

**IISC Virtual Meeting Minutes-
10 AM EST, Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

1. Welcome, roll call and introductions: – IISC chairperson Michael Warner

Council members present:

Michael Warner, (IISC chair) President of ArborTerra Consulting, Inc., representing industry, mwarner@arboterra.com

Megan Abraham, Director, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, representing Department of Natural Resources, MAbraham@dnr.in.gov

Eric Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, efischer@dnr.in.gov

Rick Haggard, Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, representing industry, haggard.rick@att.net

Matthew Kraushar, Roadside Maintenance Specialist, representing Indiana Department of Transportation, mkraushar@indot.in.gov

Phyllis Boyd, Director, representing Indianapolis Parks & Recreation, phyllis.boyd@indy.gov

Heather Reynolds, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Biology, Indiana University representing research, hreynol@indiana.edu

Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist, representing Indiana State Department of Agriculture, kasanders1@isda.in.gov

Joe Schmees, Executive Director, representing Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, representing land trusts, joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org

Kelli Werling, Director of Swine Health Programs, representing Indiana State Board of Animal Health, jstrasser@boah.in.gov

Steve Yaninek, Professor of Entomology, representing Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University, yaninek@purdue.edu

Other attendees:

Elizabeth Barnes, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Purdue University, barne175@purdue.edu

Brenda Howard, Senior Ecologist with Indy Land Stewardship, and IPAC Brenda.howard@indy.gov

Andrea Huntington, Executive Director, Indiana Land Protection Alliance. executivedirector@protectindianaland.org

Ellen Jacquart, IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, ellenjacquart@gmail.com

Trevor Laureys, Director, Indiana State Dept of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation, tlaurys@isda.in.gov

Philip Marshall, Forest Health Specialist, Indiana Dept of Nat Resources, Division of Forestry, PMarshall@dnr.IN.gov

Susan MiHalo, Conservation Coordinator, The Indiana Nature Conservancy, email not available.

Stephanie Schuck, Executive Director, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), stephanie@sicim.info

Dawn Slack, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), Project Coordinator
(Chair) IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, dawn@sicim.info

Larry Bledsoe, Indiana Cooperative Ag Pest Survey, State Survey Coordinator, Dept of Entomology, Purdue University lbledsoe@purdue.edu

2. Adoption of agenda (M. Warner): (1) The Chair requested the addition of a discussion of the National /Indiana Invasive Species Awareness Week. (2) H. Reynolds requested a discussion of the Arbor Day Foundation practice of distributing invasive tree and shrub species. M. Kraushar motioned

to accept agenda with additions. Motion seconded by. R. Haggard. Motion carried.

3. Review and approval of minutes from the 9 November 2021 IISC meeting (M. Warner): After minor amendments H. Reynolds motioned for adoption of the prior meeting minutes with corrections. Motion seconded by M. Kraushar. Motion carried.

4. Report on status of filling IISC gubernatorial appointments vacancies/terms. (M. Warner):

- Chair introduced new appointments to the Council.
 - Phyllis Boyd – representing Indy Parks and Recreation, brief résumé presented.
 - Joe Schmees, representing Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, brief résumé presented.
- Council terms.
 1. Megan Abraham - representing Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology; term determined by agency.
 2. Phyllis Boyd – representing parks and recreation; term ends 1/31/2025.
 3. Eric Fischer – representing Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife; term determined by agency.
 4. Rick Haggard – representing horticultural industry; term ends 1/31/2025.
 5. Matthew Kraushar - representing Indiana Department of Transportation, term determined by agency.
 6. Heather Reynolds – representing research; term ends 1/31/2025.
 7. Kate Sanders – representing the Indiana Department of Agriculture; term determined by agency.
 8. Joe Schmees, representing Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts; term ends 1/31/2025.
 9. Mike Warner – representing forest industry; term ends 1/31/2025.
[However, he will vacate IISC membership in about 6 months, but will remain as a participate in future meetings. E. Jacquart has been recommended to the Governor’s office staff as his replacement.] Comment (M. Kraushar) A plan of succession for the Chair needs to be initiated. Comment (S. Yaninek) **Action item. This issue needs to be an agenda item at the next IISC meeting.**
 10. Kelli Werling – representing the State Veterinarian; term determined by agency.
 11. Steve Yaninek – representing Purdue University College of Agriculture; term determined by agency.

5. Agency interaction and partnership opportunities: Trevor Laureys, Director, Indiana State Dept of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation (DSC).

- Division has about 30 employees, most of which are field staff.
- Staff expertise is highly varied which results in high flexibility in program interactions.
- Division interaction with invasive species issues is by necessity centered around water quality programs, however, field staff supports SICIM/CISMA-sponsored events by providing expertise. This interaction will continue.
- Clean Water Indiana program funding has supported SICIM since the initiation of the program.
- Question (M. Warner) (1) How does ISDA/DSC interact with the Indiana State Conservation Board, and (2) what programs are supported by the Clean Water Indiana program, specifically those involved with invasive species? Ans. The Department of Soil Conservation has appropriated funds for programs like AFR(?) which go to districts and then there are competitive funds which go to organizations like SICIM/CISMAs. The State Conservation Board administers these funds to the various programs and the DSC assists in this task. DSC has a team of district support specialists that

help organizations that are requesting grants. The Indiana Soil Board/DSC has just funded 2022 grants. See this url for a list of grants under Clean Water Indiana Program <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/clean-water-indiana/> and SICIM in particular that received \$60K < https://www.in.gov/isda/files/CWI-Summaries-2022_SICIM.pdf>. In the last 3 rounds of grants, the Clean Water Indiana Program has provided about \$180K to support invasive species efforts.

6. Update on the Terrestrial Plant Rule proposed additions (M. Abraham)

- Appreciation is extended by M. Abraham to everyone (especially to E. Jacquart) who contributed comments, notes, suggestions, and information regarding the proposed update to the TPR. **Action Item: Continue to send TPR amendment comments to M. Abraham - it is not too late to do so.**
- Question (M. Warner) What are the next steps, actions, and/or activities that the Council or IDNR should be considering?
 1. The next step will be submitting the complete package (request) to the IDNR legal team for review.
 2. The IDNR legal team will forward the documents to Indiana Office of Management and Budget with a request for exemption from the rule-proposal moratorium.
 3. Upon approval from OMB, the proposal can be forwarded to the Indiana Natural Resources Commission for preliminary adoption.
- Question (E. Jaquart) Are we at the level of legislative consideration that an office or official has been identified that would be receptive to IISC or public comments? Ans. It might be possible to develop some interaction with OMB staff, however, M. Warner has not received replies to his multiple requests for a meeting. However, the IDNR executive office does not seem to want to “get too many people in the mix just yet.” There has not been any push-back to the concepts of any of the proposed added species and phase-in limit. The best approach at the moment may be to not push the issue. Another issue is that the Natural Resource Commission, Division of Hearings has had a recent staff turnover and it is unknown how the new group will interpret the rules that will impact the TPR proposal. They will need time to review the proposal. **Action item. M. Abraham will let IISC know if any push-back to the proposal develops.**
- Comment (E. Jaquart) There is a concern that the process will advance to a decision (possibly negative) without any opportunity to defend and/or promote it.
- Question (B. Howard) What is the small business/nursery economic threshold that determines whether a rule amendment will/can be enacted? Ans. In the current political environment, it is easiest to get a rule approved if it has a less than a \$500K impact. The amount depends on perceived costs and benefits to the public. Several things must happen to amend the rule: (1) Decision makers must be made to understand the importance/significance of the amendment to be able to obtain an exemption from the rule moratorium. (2) IDNR must demonstrate that the impact on small business is relatively small. (3) IDNR must demonstrate that the immediate economic impact of the rule amendment to small business will be reduced by adding a 5-year phase-in for the species with the highest value namely Callery pear, Norway Maple, and burning bush.
- Question (B. Howard) Who determines the amount of inventory that is in jeopardy? Ans. IDNR inspectors conduct a mandatory inspection on the approximately 300 nurseries each year. The species of concern are/were enumerated during visits. Annual and biennial stock on the list of prohibited plants will represent the lowest impact when removed from trade. Most tree saplings will represent at least 5 years of investment and will have higher value.
- Question (B. Howard) What can be done to promote the idea of the 5-year phase-in of the higher value species? Ans. Previously, Natural Resources Commission, Division of Hearings had determined that the fiscal analysis had to be a “snap shot” of current economic conditions and a phase-in concept was not a part of their consideration of the rule. That situation has changed (is

changing) and the phase-in concept is now more accepted as a necessary inclusion to lessen the impact of the amendment. Also, demonstrating that there are fewer growers propagating the higher value, proposed prohibited species now than when the first analysis was conducted has made the task of selling the phase-in concept easier.

