

## **Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference**

Friday, February 23

Hosted via NRCS bridge number, minutes taken by Deena Jallen

### **Participants:**

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Ann Ferguson, USDA-APHIS

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

Judy Hamilton- ADF&G, Katchemak Bay Research Reserve

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Charlie Knight- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AK DOT&PF, Fairbanks

Jamie Nielsen-UAF Cooperative Extension Service, CNIPM, Anchorage

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Linda Shaw- NOAA, NMFS, Juneau

Jeanne Standley-BLM, Anchorage

### **Agenda: Items to discuss**

- Update on Activities
- Update from State representatives meeting about AISWG support
- Recap of Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Discussion of joint CNIPM/AISWG activities and possible fall meeting
- Discuss AISWG April meeting in Anchorage
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

### **Additional Resources**

Upcoming events

AK Forum on the Environment website

Recap of State representative meeting by Tammy Davis via listserv

### **Update on Activities**

Michele Hebert and Phil Kaspari will be teaching a weed free forage certification class in April. The program is designed for farmers to learn about weed free forage, and for district employees to receive training in certification, tagging, and record keeping. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts are also involved in the program. Certified weed free forage and bedding straw can be sold to the Yukon Quest, and other organizations.

Larry Johnson from the AK DOT reported on the DOT collaboration with UAF and Steeve SEefeldt to expand research into wet blade mowing techniques for shrubs and some invasive species. Research into rates, efficiency at high rates, and examination of the wet blade method will be continued this summer.

Jeanne Standley from BLM reports that they are looking for someone to help develop a strategic plan for controlling weeds in the interior. Gino Graziano says the CWMA's (Cooperative Weed Management Areas) are also considering doing a similar plan. Good

contacts would be George Hides and Joanne Sharfenburge (479-1213). The Foraker Group also has experience in facilitating strategic plans for non-profit agencies, and may also work with governmental agencies.

Jamie Nielsen and Blythe Brown will be going to the NIWAW (National Invasive Weed Awareness Week) meetings in Washington DC. They have scheduled appointments with the Alaskan congressional delegation to discuss invasive plants, and the senators from Hawaii to discuss some bird issues. Deena Jallen provided Jamie Nielsen with a one page handout covering AISWG website address, Mission, Goals, brief description of the working group background, MOU signatories, and need for state support. Other people from Alaska will be going to DC in upcoming weeks to discuss other invasive species (The Nature Conservancy will be requesting \$2 million in funds for rat projects).

### **Update from State representatives meeting about AISWG support**

AISWG members from Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game met on 2/20 to discuss state support for the working group. Their next meeting will be on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

ADF&G and AKDNR were identified as having invasive species issues as part of their missions, and as being the most likely sources for funding of an Alaskan invasive species council. Feedback from the new Palin administration will be needed. Larry DeVilbiss is currently the director of DNR, but is waiting for approval to stay in his position. The transition plan might address invasive species, but the final version has not been released (expected to be out by early March). DeVilbiss supports taking action on invasive species, but is in limbo until the transition teams are in place and the new state administration is settled.

### **Recap of Alaska Forum on the Environment**

Linda Shaw, and several other participants in the AISWG attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment. She said the films were excellent, and the meeting was well attended. She networked with Poppy Benson and Ellen Fritts, and will be working on getting a presentation and educational materials about invasive rats to Juneau. Her opinion was that the issue of invasives species was more apparent, and there was more awareness of the issue at this year's Forum than in previous years.

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> had sessions about invasives all day. Douglas Vincent-Lang moderated a session on the ADF&G new invasive pike plan, Kristine Dunker, Matt Miller, and Robert Johnson (all ADF&G) presented. Jamie Nielsen (UAF-CES) moderated a session about invasive plants. Matt Carlson (UAA Natural Heritage Program) and Jeff Heys (National Park Service) presented. Contact and information materials about CNIPM and other invasive plant materials were available.

