

**Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
September 12, 2007**

MINUTES

Present:

Chairperson Lou Magnarelli, Vice Chairperson Phil Prelli, Ed Parker, Dave Goodwin, Paul Larson, Les Mehrhoff, Nancy Murray, David Sutherland, Tom McGowen, Donna Ellis

Others Present:

Karen Weeks

Chairperson Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Mehrhoff moved approval of the June minutes, Goodwin seconded. The minutes were approved with a minor clarification.

Enforcement: Magnarelli distributed a letter from the Agricultural Experiment Station to retail outlets and nurseries regarding our invasive plant laws.

Annual Report: Magnarelli reported that he is working on a draft of the 2007 Annual Report that he will bring to the October meeting.

Cultivars: Magnarelli noted that there is a lack of clarity regarding the status of cultivars in enforcing the ban on sale of certain species. He stated his intention to request that the Attorney General issue an opinion on this issue. He noted that the industry has been very cooperative to date regarding enforcement. Later in the meeting, this subject was discussed further, with Parker predicting that the AG would probably see this in a fairly black-and-white manner, that cultivars are not exempt from species bans. He suggested that Magnarelli approach the AG on behalf of CAES, not as Chair of the Council.

Technical Changes to Statutes: The group discussed the failure to pass the Council's recommendations regarding technical changes to the statutes, and agreed to try again to pass them next year. We will review the language at the next meeting.

DEP Program: Parker noted that the DEP has received approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for its Aquatic Nuisance Plan. They expect perhaps about \$60,000 in federal funds to become available in March or April for implementation of the plan.

The agency is developing an invasives program plan and trying to identify ways to combine some activities and focus on the most important initiatives. The invasives program will probably be assigned to either the Wildlife or Fisheries programs. Parker is uncertain exactly how the appropriated funds will be distributed and whether they will lapse at the end of the fiscal year. There was discussion regarding aquatic plants versus terrestrial plants as a priority for the agency.

Report for Secretary of State: Magnarelli reported that the Secretary of State's Office has requested information regarding the demographics of the Council. The group discussed whether agency officials, or their designees, should be counted in such information.

Updates on Plant List: Mehrhoff noted that the Council is required to update the list of invasive plants annually. He said there were about six species that he felt warranted a status change, and about seven others that he would like to discuss. He suggested that we should discuss a form for people to submit requests for status changes. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

Nominating: Sutherland and Larson agreed that they would contact Mary Musgrave to convene as the Nominating Committee to discuss nominations for new officers of the Council.

Sutherland left, and Mehrhoff recorded minutes for the rest of the meeting.

Old/New Business

Commissioner Prelli raised the point that the group should acknowledge the work of many people who were instrumental in the passage of the funding that IPC requested. Further, he felt this was a real legal victory for the Council and that because of the momentum that now exists we should move towards getting the technical changes made this all work. He especially acknowledged Chairman Lou Magnarelli for all of his work on securing these funds from the legislature

Magnarelli offered the continued use of the conference room at the Valley Laboratory for our future meetings. The group all agreed parking was so much easier that we should continue, if possible to meet there. The following dates were offered for the next meeting
All meetings will be held from 2 to 4.

Tuesday, 9 OCT 2007

Tuesday, 13 NOV 2007

Tuesday, 11 DEC 2007

Tuesday, 8 JAN 2008

* Tuesday, 12 FEB 2008 is a state holiday so Lou M will look into room availability

On Wednesday, 13 FEB 2008

Tuesday, 11 MAR 2008

Magnarelli felt that we should have a meeting in April, acknowledging that as a bad time for the Green Industries. He will look into the availability of the room for possibly 8 APR 2008 and report back. Nancy Murray apologized for last year's confusion around call-ins for the meeting and hopes to have this up and working, possibly for the April meeting

Ed Parker moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 PM. Unanimously passed.