

Connecticut Invasive Plants Council
October 10, 2006 meeting
Minutes

Present: Lou Magnarelli; Dave Goodwin; Mary Musgrave; Tom McGowan; Nancy Murray; David Sutherland; Les Mehrhoff

Other Guests: Betty McLaughlin; Bonnie Burr; Sandy Breslin; Donna Ellis; Rob Clapper; Karen Weeks

Lou Magnarelli called the meeting to order at approximately 2:10.

Election of Officers Magnarelli announced that he is willing to continue as Chair of the Council through the end of 2007 regular legislative session in June. He had spoken with Phil Prelli, who had agreed to serve as Vice Chair. David Sutherland volunteered to serve as Secretary for the next three months through the December 2006 meeting.

The group deferred voting on Prelli's selection as Vice Chair until he is present. Les Mehrhoff moved the nominations of Magnarelli and Sutherland as Chair and Secretary, Dave Goodwin seconded. All voted in favor.

Sutherland and Sandy Breslin and Bonnie Burr volunteered to speak with the Chairs of the Environment Committee to request that the committee provide staff to take and distribute minutes, as it did for the first year of the council's existence.

9/14/06 Minutes Goodwin moved acceptance of the minutes of the September 14th meeting, Mehrhoff seconded. All voted to accept the minutes as drafted.

State Auditor Magnarelli reported that a state auditor visited him to ask questions about the council's operations. Magnarelli has no indication of any problems other than an inquiry by the auditor as to why there is no designated lead agency for the council. The group agreed to discuss that issue at the next meeting.

Annual Report Magnarelli announced that he would begin drafting an annual report, which is due annually to the Environment Committee by January 1st.

Legislation The group discussed ways in which different components of our proposed legislation might be divided into different bills. Sutherland suggested combining any appropriation request with the preemption provision, stating that he is authorized to agree to a five-year preemption if it is accompanied by a significant appropriation. He suggested trying to insert the technical changes into an Environment Committee Minor Revisions bill, if that committee introduces such a bill this year to make relatively minor changes to environmental statutes. Mary Musgrave suggested that the provisions regarding inspections by the Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station be included with the Appropriations request. It was agreed that Magnarelli and Prelli would discuss this.

Other changes discussed are included in the draft proposed legislation attached. The group will discuss these at the November meeting. Magnarelli will offer three dates, December 12th, 13th and 14th, as dates for a Council meeting to which the legislators

would be invited to discuss the proposed legislation and how it might be divided into components.

Musgrave pointed out that last year's bill analysis alternatively referred to "invasive species" and "invasive plants", and that it should be consistently "invasive plants"

Funding Proposal The group went over last year's funding request, and confirmed the components as still being necessary. There was discussion of requesting bonding for the grants portion of the proposal and seeing if such funding could be requested under an existing DEP bond program (which currently has no funding in it). Murray stated that that account addresses diverse lake studies, management and water quality issues and was not an appropriate place for invasive plant funding.

The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing dedicated fees or appropriations to fund the program. The group agreed that for now, we would propose the program and the funding need and ask legislative supporters which funding source they would back.

Goodwin moved adjournment, Mehrhoff seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45

Next Meeting Dates: November 21st 2:00; and *tentatively* December 12th at 2:00, although Magnarelli will offer December 12th, 13th and 14th to a few legislators to see which date works for them