Denny Lassuy (USFWS) moderated and presented at the session on invasive rats. Ellen Fritts (ADF&G) and Poppy Benson (USFWS) gave interesting talks about invasive rats in Alaska and the ADF&G rat plan. Poppy Benson encouraged everyone to check out [www.stoprats.org](http://www.stoprats.org). The website has rat information, and you can order free rat

prevention kits. ADF&G's invasive rat plan is in the final editing process, and should be online in several months.

Denny Lassuy also moderated the session on the new invasive species group in Alaska, the AISWG. Deena Jallen spoke about the formation of the working group, and provided at print out of the presentation with contact information, website address, current list of signatories, etc.

### **Discussion of joint CNIPM/AISWG activities and possible fall meeting**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CNIPM meeting will be in the interior of Alaska in 2007. The meeting is scheduled for sometime in late October at the Fairbanks Princess Hotel. The AISWG will continue to meet face to face every 6 months. The next meeting is scheduled for spring 2006 in Anchorage, and it might work out well to have the fall AISWG meeting in conjunction with the CNIPM meeting. At this point, linking the two groups very closely could be risky; CNIPM has a long established track record, and the AISWG might not pan out. However, having a joint meeting has not been met with great resistance. An option for scheduling would be to have the AISWG meet for ½ or whole day on Tuesday, CNIPM to meet on Wednesday and Thursday, leaving Monday and Friday available for participants to travel. AISWG may also be able to hold concurrent sessions during CNIPM. Further AISWG and CNIPM audios and listserv discussions will be held to discuss details of agenda, conference costs, etc.

### **Discuss AISWG May meeting in Anchorage**

The tentative date for a face-to-face of the AISWG is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> in Anchorage. Agenda items will be discussed at the March teleconference. Due to lack of funds, Deena Jallen has been working on other grant projects, and the Needs Assessment has not progressed. The May meeting would be good time to discuss the next steps for the AISWG, to have a work session to focus on drafting the Needs Assessment, and possibly set up work groups to tackle sections of the assessment.

### **Next teleconference for the AISWG: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

- Discuss outcome of State meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>
- May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Anchorage
  - Location
  - Agenda
- Joint CNIPM/AISWG October meeting
  - Meeting date
  - Agenda
  - Costs
- Set next meeting time

### **Marine Subcommittee**

10 am Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

### **Additional Resources**

Upcoming events:

- AISWG teleconference  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am
- Marine teleconference  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

AK Forum on the Environment website

Home

<http://www.akforum.com/index.htm>

Agenda

<http://www.akforum.com/agenda.htm>

Recap of state agency representatives provided by Tammy Davis, sent out over the listserv.

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Hello all:

Thanks again for your time this morning. Our next meeting is set for Friday, March 16th at 11:00am.

To reiterate what was discussed:

- \* Larry DeVilbiss is still in transition with his department, so will not be making any policy calls until he finds out further about his position.
- \* Short discussion on the background of the Working Group
- \* Before discussing funding a chair, we need to find out how the new administration feels about invasive species, and AISWG, specifically.
  
- \* Preliminary financial discussion-
- \* DOT and DEC do not have IS within their mission, so do not feel that they will provide funding
- \* DNR and DF&G agree that because of regulatory role funding should come from them
  
- \* Larry will speak with DNR commissioner- If funding was made

- available through the FY08 budget it would not be available until July '07.
- \* F&G has grant funds that could be made available before July '07
  - \* Rob has reviewed the Fish and Game Transition Document- it does not contain any specific mention of invasive species.
  - \* Larry DeVilbiss will send out a copy of the DNR Transition Document
  - \* Tammy will contact CNIPM to find out more about their fact sheet and meeting with congressional delegates and state legislature
  - \* Rachel Petro, Dept. of Administration, do her new responsibilities cover invasive species/AISWG?
  - \* Everyone agreed that we are very appreciative for the hard work and focus that Michele and Deena have provided to the group and we hope they will continue to be involved in the future.

If you see omissions or edits need to be made, please let me know.

Thank you-

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