

INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of May 10, 2005

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Invasive Plants Council was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. David Leff, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. in the Ensign Conference Room of the Department of Environmental Protection on 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Present: Seven members of the Council were present: Mr. David K. Leff, Dr. Louis Magnarelli, Mr. David Goodwin, Mr. Paul Larson, Mr. Tom McGowan, Dr. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, and Dr. Mary Musgrave. These members constitute a quorum.

Absent: Department of Agriculture and Mr. David Sutherland, The Nature Conservancy

Minutes

Approved: A motion was made by Mr. David Goodwin and seconded by Dr. Leslie Mehrhoff to accept the minutes with no edits or changes. Council Members unanimously voted in favor of the approval of the minutes by a voice vote with no opposing votes. **Motion carried.**

Legislation: Council discussed at great length legislation (Substitute Senate Bill No. 590) An Act Concerning Revisions to the Invasive Plant Provisions. Some of the positive elements to the legislation included: plants to be moved for eradication, eliminates the ban on water lettuce, allows the Commissioner of Agriculture to inspect pet shops for invasive plants, allows the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station to inspect nurseries for invasive plants. The Bill has passed the Senate with an amendment to municipal ordinances with a limitation going into effect prior to May 16, 2006. The Bill is on the House Calendar.

Chairman Leff passed out informative handouts to Council Members:

- Town of Redding environmental initiative to control and replace invasive species on public and private land. Includes kick-off lecture on May 18. Speaker Peter Alden
- Mansfield's Park and Recreation Department sponsors for volunteers, every two weeks, work on invasive plants.
- *National Geographic Article: attack of the alien invaders*
- Draft Executive Summary for the Connecticut Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan by Bill Hyatt, Fisheries Director, DEP.

- Notification of Banned Plants that are being sold in pet stores. Need for a contact information on the notification sheet.
- Copy of the Senate Amendment and Legislative History

Plant Parts:

Review and discussion of plant parts was discussed in detail by Council Members.

- Oriental bittersweet – Is not used widely by floral industry. Used more by the public
- Phragmites –Dr. Kristin Saltonstall, an expert in germination of Phragmites, felt that Phragmites plant parts would be a potential problem.
- Purple Loosestrife – Floral industry does not use Purple Loosestrife. Public use is greater.
- Star-of-Bethlehem – Was represented as being widely used in the floral industry. Council agreed using plant part was not a problem with this plant.

Council Members agreed that plant parts need to be covered by the law with the exception of Star-of-Bethlehem. Council also discussed whether Council wanted to include a ban on the plant parts, any use of them, or just in commercial use.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom McGowan and seconded by Dr. Leslie Mehrhoff to ban the sale or use in commerce of any flowering or fruiting plant parts of any plant on the banned list. A voice vote was taken. Two members abstained, two members opposed and three member voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Boating Fees:

Council discussed potential fees for funding invasive plant work through boating fees and/or registration fees by commercial plant vendors. Dr. Magnarelli will bring back data for the next Council meeting in June on the 300 to 350 registered plant vendors in Connecticut. Mr. Bob Heffernan, Executive Secretary, from the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association will bring back data on commercial groups for the June meeting. Council asked to have DEP look into boating fees in other states. At the February Council meeting it was noted that a comprehensive presentation was given by Ms Eleanor Mariani, Director of the DEP Boating Division explaining management strategies through boating fees for Maine and New Hampshire. However, Chairman Leff will contact staff and report back to Council at the June meeting.

Budget:

Council briefly discussed budget issues. It was suggested to form a subcommittee to address Council budget. It was ultimately agreed by

Council Members to address this topic as an agenda item for the June 14, 2005, meeting for full Council discussion.

Cultivars: Dr. Mehrhoff submitted a report to the Council entitled Cultivars and the Connecticut Invasive Species Laws. Dr. Mehrhoff led the Council in a step-by-step review of his report. There was a protracted discussion by all members of the Council on this topic. Mr. Goodwin specifically noted an article on cultivars that highlighted the state of Oregon. The Chairman asked Mr. Goodwin for a copy of the article and also inquired if Mr. Goodwin would contact someone in Oregon on why they do it differently and report back to the full Council. Mr. Goodwin agreed and will report to the Council. The Chairman stated that he would like to review Dr. Mehrhoff's report and to read the Oregon article. Council agreed that it would be useful to invite someone from Massachusetts to come to a Council meeting to discuss options with regard to cultivars. Mr. Goodwin agreed to invite Wayne Mezitt, past president of the ALA from Massachusetts to give a presentation on cultivars at the next Council meeting.

New/Old Business: Dr. Magnarelli presented a new guide entitle *Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut* to all Council Members. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station published the booklet, which is gear to the general public in an effort to get volunteers to monitor the lakes. The guide was well received by all Council Members.

The next regular meeting of the Invasive Plant Council will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., location to be determined.

Agenda for the June 14 meeting will be as follows:

- Budget for Council
- Boating Fees
- Terrestrial Fees
- Cultivar Presentation

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Goodwin to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mr. McGowan. Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lynn M. Tobin
Department of Environmental Protection