



Spring Meeting Notes

May 1, 2012

**O'Callaghan Hotel
174 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Attendees

Sarah Whitney, Chair	PA SG	swhitney@psu.edu
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Michael St. Germain	CMI at VA Tech	mstgerma@vt.edu
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Steve Minkinen	FWS	steve_minkinen@fws.gov

Action Items

- Panel Coordinator will contact individuals identified during discussion currently listed in the membership table concerning their active status or lack thereof, to then determine whether or not to retain individuals as Panel members or seek replacements.
- Panel Coordinator will send out a Doodle Poll in July to determine tentative date(s) for the fall meeting; she will also contact NC's Panel members concerning their hosting the fall meeting.

- The ad-hoc committee established to address the Panel's Standard Operating Procedures (Kerry Kyde, Sarah Whitney, Steve Minkinen, and Jonathan McKnight) will coordinate a revised draft by August 1, 2012.

2012 Small Grants Competition Discussion

In early 2012 Susan Park and Dieter Busch led an effort to revise the MAPAIS RFP for 2012. The 2012 RFP was released in April 2012. Priorities included projects that identify and evaluate AIS educational efforts in the US and other countries, develop education materials for K-12 classroom education, develop and distribute social marketing products to the public, build on current regional efforts in EDRR, continue to develop vector management strategies for states in the region, and encourage states to develop and implement AIS management plans.

The Panel received eight proposals in response to the RFP requesting a total of \$111,655. Volunteer reviewers ranked and provided commentary on each proposal. The Panel had previously voted to provide \$7,500 to the Invasive Species Action Network in support of its International Conference on Didymo to be held in Providence, RI in March 2013. Also, funds were set aside for the remaining year's meeting expenses, as well as travel expenses for the Chair and Coordinator to attend ANSTF meetings. This left approximately \$35,000 to allocate to the Small Grants Competition.

Attendees discussed and voted on proposals to be funded. Panel Chair and Coordinator will present outcomes of proposal discussions to the PIs and negotiate accordingly. The Executive Committee will decide any contingency plan if necessary.

Update on the Live Bait Vector Project – Jenny Allen and Fredrika Moser (MD SG)

The team is evaluating the weed packing material used for distribution of marine blood worms for potential as an AIS vector. The team measured abundance and diversity before and after shipping marine blood worms from Maine to SERC in the Mid-Atlantic. They observed decreased abundance and species richness after transportation. The group is also investigating possible means of eradicating harmful invasive species during collection and transport of bait in Maine including osmotic shock, shaking, and freezing the packing material before shipping. Fred Dobbs is looking for pathogenic microorganisms such as *Vibrio* in the packing material. The experiments have left the team with a lot of extra blood worms which they have been using in outreach and social science efforts. The team goes to fishing sites and piers to do bait giveaways. Free bloodworms are provided to anglers along with a brochure on how to dispose of bait responsibly, in exchange for filling out a survey. The team does not explain upfront that the survey is about invasive species awareness, in order to not influence responses. Jenny asked the Panel for advice on where to hold bait giveaways. They are also seeking information from states and the NOAA National Fisheries Registry, but are having trouble gaining access. Jenny will be reaching out to representatives in each state for information, please respond. The next step in the project will be to develop a communications strategy taking the social science information into account.

MAP Funded Project Updates

Panel Coordinator provided updates on ongoing Panel funded projects:

- Creating Water Gardening AIS Prevention Training in Pennsylvania, Diane Oleson (Penn State Cooperative Extension) –The final training package includes a PowerPoint presentation with script, video in DVD format, and a publication, *Pocket Guide to Mid-Atlantic Water Garden*

Species. The PowerPoint and the DVD are in mid-late stages of completion. The pocket guide is completed and has been approved by reviewers. A printer is currently being sought.

- Beach Vitex Eradication Plan for Virginia Beach, Charles McKenna (City of Virginia Beach) – 39,000 square feet of land infested with Vitex has been treated since 2010. In 2011 landowner interest doubled and there was a 400% increase in the amount of area treated. The group has maxed out their MAP grant responding to the increased interest.
- Mapping Invasive Species Distribution in Selected Areas of the Ohio River Basin, Jane Konrad (U Pitt, Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers) -Twenty groups of Pennsylvania teachers and students participated in the stream AIS sampling and data reporting project focusing on Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, and quagga mussels. Students and teachers shared their work at the Creek Connections Symposium. They plan to continue monitoring their sites and will be presenting their work at another student symposium later in the year.
- Invasive Sedge Control and Native Species Restoration at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey – Dr. Louise Wootton (Georgian Court University) – Challenges to study area access resulted in no herbicide application in 2011. Target sites were identified in the Northern most area of the park because spread direction is strongly southward. The plan is to start herbicidal treatment in June and it is anticipated multiple applications will be required to successfully remove sedge.

