

Indiana Invasive Species Council
Wednesday 2 November 2022. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

- 1. Call to Order (M. Kraushar)**
- 2. Roll Call (M. Kraushar)**

Council Members Present:

Matt Kraushar, (IISC Chair), Roadside Maintenance Specialist, representing Indiana Department of Transportation, mkraushar@indot.in.gov

Steve Yaninek, representing Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University (Secretariat), yaninek@purdue.edu

Phyllis Boyd, Director, representing Indianapolis Parks & Recreation, phyllis.boyd@indy.gov

Eric Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, efischer@dnr.in.gov

Rick Haggard, Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, representing industry, haggard.rick@att.net

Heather Reynolds, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Biology, Indiana University representing research, hreynol@indiana.edu

Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist, representing Indiana State Department of Agriculture, kasanders1@isda.in.gov

Joe Schmees, Executive Director, representing Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, representing land trusts, joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org

Mike Warner, President of ArborTerra Consulting, Inc., representing industry, mwarner@arboterra.com

Kelli Werling, Director of Swine Health Programs, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health, kwerling@boah.in.gov

Non-Council Members Present:

Robert Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, rfbruner@purdue.edu

Ellen Jacquart, President of the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS), Chair of the Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) initiative

Alicia Kelley, IN Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey State Coordinator, ajkelley@purdue.edu

Dawn Slack, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), Project Coordinator /(Chair) IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, dawn@sicim.info

- 3. Adoption of Agenda (M. Kraushar)**

- Discussion: None
 - Motion: M. Warner- Adopt agenda as slated
 - Second: K. Werling
 - Vote: Included in the vote for approval of minutes

- 4. Review and approval of minutes from prior meeting (M. Kraushar)**

- Discussion: – H. Reynolds sent notes she made the morning of 11/2 regarding typos/corrections to an old version of the minutes
 - Motion: H. Reynolds- Approve with included recommendations from H. Reynolds
 - Second: R. Haggard

- Vote: Unanimous. Included in the vote for approval of minutes

5. Member Reports/Updates

- **Indiana Plant Advisory Committee and SICIM (to include CISMA Conference) (D. Slack)**
 - IPAC continuing updates and plant reports via social media.
 - New plant assessments will begin this fall.
 - Waiting on status report on amendments to the Terrestrial Plant Rule.
 - Indiana Invasives Initiative:
 - SICIM signed next five-year agreement with NRCS; the funding provides about 1/3 of the cost to run the Indiana Invasive Initiative (III).
 - Regional specialists will be required to assist NRCS more than in the past
 - Accomplishments for SICIM this year:
 - Over 1000 land-owner surveys; 32,000 acres that SICIM has provided management plans for.
 - Averaging 190 weed wrangles each year.
 - 900 outreach events
 - CISMAs are now starting to do landowner surveys and weed wrangles. We are attempting to make more of them self-sufficient so they have the tools they need to engage with state agencies and acquire their own funding.
 - There are 34 CISMAs representing 41 counties
 - There are 8 counties expected to be full-functioning CISMAs by June
 - CISMA Conference on August 17th
 - 250 attendees registered
 - 3 days, 8 field events
 - Started working groups this year for different invasive species issues (Stilt grass, right-of-way, etc.)
 - CISMA groups will attend the national conference (Innovations in Plant Control)
 - Discussion: Ellen Jacquart asked about the proposed update to the Terrestrial Plant Rule (TPR)
 - E. Jacquart: What was the last update? I am receiving questions from people about how to get involved.
 - D. Slack: No update; last update from Megan Abraham is that it is in the initial stage and had not gone through the rules moratorium committee.
 - E. Jacquart: I am very disappointed with the lack of progress and slow pace of implementation.
 - D. Slack: CISMAs are ready to provide support to move things forward. We have been working with CISMAs to create groups that are able to talk to legislatures.
 - E. Jacquart: Legislatures will be important for invasive species funding in the future, but the TPR is entirely in the hands of DNR. We need DNR to get the draft rule through the moratorium committee. It is unclear why this is held up; the process is not transparent.
 - **Action item:** Raise the issue and concerns regarding the slow pace and lack of progress in moving the Terrestrial Plant Rule forward with M. Abraham – (M. Kraushar volunteered to do this)
 - Discussion: Inquiry came into the council regarding a potential infestation of a grass species. D. Slack asked to provide comment.
 - D. Slack: Landowner has several acres infested with a *Pennisetum* species. He is currently mowing it. I will walk property with the landowner and develop a management plan.

