

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Thursday September 28, 1:15 pm to 2 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

Rose Lombardi- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Wasilla

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

Michael Shepherd- US Forestry Service, Anchorage

Calvin Steele- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Discussion of the AISWG MOU signatory progress
- Review summary and accomplishments from April meeting
- Discuss bringing posters to the AISWG meeting
- Discuss AISWG October meeting objectives
- AISWG October meeting agenda
- AISWG October meeting registration fee
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional topics:

- Issue of State lead representative
- Possibility of joint AISWG/CNIPM meeting

Additional Resources

- Accomplishments and priorities identified at the April meeting of the Working Group.

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) and Sharry Miller (Executive Director of the Prince William Soundkeeper). UAF-CES has sent out emails with the MOU and Exhibits attached to primary organization contacts. The agency contact was asked to present their MOU to their agency head for signature, and then mail the form back to Michele Hebert at UAF.

Steve Jones, the chancellor from UAF has signed the MOU. Michael Shephard brought up the need to see if that signature will work for the UA system. Michele Hebert will check to see if she can either get a signature from the UA President, or from the individual campus chancellors.

Rachael Petro did not attend the teleconference, but has given a memo to state agency representatives regarding MOU signatory progress.

After all the signatures have been collected, M. Hebert at UAF-CES will scan them in, and compile signatures on to one document. This method will save a lot of time over the method of physically moving one document between all agencies. Original signature pages will be kept on file.

Review summary and accomplishments from April meeting

Michele Hebert reviewed the list of accomplishments (see Additional Resources) for the first 6 months of the AISWG. M. Hebert also reviewed items identified as highest priority for action before October (see Additional Resources). Of these, the legislative brief has not been acted on. M. Hebert of UAF-CES will put together a draft legislative brief for review at the October meeting, with the intent of presenting it to the legislature in January for the next legislative session after the November elections.

Discuss bringing posters to the AISWG meeting

AISWG members are encouraged to bring posters related to invasive species projects to the October meeting.

Discuss AISWG October meeting objectives

Review top ten invasive species list from Larry DeVilbiss. Gino Graziano recommended talking about identifying and prioritizing invasive species threats. M. Hebert will bring material on drafting legislative briefs, and provide a draft AISWG brief for discussion.

Top items for action in 2006-07 are to create an action plan, a Needs Assessment document, discuss the timeline for a strategic plan, and to pursue official designation for the council. In order to keep the AISWG moving, funding will be needed after December 2006. One of the goals in the MOU is to pursue official designation; the AISWG should endeavor to fulfill the conditions in the MOU.

Michael Shepherd advised that the AISWG should work towards becoming relevant as an organization (creating plans, assessments) before seeking more formal designation from the political side of things. An impediment to drafting significant documents is time and funding. Bob Piorkowski may be able to find funding to support the Invasive Species Program Assistant position until the end of the fiscal year, with the goal of creating a Needs Assessment document. M. Hebert will provide funding estimates to B. Piorkowski for 6 months funding. Funds should also include monies for printing and meetings; a meeting may need to be held in April or May to hold a workshop, and then go forward with editing. B. Piorkowski will give a 20 minute presentation on a Needs Assessment document, and have a rough outline/draft to use as a strawman at the October meeting.

AISWG Meeting Agenda

Not all attendees of the October meeting may have been present in April, so the meeting will open with a brief overview of accomplishments and goals. Forest Service

will give a presentation on their projects. The meeting group will spend about 1.5 hours reviewing accomplishments.

After an on site lunch, the meeting will move into break out sessions on Needs Assessment, (possibly) legislative briefings, and Development of Lists (B. Piorkowski has \$10,000 from NISA (National Invasive Species Act) to work with the Alaska Natural Heritage Project to come up with a method for ranking and listing non-plant invasive species.). Afterwards, the whole group will meet to discuss the action plan for the AISWG moving into 2007.

Michele Hebert will create a draft Agenda to be reviewed at the 10/5/06 teleconference.

Discuss AISWG October meeting registration fee

D. Jallen of UAF-CES will create a registration form with a fee of \$20.00, to be used for snacks and beverages at the meeting. This registration form will be sent out over the listserv, and available at the www.alaskainvasives.org website.

Next Meeting for the AISWG:

Thursday October 5, 1:30 pm. NRCS Bridge number 907-271-1405.

Topics: Meeting Agenda

Issue of State lead representative

Representatives from the State agencies, (Bob Piorkowski, Larry DeVilbiss, Larry Johnson, Rose Lombardi) will contact and meet with Rachael Petro to discuss who should be the lead for the State of Alaska with AISWG related issues, and to form a strategy to work with agencies on funding, etc. Whether there will be alternating leads, or joint leads will be worked out among State agency representatives.

Possibility of joint AISWG/CNIPM meeting

Michael Shephard proposed planning an all-taxa joint meeting with CNIPM and AISWG possibly in 2007 or 2008, and will bring this up at the next CNIPM meeting. M. Hebert liked the idea, but would like to see the AISWG invited, so as not to step on toes. Denny Lassuy has seen joint meetings work well in other places, as long as the groups are given adequate time to address their own issues.

Additional Resources: Accomplishments and priorities identified at the April meeting of the Working Group.

2006 AISWG Accomplishments since April '06 Meeting

- The preliminary meeting of the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group was held April 26th and 27th at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Building in Anchorage. In attendance were over 38 representatives from state, federal, citizen, tribal, and conservation organizations.

- Formation of the working group
- Development of mission statement, goals and draft MOU
- Established Marine subcommittee
 - a. Foster communication and information sharing among members
 - b. Discussion of Needs assessment vs. Strategic Plan
 - c. Draft list of top ten marine invasive species
- Communication Network established
 - Ie. Listserv, monthly teleconferences
- Website developed and launched
 - Ie. Educational materials, Communication, Data storage
- Quarterly Newsletter published highlighting AISWG activities and invasive species issues
- MOU moved forward by Governors office, being used to garner support and foster collaboration (in progress), signatory process underway
- Second meeting planned for October 24

Highest priority for action before October:

- MOU accepted and signed
 - Rachael Petro getting state signatures
 - Michael Shepherd collecting Federal signatures
 - Michele Hebert/Deena Jallen collecting NGO signatures
- Legislative brief
 - Potential item
- Review accomplishments
- Species list from Larry DeVilbiss
 - Available for discussion at meeting
- Develop a system to identify & prioritize potential & existing invasive species threats in Alaska

Highest priority for action at Meeting:

- Develop action plan for 2007
- Needs Assessment
- Process for Strategic Plan
- Annual report to Governor and lawmakers
 - Discuss contents
- Process for official designation of AISWG
 - Council?

Goals and Mission of the AISWG as drafted in April 2006

The mission of Alaska Invasive Species Council (AISC) is to minimize invasive impacts in Alaska by facilitating collaboration, cooperation and communication.

GOALS (non-prioritized, as restated in the MOU):

1. Clarify the jurisdictional authorities of signatory parties as they relate to invasive species management.
2. Share the scientific and technical expertise of the parties related to invasive species management.
3. Encourage and enable signatory party employees or members to work collaboratively to optimize their respective capabilities to minimize invasive species impacts.
4. Collaborate in the development of a needs assessment and drafting of a statewide strategic plan for the management of invasive species.
5. Consider the formation by the State of Alaska, in collaboration with the other signatory parties, a formal structure for continued collaboration, cooperation and communication to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska.