

VT Invasive Exotic Plant Advisory Committee Meeting

1.11.24

9am-Noon

Participation in person at Waterbury State Office Complex and virtually via Teams

Role call: Emilie Inoue, Ben Dillner, Bonnie Donohue, Grace Glynn, Pieter van Loon, Caitlin Cusack, Judy Rosovsky, Katie Kain, Mike Bald, Melissa Green, Maria Burnett, Ann Hazelrigg, Stephanie Smith, Toby Alexander

Updates:

- USFWS: no major updates
- VLT: starting new CISMAs, maybe eventually getting a dedicated person for each NRCD; promoting was CISMAs do
- Mike Bald: great work by CISMAs for the southeast, CISMAs still face issues with liability for private property; stilt grass as a focus- changing how highway crews work; how to do outreach and education to fuel truck drivers, tree service, etc.
- F&W: no major updates
- VTrans: design and construction side- trying to be more consistent on how we ID invasives on projects, make sure BMPs are referenced in construction documents- could VAAFM get list of major contractors.
- Ann: no major updates, UVM break period
- Forest Service: short staffed, focusing on rare plants and invasive plant interactions

VAAFM updates: In the process of Noxious Weed Rule re-write- newly developed process for developing a “species of concern list” that is the pool of plants VIEPAC will use to determine species to add to NWR quarantine. There is also a proposed Tier system: Tier 1 through Tier 3 of noxious weeds. Committee discussion about how watchlist is utilized in respective organizations.

Plant Pest Declaration (by VAAFM secretary)- stop gap measure to protect state against 8 most threatening species not currently on the quarantine list; will need to do significant outreach and education about this action.

Committee members voice support for the new proposed process and tiered system. Still needs to go through finalization and rule making.

PRAs: review

- *Alnus glutinosa*- widely sold in nurseries, issues with mis-ID, readily spread, fixes nitrogen, threatening rare/ endangered plants on Connecticut River; Motion passes to recommend to Secretary
- *Elaeagnus umbellata* (Autumn olive)- widespread, nitrogen fixer, similar niche to honeysuckle, tons of fruit spread by birds, colonizes fields and forest understory; Motion passes to recommend to Secretary

- *Ficaria verna*- outcompetes native vegetation in sensitive areas (wetland areas), spreads rapidly by vegetative and seed, some medicinal uses/ may be sold but not widely; Tabled until PRA is fully completed

Public Comments: None

Next meeting: April 16; 1-4pm