- Comment (B. Howard) The nursery industry should be encouraged to grow more native species. The demand for these species is growing.
- Question (Joe Schmees) Who is your Office of Management and Budget contact? Ans. The IDNR legal team is the link to OMB. The new person in Natural Resource Commission, Division of Hearings used to work with the IDNR legal team which means that this person has prior exposure and understanding of the TPR and the proposed amendment.
- Question (Joe Schmees to M. Warner). Who was the person you were trying to contact in government, and can you send me the contact information? Ans. **Action Item (M. Warner) Yes, the contact information will be sent to you.** Maybe we can reinforce the current connection or build a new one.
- Question (Dawn Slack). Will you, Megan, let IISC members and participants know when and how our assistance is needed? Ans. **Action item. Yes. There will be updates to the group prior to when a hearing comment period begins.**

7. Update on the Indiana Invasive initiative and SICIM (D. Slack/S. Schuck)

A. Introduction of the new State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) executive Director (Stephanie Schuck).

- Partial Résumé
 - Prior service was as Restoration Ecologist at Marian University emphasizing native habitat restoration and invasive species removal, and as environmental educator at various levels both academically and publicly.
 - Member of Indiana Parks Alliance Board
 - Past president of the Environmental Education Association of Indiana.
 - Steering committee of the Indiana Children and Nature Network.
 - Indiana Plant Advisory Committee.
 - CISMA conference committee
 - Tree Board for Marion County.

B. Rebranding SICIM.

- Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management has been renamed State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management. The new name reflects statewide activity.
- See <https://www.sicim.info/news/2021/12/1/sicim-gets-rebranded> for more information.

C. Renewed funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service (D. Slack)

- The 5-year funding agreement with (NRCS) will end soon and negotiations are underway to renew funding for another 5 years.
- Contact stephanie@sicim.info to obtain hard copy or pdf of the SICIM annual report.
- Links to the annual report and meeting (17 March 2022) will soon appear on the SICIM website.
- Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) activities/highlights in 2021 are summarized in the annual report.
- Contact stephanie@sicim.info or visit the SICIM website to receive the newsletter.
- See <https://www.sicim.info/news/2022/2/3/indiana-cisma-highlight-newton-county-nature-partnership> for information on the newest CISMA (Newton County).

- CISMA conference is 17 August 2022. Tentative speakers are Daniel Simberloff, Steve Manning, Elizabeth Barnes, Eric Fischer, and various representatives of the IDNR Division Entomology and Plant Pathology. It will be an in-person, one day event followed by a field day on 18 August. More information on these and more events is forthcoming.

D. Indiana Invasive Initiative (III) 2021 annual report (D. Slack)

- D. Slack is beginning full time employment with SICIM as III coordinator. New contact information is dawn@sicim.info.
- Current 5-year contract with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) ends 31 August 2022.
- Estimated 5-year funding for III is \$3.6 million. NRCS has pledged \$1.8 million. The Nature Conservancy has pledged \$50K for one year starting 1 September 2022. \$60K has been pledged from the Clear Water Indiana (CWI) program (Indiana Soil Conservation Board). The source(s) for the balance of the funding is yet to be determined.
- Additional responsibilities under the proposed contract, III will include assistance to NRCS with land management issues pertaining to Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding recipients.
- Question (M. Warner). Does the proposed 5-year grant to SICIM from NRCS require a 50 percent match? Ans. Yes.
- Question (M. Warner). What are some of the additional funding sources for the current contract? Ans. (1) In-kind support from The Nature Conservancy, (2) Arrowhead Resource Conservation & Development Council, \$60K, (3) many private individual and business donors. Excess funds generated by conferences are forwarded as small grants to CISMAs for local invasive species management programming.
- Comment (M. Warner) More funding from the state is needed.

E. Legislative working group activity

- A SICIM legislative committee has been formed to formulate and promote a stable financial plan. This committee will interact with the IISC committee formerly known as SB99 to further develop the concept of state appropriation for recurring SICIM funding. A goal is to identify a “champion” within the state legislature to support sustained funding. The proposed funding by NRCS may be their last contribution to SICIM.

