for upcoming votes. The group decided that it would be OK for substitutes to vote in a members place. It was stressed that having someone at the meeting to enter into the discussion and listen to the debate was important.

There was a motion by Dr. Anderson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mehrhoff. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emanuel Merisotis
Clerk- Environment Committee