

Next date and time- Montpelier, 9:30-11:30, 12-2:30, TNC offices, January 24th 2019

Action Item: everyone to review minutes and Action items and to let us know if they can't complete something

First	Last	Association	Present	Absent
Expected				
Kim	Jensen	DEC	X	
Tony	Slowik	USDA APHIS PPQ	X	
MaryBeth	Deller	USDA FS	X	
Bob	Popp	F&W	X	
Meg	Modley	LCBP	X	
Charlie	Hohn	DEC	X	
Lynn	McNamara	TNC	X	
Judy	Rosovsky	AAFPM	X	
Lisa	Thornton	FPR	X	
Elizabeth	Spinney	FPR	X	
Mike	Bald	Got Weeds?	X	
Ann	Bove	Public	X	
Toby	Alexander	USDA NRCS		X
Nate	Carr	GreenWorks		X
Kathy	Decker	FPR		X
Katherine	Kain	US FWS		X
Lindsay	Modesto	USDA APHIS		X
Others				
Craig	DiGiammarino	AOT	X	
Aaron	Marcus	F&W	X	
Andrea	Shortsleeve	F&W	X	

Committee Business

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes April 5, 2018

- a) Introductions, April minutes approved (Kim- moved, Judy- seconded)

2. Committee Members

- a) **Welcome new members:** Meg Modley, Lisa Thornton, Charlie Hohn (taking over for Laura), Lynn McNamara (taking over for Rose), and to Andrea (F&W) for joining us today

b) Co-chair Terms and Selection:

MaryBeth Deller - January 2017 - December 2018 (Select replacement at last meeting in 2018)

Kim Jensen - January 2018 - December 2019 (Select replacement at last meeting in 2019)

New term: MaryBeth Deller – January 2019 – December 2020 (select replacement at last meeting in 2020)

3. Addition to Agenda- Mike Bald reporting on Hardy Kiwi and Japanese Stiltgrass: Come across hardy kiwi in the last 2 growing seasons. Who is working on this plant? There is a working group in Western Mass (Berkshires), also folks at Stewardship network in Michigan (previously worked with them on Japanese stiltgrass), Maryland Working group on stiltgrass. Mike happy to be the link in MA/VT/NH region for a stiltgrass focus group, connect people to people in Michigan (flaming is best treatment in Michigan/Maryland). At meeting in Dublin, they said to stop working on singular species, but we appreciate that sometimes this kind of focused work needs to happen. Thanks were given to Mike for being a link to these other organizations. Aaron Marcus spoke to how Stiltgrass in MA came in on fill. In regard to hardy kiwi, Judy and Mike will continue discussions about that plant in Vermont, as Judy was assigned to complete the PRA for this species.

Action Item:

- Mike will take on role of regional contacts for Japanese Stiltgrass (willing to share any new information on the species with the committee?)
- Mike, Judy- to continue to discuss hardy kiwi to help Judy complete this species' PRA

Agenda Discussion

1. Defining VIEPC Role for the Future

- a) **History of the Quarantine and the VIEPC**- the Secretary of AAFM oversees the quarantine, and the rule indicates that AAFM was to work in tandem with ANR in the implementation of the quarantine. A committee had been formed to create the quarantine initially. The watchlist (no official designation), which serves as a list of species “coming down the pike” came after all this.

Once the initial committee was formed, they tried to develop guidelines for the itself (purpose/goals), and identify a function and define a role for itself beyond providing information for the initial quarantine. The whole time since it was created, the committee has had no official status, and conversations within the committee have continued on how to get official designation.

Action Item: Discussion of status of committee and other group representation: Judy willing to talk to supervisor about the committee that is mentioned in statute. ANR staff should also consider speaking with management about getting the committee formally recognized by AAFM.

b) **Develop a VIEPC Mission Statement and Goals:**

Called attention to the Final Report: ANR Work Group on Invasive and Nuisance Species Management (VT ANR, 2017), that ANR developed for the legislature on the status of invasive species in Vermont. The committee decided to use this report as a basis for an updated report that will include all the statewide partners involved in invasives species management. Some advantages to updating document- including additional partners in the discussion, making it more inclusive, might need to add a new chapter on how we manage invasives based on our roles, how to operate on your own jurisdiction and how to offer guidance beyond that.

