

VT Invasive Exotic Plant Advisory Committee Meeting

April 16th, 2024

1pm-2:30

Participation in person at 116 State Street, Montpelier (AAFM) and virtually via Teams

In person attendance: Kim Jensen (ANR-DEC), Emilie Inoue (VAAFM), Stephanie Smith (VAAFM), Ben Dillner (VAAFM), Judy Rosovsky (VAAFM), Grace Glynn (ANR-F&W), Maria Burnett (VAAFM), Steve Mortillo (NPS), Abigail (NPS), Lynn McNamara (TNC)

Virtual attendance: Ann Hazelrigg (UVM-Extension), Caitlin Cusack (VLT), Bonnie Donahue (VTRANS), Mike Bald (Industry), Katie Kain (US F&W) Toby Alexander (NRCS)

Updates:

- DEC: hired full time person to help Kim. 2 additions to her staff, waiting to hire 1 other position, stuck at the governor's office. Put out 67 projects for aquatic nuisance control working with 31 partners. Surveying for aquatic invasive species throughout the state for field season
- NPS: over the winter took out a big part of maple. Got some funding to do some restoration planting. Looking into Japanese tree lilac.
- VLT: had a great meeting about CISMAs. Applying for funding for funding and management work. Asking for letters of support from Emilie and Toby from NRCS.
- NRCS: historic funding levels from IRA for climate smart practices. Well funded for invasive plant control. Another method for funding is local working groups— great for the NRCDs. Can set priorities for local funding pools.
- US F&W: FWS working on developing a 4 year position working for restoration on private land.
- AOT: Started some good conservations in the design and construction side. Planning on having a training on invasive plant ID. We have a plan note that's going to go into construction plans on BMPs for construction is invasive plants are found. We have existing general environmental contracts that we can pull from.

Japanese Lilac

- Had an established population at St Goddens since the 1990s. It's historic and we're talking about getting it removed
- Only in riparian and wetland areas have we noticed it's really established
- Established underneath sycamores and started to outcompete other species
- Largest trees about 25 feet tall and 5 inches in diameter
- They've formed a mid-canopy layer underneath the sycamores in the riparian area
- Took infestation out when they were doing work for honeysuckle
- A lot of young seedlings are coming up
- 2 states have done PRAs on Japanese tree lilac--need more research
- Has potential to invade some environments but not the same issue as honeysuckle.
- 'Slow burning' infestation

- Need to bring Nursery/landscaping perspective into the discussion.
- AOT has also noticed that Japanese lilac tree spreads very easily.

Agency of Ag Update

- noxious weed rule in draft stage
- DEC, FW, FPR and AAFM collectively selected 8 plant species that are biggest concern and requested that Secretary of Ag. designate as plant pests. Will hopefully be able to create outreach materials soon.
- Working MOU with FPR now

Bethany Creaser: Pesticide Certification and training

- Biggest question is about category 14: terrestrial invasive plants
- Actively working on writing a manual. No other state has a manual on this particular category—starting from scratch.
- Hope is that later this year that category will be ready to be tested on
- Category 14 will allow you to do terrestrial invasive plant control. Category 2 is strictly forest setting. If it's across a wide variety of landscapes, you should get category 14 as well.
- Toby from NRCS: curious about use of terrestrial invasives. How much of the wetlands are covered? Where's the line between aquatic and terrestrial? Bethany: If there's water present, it's aquatic. Some wetlands are dry when they're doing invasive plant control... if there's going to be water present, you might need to get the aquatic permit.
- Aquatic nuisance control permits are difficult to get. Applicators generally shouldn't apply pest control when there's water present.
- Unusual category because it's about what you're treating and not where. The manual will be a PDF that's free on the Agency of Ag's website. This makes it imperative to get the species list up to date.
- Stephanie making a clarifying point: If you need an aquatic nuisance permit, you're talking to DEC. If you're looking to get a category 14 permit, you need to talk to AAFM. Agency of Ag and DEC will be in communication.
- Mike suggests running through case studies to give suggestions as to what to do.
- Category 14 manual will have an ID section. It doesn't list the approved pesticides. List of pesticides is on agency's website
- VIEPAC committee is really about maintaining the lists and doesn't get into the management world. Focus on recommendations.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10th in the afternoon. Montpelier at the TNC office at 1:00