IPAC Minutes January 28, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Leslie Cario: Chesapeake Horticultural Services, Owner, President Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nurseries, Owner, MNLGA

Brent Cassell: Leyland Landscaping, Owner

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service,

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PPWM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PPWM, Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Program Supervisor,

Steven Bell: MDA, PPWM, Nursery Inspector/Ginseng Program for Western and Central Maryland

David Grow: MDA, PPWM, Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:35AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to David Grow the new MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor.

Membership

Dan Smalls from Washington College is stepping down as the NGO representative but would like to propose that his colleague Kathy Thorton the former land steward at Adkins Arboretum fill the position.

Kim brought up Brent's and Leslie's tenures are coming to an end, but extension of their positions would be helpful until the work on the assessment tool was completed, and/or new people are found for those positions.

The committee put forward several names for positions including plant industry and UMD extension staff with knowledge of invasives and native plants. Kim and other members promised to check in with possible candidates.

One important characteristic of candidates proposed for these positions was the ability to work collectively and by consensus within the framework of the law. The committee reasserted its commitment to work by consensus.

Minutes

The minutes for the September meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

The current regulations for the existing law are still with the Attorney General's office. The regulations should move to the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) and then once they are approved, they move to a 30-day review period for comment. Since we are in legislative session this may take some time.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

Maile Neel and David Grow presented suggestions for improving the new weed assessment tool as David Grow begins building the Excel model for analysis. The committee agreed with suggestions to increase transparency and diminish subjectivity within the new tool, understanding that the results for plants should be replicable and trackable across time within a regulatory framework. Other suggestions to include a measure of uncertainty into the model and effects on human health were also considered. The committee also would keep the USDA WRA as the analysis tool for plants not in Maryland since the new tool is impossible to use for these.

Issues with the new analysis tool will be addressed in the next several meetings.

Some discussion followed the presentations. USDA is developing a weed assessment, what are possibilities for streamlining the Tier 2 plants and considering whether Delaware had built a model that they would share.

Some goals for the February 18th meeting were: 1. DNR would provide a contact for regulating aquatic invasive plants and gain access for David to Maryland GIS data necessary for completing reviews.

- 2. UMD: Gaining UMD access for David Grow for literature searches as an affiliate
- 3. MDA: David would work on some Tier 2 examples and more development of the Excel tool for the next meeting.

Next meeting in-person at Annapolis MDA February 18th 2025.

Meeting adjourned 11:10.

IPAC Minutes February 18, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nurseries, Owner, MNLGA

Brent Cassell: Leyland Landscaping, Owner

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service,

Daniel Root DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Lisa Kuder UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

David Grow: MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to Lisa Kuder who will replace Leslie Cario.

Membership

Cathy Thorton from Washington College will be filling Dan Smalls NGO position on the committee but was not able to attend today. Larry will stay on the committee for the next year.

Minutes

The minutes for the February meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Kim went over the new regulations in detail with the committee. Kim went over the process that the regulations will move through before they reach the Governor's office.

Sarah provided the names of two contacts in DNR for regulated aquatic plants. Mike Naylor the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager and Sarah Widman from the Legislative and Regulatory Review Division who will be part of DNR's regulatory response to point-of-sale aquatic plant regulations.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through Question 5 and will continue to refine the tool.

Next meeting in-person at Annapolis MDA March 18th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

IPAC Minutes March 18, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Daniel Root DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of Environmental Design,

Lisa Kuder UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

David Grow: MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to Harmony Miller.

Membership

Harmony Miller is the new MDOT representative and attended her first meeting. Cathy Thorton from Washington College will be filling Dan Smalls NGO position on the committee but was not able to attend today. Brent Cassel will be replaced by Joel Hafner president of Fine Earth Landscaping to fill an industry position but was not able to attend. The consumer position will now be filled by Kristin Hoffman who was not able to attend.

Minutes

The minutes for the February meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Regulations are going to the Maryland Register for thirty days for comments.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through Question 13 and will continue to refine the tool. Maile Neel (UMD) designed and presented an automated search and mapping component of the new tool which pulls plant distribution records from GBIF and INAT and any other publicly available database for plant records. DNR and MDOT will both investigate how to make some state data available for the new tool.

Next meeting virtual via Google Meets April 15th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.

IPAC Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025 Virtual Meeting via Google Meets

Attendees:

David Grow, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Kim Rice, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maile Neel, University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Sarah Hilderbrand, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Daniel Root, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Harmony Miller, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jeffrey Thompson, Maryland Department of Environment
Joel Hafner, Fine Earth Landscape Inc.
Kathy Thornton, Washington College
Lisa Kuder, University of Maryland Extension
Jennifer Vaccaro, ShoreRivers, Inc.
Kirsten Hoffman

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32am

Introductions and Membership

Introductions were made by all attendees. There were 2 new members joining the committee, covering the consumer position and the regulated landscaping industry positions. There was discussion about a production nursery position being added to the committee. The committee agreed and Kim will reach out to the grower that is interested.