F. Details of the SICIM/CISMA/III program details after 4.5 years.

- III conducted 856 outreach events (including 400 Weed Wrangles), written over 820 landowner surveys and technical assists, management plans have been written covering 26K acres, and 32 CISMAs have been created.
- CISMAs been very active using “strike teams” to address local issues. These groups are partnering with land trusts, state parks and forests, etc. The model of CISMA involvement with public and private resources is accelerating. Examples include Kudzu management assistance to IDNR and interaction with state parks, and private landowners on management issues.
- Comment (S. Yaninek) Congratulations to all who have made SICIM, III, and the CISMAs a reality. These entities exert a positive effect on Indiana.
- Question (S. Yaninek). Is III a program implemented by SICIM or is it something more? When “rebranding” is discussed the relationship among and between programs needs to be clear to participants and the public. Ans 1. (S. Schuck). Fortunately, the SICIM logo did not have to change, only the title. The new title fit the old acronym perfectly. Ans 2. (D. Slack) SICIM, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management is a CISMA. A CISMA is a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, also sometimes called a CWMA or Cooperative Weed Management Area. An example is the program called Monroe County Identify and Reduce

Invasives aka MC-IRIS. The III, Indiana Invasive Initiative, is a project of the CISMAs that is identified as SICIM (the statewide program). The III is the project that is tasked with facilitating the county (or multiple county) CISMAs. Each CISMAs will have a unique name. The III also has the task of developing an annual conference.

- Question (M. Warner) What role does IISC have in the current invasive species management programs and projects? Ans. (D. Slack) Obtaining sustainable funding and determining the identity and infrastructure for a statewide “umbrella” organization are the big issues. The III is currently acting as a proxy soft-fund organization for this entity. The Council should be a significant contributor to the discussions that surround these issues.
- Comment (H. Reynolds). SICIM/III seems to be the logical/natural choice for the “umbrella” organization for the state-wide CISMAs. The next consideration is how other organizations/agencies (governmental and non-governmental) fit the model of interaction and support with/for the umbrella organization. Response. (D. Slack) SICIM is formulating a suggestion as to which entity should assume the role of managing statewide CISMAs and other invasive species programs. A concept under consideration is that the new organization would have similar funding and infrastructure as the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Question (H. Reynolds). SICIM recently changed its title from Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management to State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management. Doesn’t this suggest that they already represent the statewide CISMAs? Ans. (D. Slack). The change in title was made only to reduce confusion when its III project was engaged in statewide interactions. SICIM would like for the state of Indiana to have more ownership in these programs.
- Comment (M. Warner) A possible model/concept of an umbrella organization would be a statewide organization funded by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture similar to, or associated with, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. SICIM, or a group like it, would perform like the Indiana State Association of Soil and Water Districts. An entity called the Indiana State Association of CISMAs could be created. IISC could interact with this new entity similar to way the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board operates by consulting in administering program grants targeted for invasive species management. The next level of infrastructure would be state-employed regional coordinators or resource specialists serving and developing new CISMAs similar to the way that soil and water districts are developed and serviced. One concept is to have CISMAs assume the roles of the poorly-functioning county Weed Boards. This would include terrestrial and aquatic weed management. It would be easier to access existing administrative infrastructure than to create a new one.
- Comment (S. Schuck) The primary goal is sustainability. Soft financing is/will be secured for the next 5 years. The new model with consistent funding needs to be worked out within this time period.
- Comment (D. Slack) SICIM has considered becoming the umbrella organization, and also what their role would/could be as this entity. Funding, particularly the lack of state support is the greatest issue for SICIM. There was hope that there would be an IDNR terrestrial invasive plant program like that for the aquatic invasive plants. That would have been the natural administrative unit to oversee the CISMAs. The administrative structure, as suggested by the Chair, M. Warner, might be what we now strive for and the IISC could play a major role.
- Comment (H. Reynolds). Aquatic invasive species management occurs through IDNR oversight and funding and would not need to be a consideration for the umbrella entity.
- Comment (M. Kraushar). This would be true at the public level, but would still a consideration at the private or smaller scale level.
- Question (H. Reynolds) Can IISC advocate for state funding to keep the CISMAs network functioning and expand it to include aquatic invasive plant management? Ans. (M. Warner) The current thinking of the IISC subcommittee is to “go big” beyond just proposing a legislative study

committee and to provide a comprehensive plan to create the umbrella entity for all invasive plant issues. Suggestions also included a search for a supporting legislator(s) to sponsor the plan. The plan has yet to be developed.

- Question (M. Abraham). How do Weed Boards function, and can the CISMAs and Weed Boards overlap? Ans. (M. Warner) County Weed Boards can be created by an authorizing body (e. g. County Commission), or if 5 percent of voters pass a referendum to create one. The infrastructure includes a board of supervisors consisting of a minimum of (1) someone representing county highways, (2) a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board, (3) a representative of the ag community, and (4) a township trustee. Others can be appointed as appropriate.
- Question from Zoom Chat (H. Reynolds) County Weed Boards have a narrow focus on noxious agricultural weeds, correct? How easy [is it] to expand to invasive species of conservation concern more broadly? Ans. (P. Marshall) The Weed Boards are constrained by old rules/legislation governing endemic noxious agricultural weeds. It may be preferential to update the existing ordinances to include invasive species management.
- Question (M. Abraham) Can CISMAs encourage County Commissions to create a Weed Board in which CISMAs could participate? Ans. (M. Kraushar) Yes. Using the existing infrastructure of the Weed Board to expand beyond just the noxious agricultural weeds to include invasive plants. There is Detrimental Plant Rule (Law?) that is an ordinance that has linked jurisdictional approaches. This law includes other participants including county Cooperative Extension Educators.
- Comment (M. Abraham) Enforcement of local weed laws is a problem due to a lack of Weed Boards in most counties. CISMA involvement might help the creation of more of county boards.
- Comment (M. Warner). The county Weed Boards should be transformed and expanded into CISMAs with well-defined authority and responsibility.
- Comment (P. Marshall). The scope of the current weed laws pertains to field agriculture and not forest environments. There would need to be a blending of all environments into some new version of the local weed laws.
- Comment (M. Abraham). Knox County has enacted local ordinances governing plants beyond state regulated plants. Response (P. Marshall) It is likely that a legal challenge to the Knox County ordinances would reveal that the local rules violate the Indiana Constitution.
- Comment (M. Warner) The limits of regulatory/enforcement power of a CISMA/Weed Board hybrid organization will have to be carefully considered where invasive species removal is concerned. There are many possibilities for local conflict. Another type of expanded role of CISMAs could involve monitoring compliance with the Terrestrial Plant Rule.
- Comment (D. Slack) Remember that most CISMA participants are volunteers and as the statewide plan develops most of the workforce are non-employees. Only state employees will have any kind of authority.
- Question from Zoom Chat (H. Reynolds) Do any County Weed Boards get any government funds? Ans. (M. Warner) These boards can receive county funds. Usually this is minimal for contract work removing noxious weeds. They do not receive any state funds. State aid might be a part of the proposed overall plan for funding the CISMAs. Funding similar to the Clear Water Indiana grants provided to the soil and water districts is a model of how this might work. That program provides \$10K that must be matched with local funds.
- Comment (M. Kraushar) Weed Boards in other states sometimes have full-time employees managing noxious plants. The funds are provided by local tax levies. Funds provided for plant removal would reduce the potential for local conflicts in which landowners were charged for management services.
- Comment (M. Warner) A CISMA model could be the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). There is one SWCD in each county and are charged with administering their local programs. They are supported with federal, state, and county funds. CISMAs could be

organized/funded similarly. The planning/legislative committee (old SB.99) is (will be) active and includes M. Warner, D. Slack, M. Kraushar.

- Comment (S. Schuck). SICIM has a legislative committee meeting on 1 March 2022.
- Comment (J. Schmees) The SWCD model previously alluded to is not a perfect model. Many counties have adequate funding, but some do not. County population is one variable that affects funding. Various funding sources beyond federal and state are tapped where possible, e. g. community foundations.
- Comment (M. Warner). The Soil and Water Conservations Districts took time to develop and it will be the same for the CISMAs.
- Comment (D. Slack) Not all SWCDs are involved with CISMAs due to lack of need or interest.
- Comment (M. Warner) one CISMA per county may not be needed. Regional partnerships may be an alternative model that should be accommodated in the development of a legislative proposal.
- Response (D. Slack) That model already exists in which some CISMAs involve 3 counties.

8. Invasive Species Awareness Week update. (M. Abraham)

- Governor's proclamation enacted naming the week of 27 February though 5 March as Indiana Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- Outreach activities planned are primarily by social media announcements. Activities include a Facebook week which will highlight a different invasive species daily. IDNR is coordinating the daily messages with Purdue (E. Barnes). Outreach is occurring through events such as the Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show, a contest sponsored by the IDNR Division of Law Enforcement, the Indiana Vector Conference, the Spotted Lanternfly Summit.
- Comment (E. Barnes) There will be 2 Emerald Ash Borer Webinars that will highlight firewood movement rules and Asian longhorned beetle. There will be a webinar concerning the name change of gypsy moth to spongy moth. **Action item. Please notify E. Barnes of other outreach activities for the Invasive Species Awareness Week. Also, please put you email in the Zoom Chat.**
- Request from the Chat (M. Kraushar) **Action item. For anyone posting social media for awareness week- please loop in Jennifer Clark (INDOT) so she might help spread from the INDOT group. jlark2@indot.in.gov**
- Comment (S. Schuck) SICIM will coordinate will IDNR to highlight different invasive species daily.
- Comment (E. Fischer) IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will use the week prior to the National Invasive Species Week to highlight an Indiana Aquatic Invasive Species Week using daily social media announcements.
- Question (A. Huntington) Can the announcement of the Governor's proclamation be shared so it can be forwarded to other programs? Response/question. (M. Abraham to M. Warner) Can this document be added to the IISC website? No. resolution.
- Comment (J. Schmees) A pdf can be generated from a phone image. Response (M. Abraham) A scanned copy was sent to the Council email distribution list.
- Comment (M. Warner) We need to expand our email list to include current participants. **Action item. Anyone not already receiving Council notifications, please add your email address to the Zoom Chat, or send an email request to Steve Yaninek yaninek@purdue.edu.**

