

Indiana Invasive Species Council – Q4 Meeting

Date: Wednesday 6 November 2024; 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Eastern Time
Location: The Nature Conservancy, 620 E Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

1. Call to Order (K. Werling)

2. Roll Call (K. Werling)

Council Members Present

- Kelli Werling (IISC Chair), Director of Swine Health Programs, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health, kwerling@boah.in.gov
- Alicia Kelley, IN CAPS State Survey Coordinator, representing Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University (Secretariat), ajkelley@purdue.edu
- Megan Abraham, Director, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, representing Department of Natural Resources, MAbraham@dnr.in.gov
- Phyllis Boyd, Director, representing Indianapolis Parks & Recreation, phyllis.boyd@indy.gov
- Aubree Szczepanski, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, IN DNR, representing IN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, aszczepanski@dnr.in.gov
- Rick Haggard, Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, representing industry, haggard.rick@att.net
- Matt Kraushar, Roadside Maintenance Specialist, representing Indiana Department of Transportation, mkraushar@indot.in.gov
- Joe Schmees, IN Freshwater Strategy Manager, The Nature Conservancy, representing land trusts, joseph.schmees@tnc.org
- Mike Warner, President of ArborTerra Consulting, Inc., representing Indiana forest industry, mwarner@arborterra.com

Non-Council Members Present:

- Jen Larson, Invasive Plant Specialist, United States Forest Service
- Marissa Striefel, Entomologist, United States Forest Service
- Katie O'Reilly, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, keo@illinois.edu
- Eric Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, efischer@dnr.in.gov

3. Adoption of Agenda (K. Werling)

- Discussion:
 - Motion: M. Kraushar
 - Second: J. Schmees
 - Vote: Unanimous

4. Review and approval of minutes from prior meeting (K. Werling)

- Discussion: Minor amendments
 - Motion: J. Schmees
 - Second: A. Szczepanski
 - Vote: unanimous

5. Member Reports/Updates

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (M. Abraham)
 - Spotted lanternfly: showing up all over the state, usually associated with a railroad track nearby. We have a federal grant from the USDA to help manage it this year, but we don't have intention of hiring teams to focus on this pest. The funding will go towards

contractors to spray the populations. We have a scheduled meeting to determine where the funding will be used.

- Spongy moth: we will be doing a couple of post-treatments; one is Btk; other sites may require mating disruption. Number of treatment areas will depend on federal budgets. We have been keeping spongy moth in the quarantine area for a while which is positive.
- Kudzu treatments are ongoing. Our intention is to push back kudzu and keep it under control.
- One Golden twin-spot moth was detected in the Fort Wayne area. It is a tropical species that occasionally shows up, but winters kill them.
- *P. ramorum* continues to be an issue for west coast. Midwest believes it won't be able to survive winter, but there is still nursery stock moving in from those areas so we continue to survey for it.
- Apiary program is doing well.
- Action item – K. Werling will reach out to M. Abraham about Bee Vet.
- The Nature Conservancy/Land Trusts (J. Schmees)
 - TNC is working on strategic implementation plan. We are looking at how efforts from a global scale to a regional scale are working together. We are honing in on quantification of Indiana efforts. We are working with land stewards to rate TNC efforts and management. Another aspect is to work with partners to influence land management and improvement, so part of the strategy will include things like increasing fire capacity over time for prescribed burning and supporting SICIM and efforts on private lands. The goal is to have it done by the end of the calendar year.
- Purdue University College of Agriculture (A. Kelley)
 - College of Ag conducted a review of field Extension. Report discussed how Extension is funded and some challenges currently facing Extension, but did not discuss how the College will be addressing those issues at this time. The College will be reviewing campus Extension next.
 - Cliff Sadof's position update: the Entomology Department has submitted that position to the Dean's office three times, and it has been rejected three times. They have revised it and submitted it one more time. They are currently waiting on a decision.
 - Action item: M. Abraham will follow up on the issue surrounding Cliff Sadof's position and why it is not being filled. The Council will decide if writing a letter of support is appropriate after more information is presented.
 - Agriculture and Natural Resources Retreat is coming up in November. Bob Bruner and Alicia Kelley are presenting on invasive species to Extension Educators. The same presentation will be offered at the Green Expo.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division Fish and Wildlife (A. Szczepanski and E. Fischer)
 - Division of Fish and Wildlife hired a new invasive carp harvest coordinator. Interim rule was passed in August to run the program. We are issuing invasive carp removal permits; any catches of native fish have to be returned to the water. It streamlines the removal process and cooperation with other states and also allows data collection on fish removal.
 - Contract started with Tetra Tech; they are facilitating incentive program to get more commercial fisherman interested in invasive carp removal.
 - IDEM is revising the Lake Michigan Plan; IDNR is assisting with that process.
 - Attended the Clay Middle School Invasive Species science fair.
 - Hosted invasive species outreach booth at the state fair.