Action Item: Committee Members are asked to read Final Report: ANR Work Group on Invasive and Nuisance Species Management (VT ANR, 2017)

- c) **Review Draft Summary of VIEPC Roles (see ‘VIEPC Proposed Roles 2018’):** In the “*Abridged historical...*” document, there is a list of proposed roles. The Committee would like to further define roles when listing species. Everyone felt that official designation was important to seek out, but that there was work we could do in the meantime. **Consideration to provide an annual report to AAFM (in the rule, but not followed up on)? Can we share our recommendations in a more formal format?**

Action Item:

- Judy- to talk to her supervisor about a process for adding to the list, whether we can create a system of recommendations from the committee as it exists, and move towards official designation in the future?

Action Item:

- Committee members - submit brief summary of how your organization manages outbreaks, in your current job what do you currently do about invasives, what are gaps (if any) of knowledge in your organization regarding this, what you currently do in responding to an infestation? Also how can the VIEPC help you do your job? For your current work, who is your audience re: invasive plant information? Are there any hot questions you get asked?

- d) **State of Vermont Invasive Species Collaboration:** Committee members were in agreement to meet more frequently. Next meeting is set for January. Later half of January, TNC offices. We should have more representation from southern Vermont.

Action Item:

- MaryBeth to ask Susanne to attend next meeting. Next date and time- Montpelier, 9:30-11:30, 12-2:30, TNC offices, January 24th.

2. Develop a Consistent VT Invasives Message and Go to Source for Vermont

a) **Propose collaborative more inclusive partner updates.** How to draw attention to the watchlist? Direct link in the Land Gallery, can it get added to Aquatics gallery? What about adding to quick links? There are many competing topics, and the front page is meant to be simple and the start of directing people to information. It would be good to have case studies for disposal options. Have ideas for large volume disposal on site, and also looking at designated storage sites, can't do open burns but there are people out west doing transportable oven burning. How we could make one coherent site for everyone, looking to bring F&W into discussion with upkeeping website?

Action Item:

- Kim- to talk with Josh Mulhollem about having link to Watchlist in Aquatics gallery.
- Craig- to start list of on-site disposal options that we can post to website.
- Andrea- to attend next website committee meeting to learn more about how F&W can get involved.

b) **Factsheets, maps, links, listings:** With the current partners to the VIEPC, what is the web presence out there currently? Who includes maps? The existing web presence of our committee partners, is summarized in the document name is "Vermont Plant Partners and Websites". Also, it would be useful to have all the PRAs for species on the watchlist and quarantine. Other states have put together the outline of the PRA, and then went to legislature to get funding to get contractor to do work of completing PRA. We don't need to redo existing PRAs but should be looking at a process for making new ones.

Action Item:

- Meg- to look up cost of contracted PRAs to NY
- Everyone- to send Elizabeth brief summary of what their organization does to combat invasive plants, so we can highlight achievements of our organizations on website (important for us all to know who does what).
- Elizabeth, Craig- to talk about an intern for factsheets.
- Everyone- to consider which other species do we want to prioritize for the new factsheets, what species are on the vtinvasives.org website (aquatic vs. terrestrial), factsheets for aquatics,
- Everyone- VTinvasives is looking for photographs of *Fillipendula ulmaria* and *Petasites japonicus* for their gallery pages. If you know of any, please send to Elizabeth
- Aaron- to update "VT NNIP Listing" on presence data (work he has done, and just updating new document)
- Kim- to make list of AIS species that need factsheets,
- Elizabeth- to make list of terrestrial plants that need factsheets.