9. IISC Biennial Report to the Legislature (M. Warner)

- Requests by the Chair.
 - **Action item. (S. Yaninek) will send the most recent fiscal report to the Chair.**
 - **Action item (Phyllis Boyd and Joe Schmees) Please send Chair mwarner@arboterra.com a portrait image for inclusion in the report.**

- Action item. Council members should expect a draft of the IISC biennial report soon. Please edit and return.

10. Invitation to participate in a panel discussion of neighboring states invasive species activities and potential for collaboration from Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council. (M. Warner)

- Comment (E. Fischer) This request came from a colleague in MN to assemble a panel of representatives of invasive species councils from the Great Lake States region to share information, hurdles, and ideas. A short presentation of state terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant issues is requested with participation in subsequent dialogue. A tentative date is 13 April 2022.
- Comment (M. Warner) Indiana participation is encouraged; however, he will be unavailable that day and a volunteer would be needed. Action item. E. Fischer, S. Yaninek and R. Haggard volunteered to represent IISC for this event. An informational email will/has been forwarded to this group. E. Fischer will take the lead on making contact with representatives in MN.
- Comment (M. Warner) The IISC report will be available by that time and could be used to summarize the Indiana information. The SICIM III annual report will be available by then as well. Action item (M. Abraham) will forward IDNR Division of annual reports to E. Fischer.

11. Invasive Plant Advisory Committee updates (D. Slack)

- Summary
 - Monthly invasive plant articles are continuing.
 - The next meeting does not currently have a date identified.
 - Invasive plant assessments will continue.
 - The committee is ready to assist in the next stage of the TPR amendment process.
 - IISC website updates are being planned.

12. Agency Reports and Updates

- Indiana Board of Animal Health (K. Werling)
 - A. Avian influenza-summary
 - H5N1 avian flu was confirmed 8 February 2022 in a Dubois County commercial turkey flock.
 - A producer and veterinarian noticed an 85 percent decrease in water consumption by the flock which initiated the investigation.
 - This is the first appearance of a highly pathogenic avian influenza in the US since 2020 and the first in Indiana since 2016.
 - H5N1 strain requires a robust response and the first flock (29K birds) was “de-populated” and composted on site.
 - A 10km radius quarantine area was established and testing was initiated.
 - An additional farm within the quarantine area was positive for the virus resulting in flock de-population and composting.
 - Hobby farmers/pet owners are being tested.
 - Question (S. Yaninek) (1) what is the virus origin? and (2) are growers insured or compensated in another way? Ans. (1) Virus origin is unknown, but wild water fowl are implicated; (2) federal indemnity payments (market value) are available because the growers were forced to eliminate the flock by statute. Only live birds that are destroyed are indemnified. Federal compensation for property cleaning and disinfection activities is also available.