Rapid Response to Phragmites Infestation in the Upper Piankatank – Kevin Heffernan (VA DCR)

Aerial mapping of the project area was completed in 2008. Map products are now being moved to iMAPInvasives. During this project 15 patches covering a total of 7 acres were selected for treatment. All landowners were in support of eradication/control. Everything has been treated with herbicide. Kevin will be able to report of the effect of chemical treatments in the fall. The project's final report will also be complete at this time.

Aquatic Invasive Species Field Guide for Pennsylvania – Sara Grise (PA SG)

The Aquatic Invasive Species Field Guide for Pennsylvania has been completed. The field guide contains profiles of 29 species of obligate and facultative plants, 10 species of invertebrate, 14 species of fish, two species of algae, two reptiles, and two pathogens. Each profile provides information on identification, common look-a-likes, distribution in the United States and Pennsylvania, habitat, spread, and impacts, as well as high definition photographs and line art. In addition, the guide provides information on best management practices for prevention, and guidelines for proper reporting of potential new infestations.

Additional funding will be utilized to print and bind the 5"x7" field guide on sturdy, waterproof paper, and distribute it to regional biologists and water conservation officers. Pennsylvania Sea Grant is also considering developing a smartphone application of the field guide.

Members Forum

Ray Fernald, VA DGIF – DGIF has reorganized; Ray Fernald is now manager of Environmental Services Section. Zebra mussels and feral hogs are currently on their radar. It has been determined a hunting program cannot accomplish level of mortality needed to have a significant impact on populations. DGIF is looking at ways to address situation before it becomes a human health issue and agricultural disease risk.

Kevin Heffernan, VA DCR- the VA Invasive Species Working Group has not met in a while and no meetings are scheduled. The group is encountering apathy from Secretary of Natural Resources. There are continued efforts to populate and utilize the Imap Invasives database.

Kerrie Kyde, MD Invasive Species Council – adoption of APHIS risk assessment protocol and upcoming training for implementation. The risk assessment protocol should be completed by fall 2012.

Leo Donovall, PA Invasive Species Council – Asian carp and rusty crayfish of concern. PA DEP has identified 16 water bodies as part of larger EPA Lakes Assessment effort and will augment the required monitoring to also look for AIS.

Sarah Whitney, PA Sea Grant – a meeting is being planned to bring together managers working within the Ohio River drainage to address Asian carp issues within the river, specifically to come up with strategies to slow/stop movement of these fish. In 2007 MAP funded a sign campaign for boat launches across the state which is now being extended to angler access points. Didymo has been discovered in a 100 mile segment of the Delaware River.

Cathy Martin, DE Division of Fish & Wildlife – An online survey went out to gain insight concerning bait use and according to the results, 45% of anglers throw bait back in the water. Two snakehead fish have been discovered in the Nanticoke River. This is in addition to the three that were discovered in the Nanticoke in 2011. Conducted an EDRR workshop in February with 40 participants attending. DISC sends out a biweekly newsletter.

Steve Minkkinen, FWS – expansion of snakehead invasion. Fish have been observed from Great Falls to mouth of Potomac River, main stem of the Nanticoke River, and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. In MD there is an effort to promote snakehead fish in restaurants and get it in on the menu.

Peg Brady, NOAA –National Ocean Policy set forth by the President is a main priority right now. The aquatic invasive species policy draft will be seeking input from ANSTF (and Panels, if interested). All-hands meeting scheduled to discuss Panel needs and top 3-5 AIS activities/programs going on within the Chesapeake Bay region. A goal is to marry NOAA capabilities with Regional Panel gaps and determine next steps. Oceans Week is in June on Capitol Hill.

Steve Kendrot, APHIS – First confirmation of nutria in Delaware since the nutria eradication project he oversees began in 2000.

Panel Business

Membership

Panel Chair led line by line review of current membership table; some contacts listed will need to be contacted concerning their status –active or not- to then determine whether or not to retain individuals as Panel members or seek replacements.

Revision of MAP SOPs

Sarah Whitney and Steve Minkkinen began the editing process internally, but more members needed to assist with completion of a revised draft. An ad-hoc committee was established including Kerry Kyde, Ray Fernald (after September), Sarah, Steve, and Jonathan McKnight.

MAP Budget

All 2011 money has been obligated. 2011 grant agreements were completed as recently as May. The total expenditure is at \$51,000. The 2010 funded Social Marketing Committee project that was cancelled resulted in loss of funds (\$5,000); funds did not carry-over into next FY as originally anticipated.

MAP Award Nominations

No nominations were submitted for 2012. Jonathan suggested the Panel consider identifying an outstanding MAP grantee to be recognized. He recommended the awards program be on the back burner for now, to perhaps be revisited later.

2012 Fall MAP Meeting

Possible locations for the fall meeting include NC or PA. The Panel Coordinator will send out a doodle with potential dates in October and November. The next ANSTF meeting is scheduled for November 14-15, 2012.