- Wholesaler in Indianapolis issued a stop sale for a shipment of moss balls; a large amount of material was destroyed. No Zebra mussels were detected.
- State Board of Animal Health (K. Werling)
 - As of September 24, 2024, the total confirmed detections of H5N1 influenza in domestic livestock includes 232 premises in fourteen states (California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming). Several states have implemented state-based surveillance programs, which has contributed to the diagnosis of new cases. Fifty herds in fourteen states have enrolled in the USDA's voluntary bulk tank surveillance program. In Q3, BOAH received results for over 1,095 influenza tests in cattle and 400 Owner Shipper Statements for dairy cattle moving under the federal order.
 - The Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Proximity Dashboard has been added to the BOAH webpage which allows users the ability to check the approximate distance of a farmed cervid herd from a CWD positive diagnosis in Indiana. The dashboard can be found here: <https://www.in.gov/boah/cwd-proximitydashboard>.
 - Indiana is experiencing seasonal Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in both wild and farmed cervids. As of September 20, 2024, fifteen wild deer and seven farmed deer have been confirmed.
 - In 2024, ten bats have tested positive for rabies in the following counties: Putnam, Noble, Monroe, Porter, Steuben, Lawrence, Decatur, Wayne, and Elkhart.
 - The first confirmation of West Nile Virus (WNV) in an Indiana horse occurred on August 20, 2024. Since August, ten horses have tested positive for WNV in the following counties: Allen, Elkhart, LaGrange, Marshall, and Spencer. Annual vaccination is very effective at protecting equids against this disease. Nine of the ten horses were unvaccinated at the time of diagnosis. Three of those nine were euthanized, one died, and the status of the remaining five horses is unknown. The outlier vaccinated horse is suspected to be immunocompromised and current status is unknown.
 - BOAH conducted five foreign animal disease investigations this quarter. These investigations ruled out vesicular diseases in two show pigs and one bull and the additional investigations ruling out rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus-2 in a pet rabbit and in a mortality event at a farm store.
 - On July 13, 2024, rabbit deaths were first reported to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at the Master Gardener Association of Tippecanoe County. Tularemia was suspected, and pooled liver and spleen samples were determined to be PCR positive by the University of Georgia for *Francisella tularensis*, Type A (tularemia, rabbit fever) on July 22, 2024. Upon further investigation, there had been over 20 rabbit deaths dating as far back as April 2024.
- Indiana Department of Transportation (M. Kraushar)
 - INDOT continues treatments for invasive species. We are working with an outside entity for EPA grant funding to treat invasive species, such as *Phragmites* in the Chicagoland area.
 - Contractors are encouraged to target *Ailanthus* for treatment in right of ways.
- Nursery (R. Haggard)
 - Several nurseries and growers have contacted INLA about vascular streak dieback affecting redbud. Most are limiting their redbud stock to 4-5 cultivars. They are keeping them quarantined. Disease is not in our greenhouses; nursery stock coming into the state is what they are worried about.
 - IISC will have a booth at the Green Expo. There is also an Invasive Species Track.
 - Drought stress is affecting several growers.