- Comment (J. Schmees) Indiana SWCD has put a hold on on-site technical assistance activities to reduce foot traffic on the farms.
- Question (M. Kraushar) Who is monitoring the wild birds? Ans. USDA Wildlife Services.
- B. Eurasian Wild Pig Elimination Project-summary
 - Aerial reconnaissance in early 2022 resulted in no observations of the feral pigs or their damage (3 south central counties). This reinforced ground reconnaissance results.
 - These results support the presumption that the wild pig population, present since 1992 may be very close to eradication.
 - No pigs or pig damage has been detected since early 2021 when 18 pigs were removed.
 - Monitoring and detection techniques are environmental DNA sampling and trained dogs.
 - From 2014 to present 639 wild pigs have been removed (using firearms by ground-184; using firearms by helicopter-5; neck snare-12; cage trap-22; corral trap-366.
- Indiana Department of Transportation (M. Kraushar)
 - Acreage under broadleaf weed management will decrease due to funding challenges.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology (M. Abraham)
 - Spring outreach activities have begun.
 - Federal PPA 7721 funding was awarded for Forest Pest Outreach, Specialty Crop Survey, and Exotic Bark Beetle Survey. Federal Pest Detection funds were awarded for the Cooperative Ag Pest Survey.
 - Federal funding for spotted lanternfly management was not provided. A 3 to 5-year environmental impact study needs to be completed before chemical treatment funding is provided. However, there is high probability that some support will be awarded from an emergency fund by the end of March 2022.
 - Kentucky has received \$80K for spotted lanternfly for survey and outreach. This is good because the Indiana detection was close to the border with Kentucky.
 - Indiana has approved limited funding for spotted lanternfly treatment/control.
 - A source of funds for survey has not been determined.
 - Golden twin spot moth, an exotic, high priority pest of solanaceous (tomato/potato) and legume (soybean) crops was detected in 3 widely-separated northern Indiana counties. This moth is semitropical and is assumed to overwinter in commercial greenhouses and then moved with transplants out-of-doors. The possibility that the moth is adapting to higher latitudes may explain its early season appearance, large distribution, and large population in the state. This pest was first detected in the US in Michigan 4 years ago. The Indiana detection is the second occurrence in US. The economic impact to producers is not known. Current pest management practices may be sufficient to minimize yield loss. The economic impact to trade is considered to be minimal. Survey will continue in 2022.
 - Emerald ash borer parasitoids, *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, *Spathius galinae* and *S. agrili*, were released several years ago. Suspected recaptures of at least 2 of these species occurred last year at Brookville reservoir. Confirmation is not complete.
 - **Action item. The IDNR annual report is available upon email request to M. Abraham.**
- Indiana Department of Agriculture (K. Sanders)
 - A. Clean Water Indiana grant summary
 - There were 18 proposals submitted in the 2020-22 cycle of which 13 were awarded.
 - The fiscal scope of projects ranged from \$22K to \$125K.

- Invasive and/or native species projects were awarded in 6 counties. Examples of projects included pollinator plots, prairie habitat and garden demonstration establishment, invasive plant removal, and the \$60K awarded to SICIM. These grants have a fund-matching clause.
- B. Soil and Water Conservation District interactions with CISMAs (J. Schmees)
 - SWCD conference had CISMA presenters. Breakout session topics were how SWCD could increase involvement with CISMAs and with native plant landscaping technical issues.
 - Exploring funding opportunities for invasive species issues beyond Clean Water Indiana could include the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Indiana Lakes Management Society, state lake and river enhancement programs supported from boater fees, and stream bank restoration grants from Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
 - A discussion topic could be centered on identifying funding sources available to various organizations and levels of county and town governments. One may have to be creative to find ways to accomplish funding for invasive plant issues.
 - SWCD have many training opportunities and are willing to share suitable topics with CISMAs.
 - Please direct questions regarding SWCD to Joe Schmees, joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org.
 - Comment (M. Warner) The Environmental Quality Incentive Program provided \$3 million to the Forestry Practice Project for cost share to private landowners. Invasive plant removal on forest lands accounted for 75% of the funds. The downside is that invasive plant issues is decreasing the emphasis on other important aspects of forest management such as timber stand improvement and tree planting.
 - Question (J. Schmees to the Council) Has there been IISC discussion/interest about how climate change will impact invasive plant issues? Ans 1. (M. Kraushar) Before the restrictions imposed by the Covid19 pandemic, invited speakers provided IISC with programs on many topics. There may be value in pursuing climate change impact information in future meetings. Ans 2. (M. Warner) This has not been directly addressed but may be a good topic for inclusion in future conferences.
- Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association (R. Haggard)
 - The in-person Indianapolis Green Expo has concluded. The next trade show will be January 30 – February 1 2023 at the Indianapolis Crown Plaza. IISC will be approached to coordinate the selection of potential speakers.
 - The presence of invasive plant issues was small. A critique was that in-depth information and detail on invasive species issues was lacking. This information was passed on to the planning committee.
 - Approximately 60% of the educational material will soon be available virtually to those who purchased in-person admission
 - A Great Lakes Nursery Advisory Council meeting in November 2021 decided to create a “track report” for invasive plant activities for states surrounding the Great Lakes and for Ontario, Canada.
 - The Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association is updating social media resources including additional staff that will incorporate more information on Invasive species.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (E. Fischer)
 - National Invasive Awareness Week planning has begun. Activities will begin the week preceding the National Natural Awareness Week.
 - IDNR F&W presence and educational outreach will occur at the Indianapolis Boat, Sport, and Travel Show.
 - Federal contracting is continuing with organizations such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Management continues on starry stonewort. Management of *Phragmites* and some species of cattail are being added this year in limited areas.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (P. Marshall)
 - The gypsy moth has been renamed spongy moth as of 2 March 2022. Information for press releases is forthcoming.
 - Approximately 1K acres of forest was defoliated the spongy moth in 2021. LaPorte County was a high-density region. Damage in 2021 was the highest level of defoliation that has been recorded in Indiana. Entomopathogens and egg parasite presence were high. *Bacillus thuringiensis* products will be applied to 3 state owned areas in 2022. Mating disruption will be employed at 11 sites. Private land will not be treated. Years following high infestations have been followed by low infestation levels. Whitley and Lake Counties will be added to the spongy moth quarantine list.
 - Thousand cankers disease was not present in Indiana.
 - Walnut twig beetle was not detected in 2022
 - Chestnut oak mortality surveys are continuing. *Phytophthora* spp. may be involved.
 - Sassafras mortality continues to be an interest at Purdue due to the possible relationship to laurel wilt disease.
 - Long term monitoring of herbicide injury to oak trees from agricultural use of dicamba and/or 2,4-D will be established.
- Purdue Department of Entomology, Forest Pest Outreach (E. Barnes)
 - Participation in the Indiana Invasive Species Awareness Week is planned.
 - Emerald Ash Borer University has several webinars that will occur soon.
 - Purdue Bug Bowl activities are being planned.
- Purdue University College of Agriculture (S. Yaninek)
 - Announced that Larry Bledsoe will retire from Purdue University and will relinquish his role as Cooperative Ag Pest Coordinator at the end of April 2022. Additionally, his role as scribe for the IISC will end on completion of the transcription of minutes for the 16 February 2022 meeting.

