

**INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes of 1/11/06**

**Approved by the Council**

**Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Invasive Plants Council (IPC) was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006. David Leff, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Ensign Room at DEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Attendees:** Members present: Chairman David K. Leff, Vice-Chair, Dr. Louis Magnarelli, Commissioner F. Philip Prelli, Mr. David Goodwin, Mr. Paul Larson, Mr. Tom McGowan, and Dr. Les Mehrhoff.

The following attended this meeting: Karen Weeks of the Kowalski Group; Nancy Murray and Ken Metzler of DEP; Bob Heffernan of CT Nursery and Landscape Association; Donna Ellis of the University of Connecticut.

**Absent:** Dr. Mary Musgrave; Mr. David Sutherland.

**Comments on  
Annual Report:**

Chairman Leff opened the meeting with the annual report that was previously distributed to members for their review. He asked if members had any comments. Dr. Magnarelli commented that the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is also involved with control measures. CAES is using spot treatments of 2-4-D. CAES has had success in three lakes. Commissioner Prelli: are we doing anything with municipal pre-emption and he stated that we have to make a statement on this in the annual report. Chairman Leff: we are looking right now what issues members want in the report. The report is set up to include Les Mehrhoff's resolution as it finally stands (which is attachment 4 of the annual report.) Chairman Leff went on to say if the Council were to do anything on pre-emption we would add a recommendation that the legislature change the laws to pre-empt municipalities from listing and banning plants. Discussion took place between members with suggestions for the report. Nancy Murray will send Jill Carr a sentence about hydrilla and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. Both of these involve funding and the information will be added to the annual report. Chairman Leff received e-mails from members David Sutherland and Tom McGowan stating that the annual report looked fine and reflected their views. Chairman Leff: spoke with Tom Tyler and David Sutherland about finding legislators from both sides to sponsor a bill or get a bill before the Environment Committee and the two of them will be getting together to develop a strategy for this.

**Cultivars:**

Les Mehrhoff's resolution was placed on the table for adoption. Les Mehrhoff made a Motion; Paul Larson seconded the Motion. Les Mehrhoff: the Council should develop a list and maintain the list of plants presently under research. These species will be off the table for discussion until such time the research is completed. It allows for states to be comparable. This

way the Council will not be developing policies on cultivars differently from other states. For species the Council is aware that research is on going, let science decide. Chairman Leff thanked Les Mehrhoff for his reasonable approach. Commissioner Prelli: if we get evidence that some of the cultivars are less problematic, it's important that the Council reverse its direction. Les Mehrhoff: agreed with Commissioner Prelli. Chairman Leff: Les Mehrhoff has said this all along; if new science evolves, the Council may want to reevaluate previous decisions. David Goodwin: if something comes out of the research that a cultivar is not a problem, then the Council should take it off the list. Nancy Murray: the procedure in the Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan requires them to look at the list annually. All those in favor of motion: **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Municipal  
Pre-Emption:**

Chairman Leff: the report is silent on the issue because the Council has not come to any resolution. We need to confront it. The Council can leave the report silent, the Council can endorse what happened by last year's legislation; the Council can recommend that the current situation be reversed and that towns be pre-empted. Commissioner Prelli recommends a Motion: to put a 5-year extension to the pre-emption. Les Mehrhoff said the 169 potential town lists is too large. David Goodwin: he agreed with Les Mehrhoff. As a business person, he does not believe a lot of towns will put together a ban list. If the Council keeps the towns' authority for plant bans – then the Invasive Plant Council has less authority. Motion to extend pre-emption for five years, until 10/1/2011: **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Vote on  
Annual Report:**

Chairman Leff: in the last Invasive Plants Council meeting, Representative Clark Chapin asked two questions: (1) What are other states doing for funding the invasive plants program? (2) What is it costing the state NOT to do something or what is it costing to control them right now because we do not have a comprehensive program on invasive plants? To question #1, Chairman Leff has asked Senator Andrew Roraback to request the Office of Legislative Research to check into this and provide a report. To question #2, Chairman Leff mentioned Tom McGowan's e-mail on Chesapeake Bay and Lake Champlain. Chairman Leff: its very expensive to treat lakes; many towns not doing this because of the costs. Chairman Leff asked Ken Metzler to put together the costs for needs to control. Tom McGowan will put together information. Donna Ellis handed out "Aquatic Nuisance Species Harm Northeast Region." Les Mehrhoff said there are a lot of volunteers that are part of the invasive plant controls. Commissioner Prelli: the Council should add in some estimates by outside service and volunteers used for invasives. Chairman Leff asked Ken Metzler to prepare volunteer dollars for legislative testimony.

Nancy Murray: Example: update on Silver Lake Project. Conference call was held to discuss costs – it will cost approximately \$200,00 for this one project. This particular project has a flowing system, so it is more costly. Right now, there is no funding from the state. She knows the town will be requesting dollars to fund this project.

More discussion took place by the members concerns on plants lists. Motion put on table to submit report to the General Assembly. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Approval of  
Minutes:**

Co-Chairman Magnarelli and Paul Larson requested editorial changes to the 12/13/05 minutes. Chairman Leff motioned to approve the minutes. Co-Chairman Magnarelli seconded the Motion.

**Old and  
New Business:**

Schedule for months of February, March and May 2006 Invasive Plants Council meetings distributed to Council members.

Chairman Leff: he will be inviting a representative from the pet industry to the next Invasive Plants Council meeting on 2/14/06.

Co-Chairman Magnarelli: The CAES spring publication of "Frontiers of Plant Science" has three articles on invasives. This publication will be mailed to 4,000 people on its mailing list and to over 400 foreign and United States libraries.

Donna Ellis: October 12, 2006 will be the next CT Working Plant Group meeting to be held at the Mountainside in Wallingford.

Chairman Leff: Motion to adjourn. David Goodwin seconded and meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Carr  
Office of Deputy Commissioner Leff  
Department of Environmental Protection