Minutes

The minutes for the March meeting were accepted into record.

Regulations

The regulations are through the AELR committee. They should be published in MD Register in May. Kim will contact the committee when they are published.

There was a request to add Squill (Scilla siberica) to the plant list to be considered for a status assessment. The committee agreed that this plant could be added.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow led the committee through the NatureServ assessment protocol. The committee reviewed questions 14, 15, 16, 17.

Next meeting is virtual via Google Meets on May 20th, 2025, at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

IPAC Minutes May 20th, 2025 via Google Meets 9:30 AM

Participants:

Kristin Hoffman: Consumer representative

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of Environmental Design,

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office Regional Chief

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:30 AM.

Minutes

The minutes for the April meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Regulations are open for comments until June 16th on the legislative webpage. Some concern about the current regulations was brought up. Formal comments should be made on the webpage. A request for access to the past law's original dates for plant regulation was made.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through the remaining questions of the tool and will continue to refine the model's analysis protocol. Next steps for future meetings include working drafts of Berberis thunbergii and/or other plants to fine tune the model and it's ability to document a plant's invasiveness based on repeatable evidence from published research.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 9:30 AM on Thursday June 24th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

IPAC Minutes June 24th, 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 9:30AM

Participants:

Kristin Hoffman: Consumer representative

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and

Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Watershed

and Climate Services

Daniel Root: DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of

Environmental Design,

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office

Regional Chief

Kathy Thornton: Washington College Center for Environment and Society

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM),

Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:30 AM.

Minutes

May minutes were accidentally not discussed at the meeting. Votes should be held to confirm the May and June minutes in September.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) presented a draft of a Weed Status Assessment following the current protocol for *Berberis thunbergii* to IPAC for the committee to discuss and suggest changes. Future Weed Status Assessments for previously categorized Tier 2 plants are planned through December as the law requires. David proposed a timeline and a request for IPAC members to act as editors for these WRA's. Given the proposed timeline, four or five of the WSA's should be ready for IPAC review at the September meeting.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 9:30 AM on Thursday, September 16th 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31AM.

IPAC Minutes September 16th, 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 9:30AM

Participants:

Kirsten Hoffman: Maryland Native Plant Society, Treasurer.

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and

Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Naive Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake &

Coastal Service

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office

Regional Chief

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM),

Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:35 AM.

Introductions

Members shared positive outdoor memories from summer travels and experiences during a round of intros.

Minutes

May 20th and June 24th minutes were accepted into the record.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) presented the current protocol for Invasive Plant Species Status Assessments to IPAC for the committee to discuss and suggest changes. Comments made from editors of working drafts were also discussed.

Several WSA drafts have been sent to members for comments. A comment was made about including a map of states and their invasive plant laws in all of Maryland's Weed Status Assessments. Members discussed the National Plant Board (NPB) site for information on current state regulations outside of Maryland. The discussion touched on where do Maryland growers ship plants and would they need this information. The NPB site gives this information and MDA suggests this to growers. A suggestion was made to have IPAC's site link to the NPB site. Growers in attendance shared that most shipping occurs to the North, NE and upper Midwest. There was some discussion about how growers use regs when shipping containers and planning for changes, which are easier for container grown stock than in ground stock. Some discussion occurred on the usefulness of this map when the NPB site is a known for growers. Two members felt strongly about including an up-to-

date map of other state's invasive plant laws for all future Weed Status Assessments. Some discussion occurred on what states should be included in this map and Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York and Virginia were identified as priority nearby states. Two members volunteered to maintain and update a map of invasive laws from these states. This map would not be part of the assessment tool but would appear in the assessment's narrative.

The committee moved onto discussing an assessment question that was deemed redundant, and Q13 was removed from the analysis tool.

EDDMaps was added to the geographic analysis component of the tool.

The wording was clarified and changed for Q3B, Q3C, Q9C and Q9d.

A discussion occurred of plants assessed by species as prohibited which will include all cultivars and subsequently how the process for exemptions will work. Nandina was used as an example. The original application for exemption may be at least partially useful for developing this with the new assessment tool.

Changes were made to the organization of analysis and questions so those would be presented together. Also a change was requested in the colors of the icons on the distribution map for ease of reading. That and other changes should be completed by December.

Discussed that the expert assessor's application form is being worked on and those candidates will be assigned plants by the committee.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 10 AM-12 on Thursday, October 7th, 2025, in Room 114.

Dates for November 18th and December 9th were also planned at Annapolis for IPAC meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.