

## Indiana Invasive Species Council – Q1 Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 14 February 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
    - Megan Abraham, Director, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, representing Department of Natural Resources, [MAbraham@dnr.in.gov](mailto:MAbraham@dnr.in.gov)
    - Phyllis Boyd, Director, representing Indianapolis Parks & Recreation, [phyllis.boyd@indy.gov](mailto:phyllis.boyd@indy.gov)
    - Eric Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, [efischer@dnr.in.gov](mailto:efischer@dnr.in.gov)
    - Rick Haggard, Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, representing industry, [haggard.rick@att.net](mailto:haggard.rick@att.net)
    - Alicia Kelley, IN CAPS State Survey Coordinator, representing Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University (Secretariat), [ajkelley@purdue.edu](mailto:ajkelley@purdue.edu)
    - Matt Kraushar, Roadside Maintenance Specialist, representing Indiana Department of Transportation, [mkraushar@indot.in.gov](mailto:mkraushar@indot.in.gov)
    - Heather Reynolds, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Biology, Indiana University, representing research, [hreynol@indiana.edu](mailto:hreynol@indiana.edu)
    - Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist, representing Indiana State Department of Agriculture, [kasanders1@isda.in.gov](mailto:kasanders1@isda.in.gov)
    - Joe Schmees, IN Freshwater Strategy Manager, The Nature Conservancy, representing land trusts, [joseph.schmees@tnc.org](mailto:joseph.schmees@tnc.org)
    - Kelli Werling (IISC Chair), Director of Swine Health Programs, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health, [kwerling@boah.in.gov](mailto:kwerling@boah.in.gov)
  - Non-Council Members Present
    - Dawn Slack, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), Project Coordinator / (Chair) IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, [dawn@sicim.info](mailto:dawn@sicim.info)
    - Ellen Jacquart, President of the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS), Chair of the Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) initiative
    - Robert (Bob) Bruner, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, [rbruner@purdue.edu](mailto:rbruner@purdue.edu)
    - Katie O'Reilly, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, [keo@illinois.edu](mailto:keo@illinois.edu)
    - Katie Grong, Institute for Digital Forestry, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University
    - Jen Larson, Invasive Plant Specialist, United States Forest Service,
    - Songlin Fei, Professor and Dean's Chair of Remote Sensing, Director of Institute for Digital Forestry, Purdue University, [sfei@purdue.edu](mailto:sfei@purdue.edu)
- 3) Adoption of Agenda (K. Werling)
  - Motion: M. Kraushar
  - Second: E. Fischer
  - Vote: Pass
- 4) Review and approval of minutes from prior meeting (K. Werling)

- Motion: E. Fischer
- Second: P. Boyd
- Vote: Pass

#### 5) Member Reports/Updates

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (M. Abraham)
  - We are working with USDA and CBP and NPB to figure out a way to put an industry standard on direct-to-customer online sales.
  - In the middle of planning stages for many programs. We're working on where we are going to treat Spotted lanternfly (SLF), kudzu, and spongy moth. We have federal funds for spongy moth and SLF. We're using preventative treatment funds for kudzu.
  - We are doing team inspections for egg masses with dogs in Huntington. 11,000 egg masses found in Huntington alone.
  - We're working on contract for SLF treatment in Huntington and Switzerland.
  - More action taken will be taken on railroads on northern part of the state where SLF was found last year.
  - PPA 7721 Funding – Bark Beetle Survey, Specialty Crop, and Forest Pest Outreach. Have not heard back yet on SLF proposal.
  - Box tree moth – Extensive trapping done by USDA and National Plant Board. We're not going to stop it; we are going to have to teach people how to treat it.
  - We had a meeting about Terrestrial Plant Rule. They're getting through a backlog after House Bill 1623. Executive office suggested putting together a packet for entomology and introducing all of them together which includes TPR.
  - Discussion
    - J. Larson: Do you have any websites with information on TPR
    - M. Abraham: Yes, one on IISC website, and DNR website has one as well.
      - Terrestrial Plant Rule: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species/terrestrial-invasive-species-plants/>
    - E. Jacquart: Is there anything about the amendment online?
    - M. Abraham: No.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (P. Marshall)
  - We are surveying for beech leaf disease, laurel wilt
  - We are treating five locations for spongy moth.
  - Spotted lanternfly – we're working with walnut growers, but it's not expected to be a major issue.
  - Still don't have thousand cankers disease in Indiana, but we are still surveying.
- The Nature Conservancy/Land Trusts (J. Schmees)
  - Started some prescribed burns.
- Purdue University College of Agriculture (A. Kelley)
  - Lenny Farlee's course – Forest Management for the Private Woodland Owner.
    - Action item: A. Kelley to send course information to IISC.
  - Dean of the College of Agriculture visiting during Q2 Meeting (May 8th)
  - Songlin Fei recommended asking the Dean how to coordinate faculty who work on invasive species using administrative support and link them to the state agencies.

- Songlin Fei asked for input on linking the Alien Forest Pest Explorer (AFPE) to state agencies, such as imbedding it into the IISC website. They are also looking for advice on how the tool is utilized and ways to improve the tool.
- M. Kraushar: What is the funding duration?
- S. Fei: Five years
- K. Grong: If you know of any data streams that would be useful to contribute, we are always open to that.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division Fish and Wildlife (E. Fischer)
  - E. Fischer has assumed role of Aquatic Invasive Species Supervisor. We are working on hiring two positions to fill out the team.
  - We are working on an expansion of invasive carp program by adding invasive carp removal harvest permit. Rule adoption has been slow. Going for an interim rule that will hopefully be passed soon which will keep business going until full rule package can be submitted to the Natural Resources Commission. It's generally an Indiana marshal fisherman that are going after invasive carps. The new rule will allow more effective gear and allow them to fish in areas where a commercial fisherman can't normally fish. It will also limit them to catching invasive carp and no other commercial fish. This is all a part of our long-term goal to remove as many invasive carp as possible.
  - M. Kraushar: Was the program successful last year?
  - E. Fischer: It takes commercial fisherman time to learn what it takes to harvest the most carp. We're having a hard time getting fisherman to take up the fishing because there's nowhere to sell them in Indiana, which limits profits. If we can get a fish processor in Evansville it would be a great benefit to getting fisherman in those areas.
  - Other reports of invasives are down because it's winter; no new reports since last meeting
  - Travel show outreach is coming up.
- State Board of Animal Health (K. Werling)
  - Last quarter:
    - Aquaculture: Dr. Strasser participated in the annual fish health review with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Purdue University (ADDL) this quarter. No aquatic foreign animal diseases were diagnosed on Indiana farms this past year; however, bluegill picornavirus may be an emerging threat to bluegill in the state.
    - Companion Animal: Since September, BOAH has been receiving calls from veterinarians from Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Evansville, and Bloomington about dogs who appear to have clinical signs consistent with "Kennel Cough" or Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD). These cases don't seem to be responding to treatment and/or are more aggressive clinically than traditional cases. Because CIRD is not a reportable illness in Indiana, BOAH can't accurately enumerate the number of affected animals other than voluntarily reported cases. This illness doesn't seem to be isolated to Indiana, as veterinarians throughout the country are now reporting similar cases. The underlying cause of the illness has not been identified as most tests for common respiratory illnesses have been negative.
    - Equine: This year ended with a total of four reported positive equine cases of West Nile virus. There was a single case in each of four Indiana counties: Vanderburgh, Daviess, Adams, and Kosciusko. No cases of eastern equine encephalitis were reported this year.
    - Foreign Animal Disease Investigations: In addition to responding to sick bird calls and ruling out avian influenza, BOAH conducted three foreign animal disease investigations

this quarter. These cases ruled out vesicular stomatitis in horses and foreign vesicular disease in a show heifer. Additionally, BOAH helped facilitate an ASF/CSF rule out investigation on a swine premises in Michigan.