13. New Business (M. Warner)

- Arbor day foundation (E. Jacquart)
 - The Arbor Day Foundation, headquartered in Nebraska has a program of supplying small seedlings for little to no cost.
 - The issue is that some of the species that are supplied are invasive, e. g. Rose of Sharon and hybrid northern hedge privet.
 - The IISC Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (D. Slack) should be involved in this issue due to the lack of a risk assessments for one of the parents of the hybrid northern hedge privet, and also for Rose of Sharon.
 - **The suggestion is made that the Council send a “friendly” letter to the Arbor Day Foundation pointing out that Rose of Sharon and hybrid northern hedge privet should not be provided to the public in the Midwest. Action item. The IISC will follow up with an appropriate response when risk assessments are completed by the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee.**

14. Meeting schedule (2022) and action items (M. Warner)

- Next meetings: 10 AM Wednesday, 18 May 2022; 20 July 2022; 9 November 2022.
- Action items (M. Warner)
 1. A plan of succession for the Chair needs to be initiated and will be added to the agenda of the next IISC meeting.
 2. Continue to send TPR amendment comments to M. Abraham.
 3. The Chair will provide his governmental contact(s) information to J. Schmees. (Seeking paths to reinforce the current connections or build new ones.)
 4. M. Abraham will update the IISC and participants prior to TPR amendment legislative hearing comment period begins.
 5. Please notify E. Barnes of outreach activities for the Invasive Species Awareness Week.
 6. Please notify Jennifer Clark (INDOT) of social media posts for Invasive Species Awareness Week activities. jclark2@indot.in.gov
 7. Anyone not already receiving Council notifications, please send an email request to Steve Yaninek yaninek@purdue.edu.
 8. S. Yaninek will send the most recent IISC fiscal report to the Chair.
 9. P. Boyd and J. Schmees will send a portrait image for inclusion in the IISC biennial report to the Chair mwarner@arboterra.com.
 10. Council members should expect a draft of the IISC biennial report soon. Please edit and return.
 11. M. Abraham will provide the IDNR annual report upon an email request.
 12. E. Fischer, S. Yaninek and R. Haggard volunteered to represent IISC in meeting of regional invasive species councils hosted by the Minnesota Invasive Species Council. An informational email has been forwarded to the volunteers. E. Fischer will take the lead on making contact with representatives in MN.
 13. M. Abraham will forward IDNR Division of annual reports to E. Fischer for reference.
 14. Council will contact the Arbor Day Foundation pointing out that Rose of Sharon and hybrid northern hedge privet should not be provided to the public in the Midwest. This contact will occur after appropriate plant risk assessments are completed by the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee.

15. Adjourn: The Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by S. Yaninek and seconded by M. Kraushar. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM.