

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Thursday October 5, 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Larry DeVilbiss- AK Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Palmer

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AK Dept. of Transportation, Fairbanks

Denny Lassuy- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage

Bob Piorkowski- AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Juneau

Shelly Morgan- The Nature Conservancy, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Discussion of the AISWG MOU signatory progress
- AISWG October meeting agenda and objectives
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- Updated Agenda

Discussion of the AISWG MOU signatory progress

To date, the MOU has been signed by Michael Menge (Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources), Steve Jones (UAF Chancellor), Sharry Miller (Executive Director of the Prince William Soundkeeper), Niles Cesar (Bureau of Indian Affairs), John Devens (Prince William Sound RCAC), and Michael Menger (Commissioner of Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources). The MOU is in route to AK DEC, and still under consideration by the other federal and NGO organizations.

AISWG Meeting Agenda and Objectives

Some changes were proposed to the Agenda (see new version in Additional Resources). It was suggested by Bob Piorkowski that there could be upwards of 20 agencies represented, and that 1 minute each would not be enough time to provide updates. Michele Hebert and Larry Johnson proposed and supported moving the Agency Updates to take place after the Needs Assessment presentation by Bob Piorkowski. This would allow people to get up and get refreshments while the informal updates were being given. Larry DeVilbiss recommended that an update/summary of the AK Dept. of Agriculture invasive species list be given during the updates by Charlie Knight.

The other change was to switch the order of the Breakout Sessions. If it is decided not to do a Needs Assessment, then more time could be given to the discussion of Invasive Species Lists. Several guest speakers were suggested for this session: Tracey Gotthardt

(Alaska Natural Heritage), Bob Gerlack (State Veterinarian), Gino Graziano, Doug Warner, Ann Ferguson (APHIS Director), and Charlie Knight.

B. Piorkowski suggested that generalized outlines be prepared to make good use of time at the meeting, M. Hebert and Deena Jallen of UAF-CES will draft outlines for the breakout sessions to be reviewed at subsequent teleconferences before the meeting.

In particular, it was discussed in April that human diseases not be part of the scope of the AISWG. L. DeVilbiss cautioned against the possibility of spending a whole hour discussing the details of including diseases into the consideration of the AISWG. The addition of human diseases would necessitate the adding of the Centers for Disease Control and other organizations to the working group. Additional teleconferences will be needed to define the scope and focus of the Breakout sessions.

Items to include on the outline for the Invasive species list session: general philosophy of list generated, flip charts with Marine group and AK Division of Agriculture lists, discussion of G. Graziano's email regarding how to rank invasive species, delineating which species/issues the AISWG will not focus on (whirling disease, avian flu, human diseases, etc), and whether a line should be drawn between those diseases that affect agriculture, natural resources, and human health. So far, none of the signing agencies have brought up concerns with including diseases within the scope of the AISWG.

L. DeVilbiss inquired as to whether the AISWG meeting has gotten any interest from politicians, and if it would be a good idea to invite the candidates for governor. B. Piorkowski mentioned that Senator Fred Dyson was interested in the AISWG and that he would keep him apprised of AISWG meetings. M. Hebert's feeling was that the October AISWG meeting will be more of a work session, and not the best venue for politicians to drop in on. The CNIPM meeting would be a better venue for them to attend, and that in any case, state employees are not allowed to invite political candidates to attend.

Next Meeting for the AISWG:

Friday October 13, 10:00 am. NRCS Bridge number 907-271-1405.

Topics: Meeting Agenda

Additional Resources: Agenda with recent changes

10:00 am - 10:20 am Opening Remarks: Review of the AISWG and accomplishments since April: Michele Hebert

10:20 am - 10:40 am Review of Forest Service projects: Michael Shepherd

10:40 am - 11:00 am Needs Assessment: What is it and why do we need one: Bob Piorkowski

11:00 am - 11:20 am Organizational updates on Invasive Species activities

On site – Working Lunch and poster review: snacking during organization updates.

11:20 am - 1:30 pm Where are we headed in 2006-2007? Brainstorming and ranking of priorities

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Breakout session 1: Drafting a Needs Assessment

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm Breakout Session 2: Invasive species lists

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm Summary of Outcomes and closing comments