- M. Kraushar: Landowner says the grass came from hay he bought and spread over the property. It has spread rapidly and he is at a loss for how to manage it. I had a conversation with a major manufacturer's rep for herbicide and there was discussion with a contractor to assist this individual with how to manage this species. Anecdotally, I have also observed this grass on the property of an agricultural producer on the opposite side of the state.
 - R. Haggard: Several landscapers have stopped using *Pennisetum alopecuroides* and *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' because they are finding it in lawns wherever they placed it.
 - M. Kraushar: Have you noticed anything else with other *Pennisetum* species?
 - R. Haggard: Those are the only species where we are seeing high impact.
- **Indiana Department of Agriculture (K. Sanders)**
 - Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grants: 13/16 grants received were funded.
 - Grants will be posted online for people to see projects.
 - SICIM submitted one of the selected proposals.
 - Will provide a more in-depth breakdown of information at next meeting.
- **Research (H. Reynolds)**
 - No report
- **Nursery (R. Haggard)**
 - R. Haggard has been advising INLA members and other nurseries of the possible phase out of Callery pear soon and recommended they stop growing it.
 - There are three bigger nurseries still producing it, as well as a few smaller ones.
- **Purdue University College of Agriculture (S. Yaninek/A. Kelley)**
 - All current Council members should now be properly listed on IISC website and have access to the IISC listserv and shared Box folder.
 - S. Yaninek plans to retire in 2023 and will reach out to the Dean of Agriculture about his replacement.
 - Alicia Kelley, Indiana Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Coordinator
 - CAPS surveys are in for 2022. No new surveys.
 - Bob Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator
 - New to the position since just over one week; replaces Elizabeth Barnes
 - You can follow Bob's program on Twitter @reportINvasive
 - Current focus is on Spotted Lantern Fly (SPL)
 - SLF egg-scraping event - You can register and see more details for the event at <https://tinyurl.com/mrw3sz47>
 - Discussion/comment: K. Sanders requested that B. Bruner reaches out to the IISC regarding SLF messaging that the council can help distribute through their networks.
- **Parks and Recreation (P. Boyd)**
 - Parks and Rec works closely with Division of Land Stewardship (Department of Public Works); they assist with managing invasive removal and native plant restoration on the acreage we have.
 - They have been doing fall clearing and treatments, as well as leading volunteer days at several parks
 - Land Stewardship Facebook page is where people can find opportunities to be involved
 - <https://www.facebook.com/IndyLandStewardship/>
- **Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts/Land Trusts (J. Schmees)**
 - District Staff meeting- Staff are working closely with CISMA groups.
 - Soil and Water Districts are using grant funding (such as Clean Water Indiana) for invasive work to get something started and then using those results to attempt to gain support from county level.

- There was a presentation at the staff meeting about important trees in industry and invasive species that are impacting forest lands.
- Annual Conference: January 8-10; 9-10 are the best days to attend.
- Opportunity for exhibitor booths at the conference if anyone is interested.
 - There will be a round table at the conference regarding CISMAs/invasive species.
- We are one of the primary advocates for Clean Water Indiana and we are continuing our campaign to get more of this funding during the next legislative session. We are seeking more conservation funding as a whole, and as a part of that conversation, discussing how that money can be used for invasive species.
- J. Schmees will be leaving Indiana Association of Soil Water Conservation Districts at the end of the month in his current role and will be joining the Nature Conservancy. It is uncertain if this will affect his role on the IISC.
- J. Schmees will potentially be able to serve on the IISC in his new role.
- **Action Item:** Connect to Governor's office concerning J. Schmees's appointment and if he can continue to serve under the same capacity in his new position with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) representing land trusts, pending acceptance of this role from TNC.
 - Who: M. Kraushar/J. Schmees
 - When: Prior to next meeting.
- **State Board of Animal Health (K. Werling)**
 - BOAH Animal Programs Department Quarterly Report
 - We have continued to respond to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Our last case was confirmed on September 1, 2022 in a backyard flock in Elkhart County on September 1, 2022. We have been anticipating a fall resurgence.
 - BOAH has continued working extensively with the poultry industry in northeast Indiana related to Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS) Virus. Regionally this has been affecting our ground egg laying operations. We thought we would be able to eradicate the disease, but that has not happened so far and we have been responding to this issue for the last year. We have switched the response from eradication to management of the disease. We have worked with regulatory channels to bring in a vaccine. We now have this tool available to combat the clinical effects of the disease, as well as biosecurity measures to prevent spread.
 - Discussion: Does EDS spread to wild birds in the population?
 - K. Werling: We don't really know. EDS has not been traditionally diagnosed in the USA. It was diagnosed in Pennsylvania in 2018, and in Indiana in 2021. Since then we have had over 55 confirmed cases. Some operations have depopulated, disinfected, fallowed, repopulated, and the birds become reinfected. Our control measures are not working. Part of the difficult is that this was not a reportable disease last year. We went through an emergency rule-making process to make it a reportable disease so we can provide regulatory support. It is still primarily an industry-led response because there is no established federal policy. We have put together resources for the producers on how to respond to the disease.
 - We have had an active year for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in both wild and captive deer populations. Cases are numerous and spread throughout the state, but cases are greatest in the southeastern area. As of 11/2/22 (wild deer): Deer Reported: 1,008; Dead Deer: 865; Sick Deer: 143; Tested Deer: 17; Confirmed: 14.
 - We still have not diagnosed Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in captive or wild deer in Indiana. DNR will be performing surveillance for CWD in the following