- One Health: Upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s and Indiana Department of Health (IDOH)'s request, IN BOAH assisted with a multistate E. coli O157 outbreak investigation this quarter. The respective investigation required extensive and forward-thinking epidemiological work, due to the extenuating circumstances of the premises and involved multispecies and environmental sampling at a petting zoo/water park.
- From October 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, both blood and nasal swabs were collected from Indiana Wild white-tailed deer as part of an active surveillance effort to detect SARS-CoV-2. Of the 315 serology samples analyzed, 65 were presumptive positive, giving an approximately 20% antibody response rate. Of the 215 nasal swabs analyzed, zero deer were presumptive positive by real-time PCR. These same data are available for much of the continental U.S.
- Since January 1, 2024:
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: A new case of HPAI in Indiana was diagnosed in a Daviess County commercial turkey flock (flock size: 13, 071) on January 23, 2024. Control area was released on February 14, 2024, at 12:01 am.
  - Indiana's last case of HPAI was May 5, 2023 in a non-commercial flock in Posey County. Since February 2022, Indiana has had 11 commercial poultry flocks (ducks and turkeys) and six small/hobby flocks (mixed species) test positive for HPAI in seven counties. (One additional commercial turkey flock was depopulated as a "dangerous contact" to diagnosed flock.) All commercial sites have been cleared to restock at the owner's discretion.
  - The influenza virus has continued to be active throughout parts of the United States. HPAI has been identified on more than 1000 premises in 47 states since February 2022. Wild birds infected with HPAI have been found from coast to coast in various species, including waterfowl (ducks, swans, geese, gulls, etc.), raptors (hawks and eagles), as well as other common species (American robin, common raven, wild turkey). The current, ongoing HPAI event is the United States' largest animal health emergency in history.
  - Equine: Diagnosis of EHV-1 in an equine facility/horse dealer in Lagrange County. The facility is quarantined. We think the incident is contained at this point. Three horses have died/been euthanized. Horses in the barn are being temped twice daily.
  - Cervids/CWD: Kentucky has a case of CWD in the wild. Indiana can still ship deer to Kentucky, but Indiana cannot receive any imports from Kentucky. British Columbia was also added to the list of CWD-affected areas.
  - Companion Animal: Diagnosed skunk variant rabies in 2024. This is the first time rabies has been diagnosed in a terrestrial mammal (last case was in 2004) in twenty years. There have been 2 cases in 2024 so far. In discussions with IDNR and IDOH about surveillance. Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties will be the counties with increased surveillance (goal is to test hundreds of animals through roadkill, submitted animals, etc.). The potential biggest risk for human exposure is going to be feral/barn cats (unvaccinated and increase likelihood of exposure). Take home message: vaccinate dogs and cats!
  - Bovine Cysticercosis: Case of cysticercosis in a meat product was traced back to Indiana. This is a parasitic tissue infection caused by larval cysts of the tapeworm, *Taenia*

*saginata*. Cysts can invade brain, muscle or other tissues and cause seizures. Cattle become infected with them if they ingest eggs shed in human feces.

- Indiana Department of Transportation (M. Kraushar)
  - M. Kraushar had discussions with multimodal group to attempt to understand on how to get communications to the railroad group about Spotted Lanternfly. No news yet, but there was some action.
  - J. Schmees has a potential contact from previous position who worked with railroad companies and might be able to connect with them.
  - M. Abraham: What would be useful is to have an avenue to provide education and awareness to the people who work there, such as fliers about Spotted lanternfly.
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (K. Sanders)
  - The Director of our division has moved on to Division of Fish and Wildlife. New director is Jennifer Thumb.
  - Previous Director shared information about SLF info to vineyard growers.
- Research (H. Reynolds)
  - H. Reynolds attended meeting organized by Bloomington parks about Project Wingspan, which is a grassroots conservation program run by Pollinator Partnership, and recommended them as a connection for the CISMAs.
  - Project Wingspan is a large-scale grassroots conservation program engaged in ecotype seed collection, to support both large- and small-scale habitat enhancement to increase the quality, quantity and connectivity of imperiled pollinator habitat areas
  - Partners with many governmental and NGOs.
  - Seeks to target common, native species that are either monarch larval hosts (milkweed) or high-quality pollen/nectar resources for the rusty patched bumble bee, monarch, and other imperiled species. Locus in IN and IL but expanding outward from there
  - How it works: (1) seed collection by volunteers (who complete an online, multistep training module under supervision of team coordinator), (2) cleaning and grow out (now partnering with Prairie Moon Nursery and another MN entity), (3) Seed and Plant Awards (survey the landscape, provide habitat guidance, id high-quality projects, secure letters of commitment, award materials - there's an online application process)
  - Note: Common native seeds will be collected in specified regions in participating states.
  - Seed collection zones within each state are identified, and seeds collected from that zone are redistributed to that zone for habitat enhancement projects.
  - <https://www.pollinator.org/wingspan/>
  - Andy Grinstead (andy@pollinator.org) is Director of Project Wingspan and also a habitat specialist for Pollinator Partnership (a national non-profit, based out of CA, www.pollinator.org)
- Nursery (R. Haggard)
  - Indiana Green Expo had a record number of exhibitors, including SICIM and IISC. Next year we are planning to have a full day of invasive species track. Next year the expos is on Feb 10-12.
  - Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) – We rewrote IAH manual and removed information on plants that are no longer allowed to be planted. By the end of 2024 or early 2025 we will start testing on new manual.
  - Members were informed to keep an eye out for SLF and report it.
  - Action item: R. Haggard will send list of due dates to M. Abraham for INLA articles.
- Parks and Recreation (P. Boyd)

- Locally we've got our crews working in 37 Indy parks. Over 2200 acres are under invasive species management.
- We're collaborating with EcoLogic with tracking various invasive plants. Indianapolis is part of 17-city nationwide group that share information.
- Parks statewide – We're conducting a survey to gather information using Indiana Parks and Rec Association network.
- Once we get survey results compiled it will help inform what resources are needed.
- Action item: Council to get comments to P. Boyd by 2/16 on survey.
- Indiana Plant Advisory Committee and SICIM (D. Slack)
  - IPAC
    - In the process of evaluating new plant species.
    - Eddmaps
    - Number of Indiana Records: 186,461
    - IN is 14th in record contribution
    - Invasive species conference - June 13th 2024
  - III (Indiana Invasive Initiative)
    - There are 41 CISMAs, representing 51 counties.
    - Completed over 1200 outreach events.
    - >400 wrangles in 2023, over 700 total in 5 years.
    - >2,500 reported volunteers / >4,800 hours = ~\$250,000 value
    - 39 CISMAs hosted Weed Wrangles® in Indiana! City of Bloomington hosted over 200.
    - 2024 CISMA Funding: Weed Wrangle Reimbursement
      - In 2023, SICIM rolled out their first CISMA reimbursement program to Indiana CISMAs.
      - Twenty-four CISMAs took advantage of this reimbursement project in 2023, therefore SICIM rolled out \$48,000.00 to Indiana CISMAs.
      - SICIM will make two more reimbursement programs available in 2024 for CISMAs.
      - Overall, SICIM has paid CISMAs over \$70,000 via small grants and reimbursement programs.
    - CISMA Strike Teams
      - >2900 hours of invasive management
      - Value: ~\$90,000
    - 2024 Indiana Invasive Species Conference
      - Brown County State Park: Abe Martin Lodge
      - June 13th 2024
    - Discussion
    - M. Kraushar was at a meeting last week with state park land managers and someone mentioned lime grass detected in state parks.

#### 6) Old Business

- Outstanding Action Items from prior meeting(s)
  - H. Reynolds will inspect MIPN recommendations on boxwood alternatives.
    - Midwest-appropriate native alternatives to boxwood: Evergreens: Inkberry Holly (*Ilex glabra*), Eastern arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), American yew (*Taxus canadensis*), various native junipers, Deciduous woody plants: Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and other native blueberries, black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*).

- Action item: H. Reynolds/K. Werling to communicate with E. Jacquart to suggest INPS to remove boxwood from friendly non-natives.
- Media Committee Update (A. Kelley)
  - Some articles planned for Invasive Species Awareness Week.
  - Everyone is encouraged to share each other's posts to increase audience.
  - Action item: A. Kelley to compile hashtags and social media handles to share with the Council.

## 7) New Business

- Indiana Invasive Species Conference
  - D. Slack: IISC used to host conference. When SICIM/III came about, they took over conference to get CISMAs up and running. It is a lot of work for SICIM and we would like the Council to take the leadership of the conference.
  - 2025 would be first year for IISC to plan conference.
  - M. Kraushar motions to reinvigorate committee associated with biennial conference and allow committee to make recommendations to IISC on planning the Invasive Species Conference.
    - Second: J. Schmees
    - Vote: Pass
  - Volunteers for committee:
    - Alicia Kelley – co-chair
    - Bob Bruner – co-chair
    - Matt Kraushar
    - Will Drews (recommended by Megan Abraham)
    - Joe Schmees
    - Katie Grong
  - Action item: A. Kelley to send out initiatory email to committee.
- IISC Strategic Plan
  - K. Werling: The most recent strategic plan is from 2017.
  - M. Kraushar: After reading through the document that was circulated, I thought we could request edits and comments rather than spending meeting time to parse through it. We do have duties and primary goals that are numbered (1-10) in 15.16.10-4, so the strategic plan is a matter of describing how we want to fulfill those goals. This is what was done previously, but it was specifically for that year. Should this be a year-by-year tactical plan, or if it should be more of a long-term strategy for the duration of the code?
  - K. Sanders: In the districts we do these business plans every 3-5 years. We could consider having a short-term plan that is updated annually, and longer term goals included in it.
  - J. Schmees: We could also set it up as a five-year plan with a yearly check-in.
  - K. Werling: I'm happy to move forward with a 3-5 year plan with check-ins or a review at one of our meetings. We should have a better way of capturing those check-ins than solely through the meeting minutes, perhaps through a progress report or documentation where it is easy to look up that information. For example, there are items in the 2017 plan that I could not confirm if they were completed because progress has only been captured in meeting minutes.
  - M. Kraushar: We've been capturing action items, so we do have specific records in that format.

- J. Schmees: We could add a section to the table in the Strategic Plan for progress where we insert those comments directly. That would also help us with reporting.
- K. Werling: Maybe we can tie it into the biennial report.
- J. Schmees: We can upload the most recent version online, and then allow people to make comments in the file on what was done or not.
- Action item: K. Werling to reach out to H. Reynolds to ask if there is a more recent version of strategic plan, and upload strategic plan online for everyone to edit.
- M. Abraham: Are we trying to remember what we've already done, or focusing on what needs to be done moving forward?
- K. Werling: We need to know what was accomplished and what should be carried forward, but primarily focus on the new strategic plan.
- Council members further discuss the idea of compiling comments directly into the previous strategic plan document to clarify which tasks were completed and how. These comments could be used to create an addendum to the biennial report, or serve as a record in case the Council is asked to provide documentation of accomplishments. The Forest Pest Dashboard was specifically mentioned as an addition to the strategic plan.
- Council also discusses which outreach activities qualify for the goal outlined in Sec. 4-4. Additions include: Booths at conferences, participation in the Clay Middle School Invasive Species student projects, and hosting an event calendar on the website. There is potential for the event calendar on the website to post more events as a part of outreach efforts.

8) Next Meeting date:

- Proposed: 8 May 2024; 10:30 am
- Location: The Nature Conservancy, 620 E Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN, 46202
- Special Guest: Dean of College of Agriculture, Bernie Engel
- Action item: A. Kelley to email K. Werling about presentation to the Dean.
- Council discussed the possibility of inviting other agency Directors for future meetings.

9) Review of assigned action items.

- A. Kelley to send Lenny Farlee's course information to IISC for distribution.
- R. Haggard will send list of due dates to M. Abraham for INLA articles.
- Council to get comments to P. Boyd for the park survey by 2/16.
- H. Reynolds/K. Werling to communicate with E. Jacquart to suggest INPS to remove boxwood from friendly non-natives.
- A. Kelley to initiate Indiana Invasive Species Conference planning committee.
- K. Werling to reach out to H. Reynolds to ask if there is a more recent version of strategic plan, and upload strategic plan online for everyone to edit.
- A. Kelley to work with K. Werling on a presentation to the Dean.
- K. Werling will review IISC Box Account and organize files.
- A. Kelley to send an email to the Council with all the Invasive Species Awareness Week hashtags and handles.

10) Adjournment

- Motion: J. Schmees
- Second: P. Boyd
- Vote: Pass