

CT Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday, January 13, 2009  
2 pm, Valley Laboratory  
Windsor, CT

**Council members present:**

Lou Magnarelli, Mary Musgrave, Philip Prelli, Les Mehrhoff, Bill Hyatt, David Sutherland, Paul Larson, Dave Goodwin, Tom McGowan

**Others present:**

Donna Ellis, Nancy Murray, Logan Senack, Bill Foreman, Dick Schaffer

**1. Musgrave called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.**

**2. The minutes for the 12/09/08 meeting were reviewed.** Prelli moved (Larson seconded) to approve the minutes. **The 12/09/08 minutes were approved** with no changes.

**3. Discussion of the posting of minutes and required procedures:** The group reviewed and discussed strategies to meet the requirements for properly posting minutes by the designated seven-day deadline, since “approved” minutes will not be available until the next month’s meeting. The council decided that draft minutes should still be posted in order to satisfy the posting deadline, but that a large “DRAFT” watermark across the document will show that the minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council. Further, it was decided that the Invasive Plant Coordinator will distribute the minutes to the Council members prior to distributing them to the public via the website, so that any *major* inaccuracies can be resolved prior to public distribution. Changes, including grammar, spelling, etc., will still be discussed by the Council at the following meeting unless it is felt they radically affect the meaning of the minutes.

**4. Annual Report report:** Musgrave explained the massive effort required for the distribution of the Invasive Plants Council’s Sixth Annual Report. About eighty copies were distributed to the appropriate offices and individuals after the report was completed. The remaining copies will be held at the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Ellis and Senack requested an electronic copy of the report so that it can be posted to the CIPWG website with previous annual reports and meeting minutes.

**5. Grants to Municipalities status report:** Hyatt provided a recap and update on the Grants to Municipalities Requests for Proposals, and provided DEP’s recommendations on project funding to the group. A total of 41 applications from 37 municipalities were received, and a total of \$936,403.83 was requested in funding.

The DEP Invasive Plant Working Group, composed of nine DEP staff members from various Bureaus and Divisions within DEP, examined the proposals in a careful review process and met to discuss the proposals. The recommendation process was difficult due to of the high number of applications, large quantity of well-planned applications, and the limited funds available for projects.

Three members of the DEP Invasive Plant Working Group (Foreman, Murray, Senack) were present to answer questions from the Council about the review process and the recommended proposals.

Sutherland expressed thanks to the nursery industry for making the funding for the Grants project possible, and Hyatt also thanked the Council for its support. Hyatt recommended nine proposals (a total of \$175,000) for funding:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
TOWN OF PLAINFIELD	REMOVAL OF VARIABLE LEAF MILFOIL (MYRIOPHYLLUM HETEROPHYLLUM) FROM MOOSUP POND, PLAINFIELD
TOWN OF SPRAGUE	REMOVAL OF PHRAGMITES AND MULTI-FLORA ROSE FROM THE BALTIC RESERVOIR AND PARK
TOWN OF NEWTOWN	"MILE-A-MINUTE VINE CONTROL IN NEWTOWN OPEN SPACE AREAS ADJACENT HUNTINGTOWN ROAD
TOWN OF REDDING	JAPANESE BARBERRY ERADICATION FROM TOWN OF REDDING CONSERVATION LANDS
CITY OF NEW HAVEN	CONTROL OF THE MOST EGREGIOUS INVASIVE PLANTS AT BEAVER PONDS PARK, NEW HAVEN, CT.
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD	PERMANENT REMOVAL OF FANWORT (CABOMBA CAROLINIANA) FROM BOATING LANES IN THE LOWER BANTAM RIVER USING SUCTION HARVESTING, AND PREPARATION OF A LONGTERM FANWORT CONTROL PLAN.
TOWN OF NEW MILFORD	MILE-A-MINUTE (MAM) INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECT
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECT
TOWN OF HAMPTON	REMOVAL OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES FROM SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA

**Prelli moved (Goodwin seconded) to accept the recommendations from DEP to fund the nine proposals.**

Hyatt proposed adding project ten (below) to the list of proposals if funding for the project becomes available. There were no objections, and **the motion was amended.**

TOWN OF WINCHESTER	GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS AND ERADICATION OF INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS AT HIGHLAND LAKE, WINSTED, CONNECTICUT.
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**The Council approved funding for the 9 (10 if possible) proposals** with no objections. Review and approval by the DEP Commissioner is the final step in the process. A press release will be disseminated when these grants are announced.

## **6. Core budget needs and strategy, invasive plant program (Hyatt)**

Hyatt reported to the group regarding core budget needs. DEP would like to maintain the University of Connecticut Cooperative Agreements for the Hydrilla Control Program through 2010 and the Invasive Plant Coordinator through the next fiscal year. Funding possibilities for the Aquatic Nuisance Species position were also discussed.

After some discussion, it was decided that a minimum funding request would be sent to the Appropriations Committee. Sutherland and DEP will work together to write a brief document for the request.

Prelli asked the Chairman to express to DEP the concern of the Invasive Plant Council that Council members want the coordinator position to remain funded.

## **7. Legislative strategy:** The Council discussed legislative issues for the upcoming year.

- Since enforcement authority of the Banned Plants List is still unclear, Hyatt agreed to look at the language for the enforcement of the Banned Plants List, discuss the issue with staff within DEP, and report back to the Council.

- The group decided to move forward with the bill that had been submitted last year, especially since the updating of the technical changes in the law would be at no cost to CT.

## **8. Goals for the year:**

- The Council should evaluate the existing Invasive Plant List and determine if any changes should be recommended.

- Mehrhoff suggested taking a potential Council field trip to one or some of the Grants to Municipalities Control sites to observe their progress.

- McGowan suggested having individuals on the Council or various groups serve as active monitors of the control projects.

- The group discussed a possible collaborative effort with Ned Hurle at CT DOT for a future invasive/highway project.

## **9. Other old or new business**

- Magnarelli informed the group that CAES will host a training session for terrestrial and aquatic plant identification. The session will be held on March 5, 2009 at the New Haven facilities of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

- Hyatt distributed the project work plan for the Hydrilla project for people to read for their own information.

**10. The next meeting is scheduled for (Tuesday) February 10, 2009, 2pm Valley Lab, Windsor, CT**

**11. Prelli moved (McGowan/Mehrhoff seconded) to adjourn the meeting at 3:40. The council decided to adjourn.**