- counties this Fall: Adams, Allen, Delaware, Greene, Henry, Huntington, Martin, Owen, Putnam, Whitley.
- Two Indiana horses (unvaccinated) have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in separate incidents after presenting with signs of neurologic disease. Several cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus have also been diagnosed this Fall.
 - We are working with partners at Indiana Department of Health to respond to WNV and EEE.
- Indiana Wild Pig Taskforce Report
 - APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in Indiana has a current total project access of 38,529 acres on 125 individual cooperators. Indiana is currently at level 1 baseline funding and elimination phase activities.
 - In Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022, there was continued monitoring and surveillance using bait stations, trail cameras, night vision/infrared equipment, aerial operations (shooting/crop damage surveillance: no pigs taken from aerial gunning activities in FY 21 or FY 22 and no crop damage observed), eDNA (FY 2021), and scat detection dogs (FY 2022). For the scat detection dog teams, monitoring was focused on historical wild pig areas and previously identified eDNA sample locations. The teams performed two weeks of survey with 3 dogs and 3 handlers. Handlers walked 191+ miles and the dogs walked 217+ miles throughout the survey timeframe. Teams did not find any wild pigs.
 - Pig Take: For FY 21 – 32 pigs were taken. 17 of which were “hybrid-type” and 15 were true wild pigs. For FY 22 – 1 “hybrid” pig was taken. 0 true wild pigs.
 - Damage Assessments: For FY 21 - \$3,808 were assessed in damages; For FY 22 - \$0 in damages reported.
 - When pigs are taken, they take blood samples to conduct tests for Classical Swine Fever (all results were negative) and genetic testing to determine the origin.
 - No evidence in FY 22 that there continue to be established wild pig populations in Indiana. Will continue elimination and monitoring activities in FY 23.
 - Comment from H. Reynolds: Kelli, as always you do great work and so this comment is no criticism of you, but in my opinion, the avian disease issue you described is a manifestation of the unethical and ecologically unsound practice of factory farming. Even the ‘organic’ factory farms, as I understand it, do little more than provide an open cell of outdoor space. This is a good reason for people to support local, free-range producers and/or have their own laying flock when they can. Not that disease won’t ever be a problem for the latter, but the lower densities, inherently healthier conditions and inherently stronger immune systems free range animals experience means less disease, much more humane conditions, and healthier environments, ultimately making your job easier. Thanks for bearing with this comment. I felt moved to speak up for the suffering animals that humans subject to factory farms.
 - **Forest Industry (M. Warner)**
 - Several loggers have reached out about economic opportunities with invasive species management. They are looking to diversify their operations to keep employees working.
 - M. Warner advised them to take out and destroy invasives as they come across them.
 - Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters is a member of the Indiana Forests Forever Coalition. This coalition has about 35 members who come together to discuss natural resource issues. They recently came out in favor of pursuing additional funding for Clean Water Indiana.
 - IISC should also consider supporting continued funding for Clean Water Indiana; would be of interest and value to the efforts in the state to continue the fight against invasive species

