

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.