3. VT Early Detection, Rapid Response Network

a) **EDRR:** When we see a species for the first time, where does that information go? Should there be a map? Currently, USGS site lists invasives, information provided by partners, there is no public component. There is EDDMaps out of Georgia, iMapInvasives was in Vermont, but it takes significant cost, iNaturalist has projects within the website, and Vermont has a lot of projects like VCE's Atlas of Life and Elizabeth's Mapping for Healthy Forests Vermont, it is completely free, so how do we want to utilize it for our purposes? Do we? There has been some inventory done (ARRA), and that data went to Judy, and MaryBeth has the complete dataset, how do we share that?

Action Item:

- Everyone- outline what we want with location data, and then we'll figure out which tool works best

4. Other Items of Discussion

a) **Municipal Mowing of Knotweed:** Elizabeth participating in Local Roads trainings put on by AOT for local municipal road crews (worked with Stu Johnson). Kim saw potential for this message to reach other audiences through Rivers + Roads program, may be an opportunity to work with Jim Ryan (DEC) and expand this work.

Action Item:

- Kim- to talk with Rivers and Roads about issue of invasive plants
- Everyone- Elizabeth to share slides from Local Roads presentations with anyone interested, just let her know

b) Pest Risk Assessments and Fact Sheets Updates: Missing a number of PRA's, potential ones to start next?

Action Item: Everyone- to look for old PRAs and send to Elizabeth to add to Google Drive

c) Coordinating Statewide efforts for control and outreach—Does this fall under roles of VIEPC?: No definitive decision on role VIEPC to play with control of invasive plants, but everyone strongly felt we could assist with outreach. Conversation should continue regarding our role with control. Discussion continued regarding outreach, and the list of contractors who complete invasives management was brought up. This is maintained by NRCS, and it was thought maybe before tackling statewide management plan or BMPs together, we could look at the NRCS list and update it with people that we know that aren't included. The Farm Bill team is working on updating the contractor list with the contractors methods used.

Action Item:

- Andrea- to send Elizabeth contractor list to add to Google Drive
- Everyone- to review contractor list and bring any additions to the next meeting to update the list

d) Continuing the Conversation on ROW Treatment of Invasives:

Working with the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets- new utility projects, conditions in the certificate of public good requiring the utilities to manage and control invasives. It is not dictated how they do that. From Ag—not covered under utility pesticide agreement. Can only control species that are going to impact the wires. Controlling invasive species invading ecologically sensitive area, RTE, or wetland/riparian area is not an allowed use. Ag may be leaning towards allowing it for ecological purposes if required by a permit to treat invasive plants. This is fairly recent information, nothing certain yet. Bob and DiGi will continue the conversation. This is impacting AOT and ANR programs and permits. Background- large scale utility project, F&W made recommendations for certificate of public good, A248, recommend control of NNIS on roads that go through significant communities. At Lowell project, reed canary grass all along road, not having success with manual work. Conditions said to control it. Utilities couldn't use herbicides if it wasn't impeding wire zone under their Ag permit. Ag was approached, and things haven't moved forward. Question of what happens if the infestation goes beyond the ROW corridor? Is it worth having someone treat? Also need to address conflicting permits (obligations in protecting rare plants and dealing with invasives in wetlands permits), there is current movement to address language for pioneer species (not managing for species that are already there, but rather newly arrived species), trying to draft language that would meet everyone's needs.

e) Transportation of invasive plant material: having a consistent message on what is allowed/required working with DEC- Emma Stuhl.

5. Future Topics (to be discussed at a later date)

Item 3.b. Define what the pressing issues are for the VIEPC to work on together

Item 3.b.1. How to make topic of invasive species relevant as a way to generate supporting funds for our work?

Item 3.b.2. EDRR

Item 4.b. Continue discussions on:

- *Factsheets—when they start to be updated, everyone shares their distribution data for each species.*
- *Everyone on committee to also review draft factsheets when they are created.*
- *At next meeting we'll pick the top ones to have factsheets created.*
- *At next meeting we'll assign everyone a species to look at last revision of the PRA, and assess is it good to go, or need updating, are there examples from other states?*

Item 4.c. What are the pros/cons of different mapping platforms, and what are the priorities of what we'd want to use the maps for (and what kind of map to use).

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