- Discussion: Several members mentioned that they would have to seek approval for any letter of support, particularly when directed to the state legislature.
- **Indiana Department of Transportation (M. Kraushar)**
 - Invasive/incompatible species treated this year:
 - Contracted work:
 - Invasive broadleaf: 13,000 acres
 - Canada thistle/Teasel: 3,500 acres
 - Cattails/Phragmites: 3,500 acres
 - Woody vegetation: 2,000 with additional 3,000 planned for basal bark applications over winter months.
 - In-house CY to date: 4,775 acres (notable below)
 - Thistle: 360 acres
 - Poison Hemlock: 50 acres
 - Woody: 1,000+ acres
 - Johnsongrass: 2,550 acres
 - Phragmites: 50 acres
 - Question from J. Schmees: Is anyone managing invasive species along railways?
 - Railways are generally privately owned.
 - There is a National Railroad Contractors Association (<https://www.nrca-railroad.com/>) that provides training for active railroad vegetation management contractors, both in Indiana and across the country.
- **Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (M. Abraham)**
 - Report provided via email to M. Kraushar.
 - Nursery inspection season came to a close.
 - Second Positive Site for Spotted Lantern Fly (Huntington and Switzerland County)
 - New Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator at Purdue - B. Bruner.
 - Will be hosting an outreach project in Huntington.
 - Clif Sadof (Purdue) will be using some Spotted Lantern Fly funds to put out some billboards across the state to raise awareness.
 - Hired on two additional staff members, working on a third and possibly a fourth. Additionally, working to add an assistant director within the DEPP department.
 - Kudzu treatments completed, though some potential concerns with efficacy with new contractor.
 - No movement on Terrestrial Plant Rule.
 - Final adoption of Spongy Moth quarantine areas in mid-November.
 - Change in firewood rule that allows firewood that is certified by other state regulatory bodies to enter/be used at state owned properties.
- **10 Minute Recess**
- **Member Reports/Updates (continued)**
 - **Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division Fish and Wildlife (E. Fischer)**
 - Asian carp now called invasive carp within outreach and within state agencies moving away from region of origin naming convention that could carry negative connotations, similar to efforts with the spongy moth recently.
 - Ramping up some invasive carp work in Ohio River basin with regional partners in KY, OH, and TN

- IL started a brand new marketing campaign for invasive carp; now being marketed as a fish protein and within the food market without the negative connotations of “Carp” but as COPI <https://choosecopi.com/>
- Wrapping up invasive aquatic plant control work in northeastern IN on the Aquatic Invasive plant Starry stonewort - in 2022 treated 357 unique acres over 28 lakes.
- Doing more work with landowners, lake associations, conservation districts to develop management plans for next year, hopefully they can come up with match funding for lake and river enhancement program (80/20)
- Participated in invasive species day at Clay Middle School in Carmel Indiana. Students choose an invasive species and present a science project on biology and management ideas on the species.

6. Old Business

- **Legislative Working Group: SICIM/IASWCD Legislative Proposal (D. Slack)**
 - SICIM funding group (partnering with IASWCD) is trying to improve land management with a focus on invasive species.
 - Proposed a \$8.6 M increase for CWI budget
 - Not to fund the III; this is for increased funding for conservation on working lands
 - Discussion:
 - S. Yaninek: State has been returning some of the state surplus to citizens; how does support look for proposed increase?
 - D. Slack: Legislative support looks good so far.
 - J. Schmees: Some legislators supportive and they see the need, but they recognize the challenge in convincing the caucus. There are a lot of organizations requesting funding. There is also funding through the Federal Inflation Reduction Program.
 - **Action Item:** Share a link to the federal funding inflation reduction act – J. Schmees
 - For a summary of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) from the Indiana Farm Bureau (IFB) see: <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/whats-in-the-inflation-reduction-act-for-agriculture>
 - S. Yaninek: How will III funding be sustained?
 - D. Slack: We are hoping the state will have dedicated funding for invasive species work and will support the III. If SWCD and CISMAs support one another, we get conservation work accomplished on the ground. The III also applies for grants and private donor funds. We have a five-year contract with the NRCS, and they will fund a little less than half of the III.
 - M. Warner: Funding from CWI is a good way to leverage additional funds from IRA. It also encourages local investments through CISMAs and county governments. It’s a proven method that is already established, which makes it more palatable to legislatures.
 - Motion from M. Warner: The IISC supports the pursuit of increasing the state investment in Clean Water Indiana.
 - H. Reynolds suggested we make explicit connect between managing invasive species and clean water.
 - K. Sanders: I need to discuss this with my Legislative Affairs person before I can support any legislation.
 - M. Kraushar: I will echo this same concern, as well as other state employees (K. Werling and E. Fischer). I will table this motion until agencies get approval to move forward.
 - H. Reynolds: Can we vote on motion with conditional support pending approval from agencies?