- IDNR had funding to survey for vascular streak. Only time it was found was on redbud stock that had been shipped in from TN.
- Action item – M. Abraham work with R. Haggard to write an article on vascular streak.
- Parks and Recreation (P. Boyd)
 - Indy Parks Head of Land Stewardship retired
 - Indiana Parks and Rec Association looking for presentations.
 - M. Abraham recommended Nursery Inspectors and Bob Bruner to provide outreach and presentations.
- Forest Industry (M. Warner)
 - Forestry Equip practices have been fully funded as a result of additional dollars from the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Consulting foresters have reached capacity to complete the work.
 - M. Kraushar: IDNR Division of Forestry strategic plan is open for public comment.
- Indiana Plant Advisory Committee and SICIM (D. Slack)
 - IPAC
 - Continuing to work on new list of invasive plants. Not a lot of data on new plants.
 - On Dec 10th we will have an early detection rapid response (EDRR) gathering; all CISMAs and partners are invited. We will brainstorm on what EDRR means in Indiana.
 - Yellow teasel update: Initial population found at Butler University in a landscape waste heap, then moved into a park. Boone Cisma is working with Butler University to eradicate the species and find out what the initial introduction was.
 - Also watching Chinese elm; found in Harrison Co and Marion Co.
 - Fountain Grass: large infestations in Harrison Co and Gibson Co. More pastures have been identified that are overrun.
 - In NE Indiana: *Lespedeza* observed on a new property with Blue Heron Consulting
 - Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) has moved their conference to the Ohio River Valley in March 19-20 in Burlington KY. Many excellent speakers are lined up.
 - III (Indiana Invasive Initiative)
 - 45 CISMAs representing 52 counties.
 - New CISMAs started in the northeast and east portions of the state.
 - III team has conducted 1400 outreach events, and CISMAs are doing numerous outreach events.
 - 20 CISMAs did Weed Wrangles
 - Action item: D. Slack to put together statewide Weed Wrangle interim report.
 - Continue to do landowner surveys; over 43,000 acres walked and written management plans.
 - SICIM new executive director started last week.

6. Old Business

- Outstanding Action Items from prior meeting(s)
 - H. Reynolds will follow up with options for speakers.
 - Meeting with David Boseman to discuss Terrestrial Plant Rule
 - D. Slack: INPS sought signatures of support for the amendment to TPR. Ellen Jacquart and others were able to meet with the Lt. Gov in person about the need for invasive species management. It was a positive meeting.
 - K. Werling and M. Abraham will evaluate agency links that are on the IISC website.
 - Council members provide the following: list of mapping tools used, outreach events attended annually, agency policies reviewed (relating to invasives management)
- Indiana Invasive Species Conference Planning Committee

- Working on sponsors and speakers. Finalized sponsorship bands so they are ready to send out.
- Katie O'Reilly, Lenny Farlee, and other Purdue FNR speakers are confirmed so far.
- Field trip options are also under discussion.
- Media Committee Update (A. Kelley)
 - Action item - Change CISMA page to link to SICIM page

7. New Business

- IISC Strategic Plan
 - Council sent information related to types of outreach events, education events, and invasive species management plans Council members provide input on.
 - Council provided more feedback on Strategic Plan organization and the level of detail that should be included.
 - Megan Abraham has more information to add from IDNR.
- Next Meeting dates:
 - Q1: February 26, 10 AM
 - Location: Nature Conservancy
 - Q2: May 7, 10 AM
 - Location: Nature Conservancy
 - Q3: August 6, 10 AM
 - Proposed location: Forestry Center
 - Action item: A. Kelley to inquire about booking the facility
 - Q4: November 5, 10 AM
 - Location: TBD

8. Review of assigned action items.

- K. Werling and M. Abraham will evaluate agency links that are on the IISC website.
- H. Reynolds will follow up with options for speakers.
- Change CISMA page to link to SICIM page
- A. Kelley to inquire about booking the facility
- K. Werling will reach out to M. Abraham about Bee Vet.
- M. Abraham will follow up on the issue surrounding Cliff Sadof's position and why it is not being filled. The Council will decide if writing a letter of support is appropriate after more information is presented.
- D. Slack to put together statewide Weed Wrangle interim report.
- M. Abraham work with R. Haggard to write an article on vascular streak.

9. Adjournment

- Motion: M. Abraham
- Second: M. Kraushar
- Vote: unanimous