- P. Boyd: As an appointee of the mayor, I would also need to check with my legislative liaison.
- J. Schmees: Can we adjust the statement to support of state-level funding for invasive species management and remove the connection to CWI?
- S. Yaninek: I would be more comfortable supporting a statement like that because I also cannot make any decisions to support legislative actions. That would have to go through legal channels at Purdue.
- M. Warner withdrew motion and will draft a new statement that is more general for review by members next week.
- **Action Item:** M. Warner will draft and circulate to council members a revised position statement that supports invasive species programs without specific funding recommendations.
- **Terrestrial Plant Rule additions (M. Abraham)**
 - M. Abraham was not present so the topic was tabled for next IISC meeting
 - **Action Item:** See the discussion above under the agenda item Indiana Plant Advisory Committee
- **Indiana Green Expo meeting January 30 through Feb 1st**
 - Booth for IISC is available; reach out to R. Haggard if interested.
 - III will also have a booth
 - Purdue Extension will also be present
- **Biennial Report (M. Warner)**
 - M. Warner approves proceeding with drafted biennial report.
 - Discussion:
 - H. Reynolds suggested reordering the accomplishments with most impressive ones first.
 - Motion by S. Yaninek to approved submitting the draft biennium report with amendments recommended by H. Reynolds.
 - Second: K. Werling
 - Vote: Unanimous
 - **Action item:** Revise and submit the draft biennial report with most impressive accomplishments listed first – M. Kraushar & M. Warner
- **Recodification of IISC (M. Kraushar)**
 - J. Schmees: Not a strong agency lead to recodify. I discussed with Representative Sue Glick recodifying the legislation as-is, as well as the potential to include a summer study committee on invasive species. She is supportive. I sent current code language to her staff. I intend to follow-up Sue Glick in near future.
 - Discussion:
 - K. Werling: Why is this not just readopted vs. recodified?
 - J. Schmees: Because it was initially written with a sunset clause.
 - M. Kraushar: Was the language sent to Senator Glick the same as used for the last legislation?
 - J. Schmees: It was not identical; it was more broadly worded to cover state control of managing invasive species.
 - **Action Item:** Follow-up with Senator Glick and inform council if she will carry it. – J. Schmees

7. New Business

- National Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - Occurs Feb 20th – Feb 26th or Feb 27th - Mar 3rd (conflicting dates found online)
 - Historically M. Abraham has submitted the request for the proclamation for the state-level invasive species awareness week to coincide with national week

- Motion by J. Schmees to request a proclamation for invasive species awareness week to coincide with the National Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - Second: M. Warner
 - Vote: Unanimous
- **Action item:** Reach out to the Governor's office about proclamation – E. Fischer and M. Abraham
- E. Fischer: DNR's outreach will occur during the National Invasive Species Awareness Week regardless of Governor's proclamation.

8. Review of assigned action items

- Incorporate corrections/edits to the July meeting minutes provided by H. Reynolds – A. Kelley
- Raise the issue and concerns expressed at the Council meeting regarding the slow pace and lack of progress in moving the Terrestrial Plant Rule forward with M. Abraham – M. Kraushar
- Link to additional information about federal funding from Inflation Reduction Act – J. Schmees
- Draft a statement that generally supports increased funding for invasive species and related activities for review by members next week – M. Warner
- Connect to Governor's office concerning the appointment of J. Schmees to find out if he can continue to serve under the same capacity in his new position with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) representing land-trusts, pending acceptance of this role from TNC – M. Kraushar
- Revise and submit the draft biennial report with most impressive accomplishments listed first – M. Kraushar & M. Warner
- Follow-up on recodification of IISC with senator Sue Glick – J. Schmees
- Reach out to Governor's office about proclamation in line with national event – E. Fischer and M. Abraham
- Investigate the open-door law through the public access counsellor to understand what the quorum requirements are for in-person vs. digital vs. hybrid meetings – M. Kraushar

9. Next meetings:

- M. Kraushar asks if there is a preference for in-person vs. digital vs. hybrid.
 - Hybrid was generally accepted
- J. Schmees: Are we subject to open door laws in Indiana? After COVID there was a law passed to update open door laws to include virtual meetings. If you are subject to open door law, you must have a quorum in person.
- H. Reynolds: We should make sure we are publicly posting our meeting zoom links.
- S. Yaninek: We are; it is posted on the website two weeks prior to the meeting.
- **Action item:** Inquire if IISC is subject to open-door law – M. Kraushar
- Proposed Dates:
 - 15 February
 - 17 May
- Pending recodification
 - 16 August
 - 15 November
- Locations:
 - Purdue
 - Bloomington
 - Farm Bureau Building
 - INDOT Traffic Management Center
 - Others

10. Adjournment

- Motion: H. Reynolds
- Second: J. Schmees

- Vote: Unanimous
- Adjourned. Approximately 12:42 PM