

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CISAC) MEETING
Harry H. Laidlaw Bee Research Lab, Davis, CA

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Opening:

The quarterly meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on October 16, 2013, in Davis, by Committee Chair Victoria Brandon.

CISAC Members Present:

Bob Atkins, Victoria Brandon, Joseph DiTomaso, Richard Forster, Andrea Fox, Vince Guise, Doug Johnson, Helene Wright

CISAC Members Absent:

Karen Buhr, Christiana Conser, Jim Cranney, Larry Godfrey, Jay Goldsmith, Marcy Martin, Jeanne Merrill, David Pattison, Betsy Peterson, John Randall, Kristina Schierenbeck, Robin Wall, Sheri Smith

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff Present:

Austin Webster

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Staff Present:

Lisa Corvington, Don Crocker

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Staff Present:

Tom Smith

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff Present:

Michael Niemela

CISAC MEMBER UPDATES

- Bob Atkins: there have been a number of reports of Asian Citrus Psyllid in the Central Valley in the past few weeks, including finds in Tulare and southern Fresno counties. ACP is plainly spreading through commercial citrus areas despite organized treatment by CDFA. Although up to now only one tree (in Hacienda Heights in Los Angeles county) has been confirmed positive for Huanglongbing, the disease can remain latent (but infectious) for up to three years. Some neighboring trees have been removed voluntarily, with participants offered replacement (non-citrus) trees. Parasites are being released in an effort to control the psyllid, but this is difficult in winter because without new growth there aren't ACP nymphs to be parasitized.
- Vince Guise: two lemon trees have been found with sweet orange scab in Winterhaven in Imperial county – previously California had been unique among citrus-growing states in the absence of this pest. The Cereal Leaf Beetle, a pest of oats and barley, has been found in Modoc and Siskiyou counties. The Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, which has been in southern California for quite some time,

has recently been discovered in Sacramento. There have been 150 fruit fly finds this year, with many under treatment and one under quarantine.

- Doug Johnson: Cal-IPC is working on projects addressing invasive plants in wildlands with regional strategic prioritization. The Wildlife Conservation Society is funding studies in wet meadows, and the Department of Defense on six military bases. Cal-IPC has also submitted a proposal through CalFire to look at broom and other high priority plants in the Sierras, and is working on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) with CDFW. Participants in the annual conference expressed strong support for renewed funding for CDFA's weed programs.

STAFF UPDATES

- Tom Smith (CDF): since the previous meeting Gold-spotted Oak Borer has been discovered in 20 additional trees in the Idylwild area, an outbreak more extensive than originally supposed. The Polyphagous Shothole Borer is spreading neighborhood by neighborhood, with additional finds every week. It has some 200 species of woody hosts, and has been killing oaks and maples among other trees
- Don Crocker (CDFW): the agency has just hired a new scientist who will focus on terrestrial invasives

DISCUSSION

California Aquatic Invasive Species Plan revision -- Don Crocker, CDFW Environmental Scientist

The purpose of the plan is to coordinate state programs, provide a decision-making structure, and provide a baseline for decisions. The federal Aquatic Nuisance task force must approve state management plans, which are to be revised every five years. This revision of the 2008 plan won't change its structure but will update and review some of the actions. The first draft of revised actions is nearly complete; the next stage is to finalize actions, then to initiate another round of stakeholder outreach. CISAC members are urged to provide input: to see the draft go to www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/plan. This revision (unlike the 2008 plan) does not include timelines, because there are too many factors outside the control of the agency, and because the 2008 timeline proved unrealistic. Both marine and freshwater organisms are included, with a more significant marine component than previously. Vince Guise: are aquatic plants included? – yes. Doug Johnson: AB 763 (potentially increasing rapid response capacity towards new aquatic invasive plants) includes a risk assessment component.

CISAC Self-Evaluation by Members Proposal.

There was general consensus that an online self-evaluation survey could be helpful. A generic sample was distributed: it's directed towards governing boards rather than advisory committees, and contains a number of specific points that aren't relevant to CISAC. Victoria Brandon will make some edits and distribute an electronic version to the whole committee with a request for additional edits and supplementary questions, and bring the result back at the January 2014 meeting, with the objective of then posting the self-evaluation to Survey Monkey for completion.

CINIPC Draft Blueprint – Doug Johnson

The California Interagency Noxious and Invasive Plant Committee (CINIPC) has created a Blueprint to better coordinate efforts, strengthen programs, and set better priorities for what can be done with available funding. At the present time funding is available for

developing tools but not for maintenance or on-the-ground work. Furthermore funding typically is granted on a year-by-year basis, which makes effective long-term action very difficult. We need innovative new structures and performance measures that go beyond number of acres treated, with a focus on landscape-level strategies. Shared tools such as CalWeedMapper should be maintained and enhanced, and local Weed Management Areas supported.

Vince Guise: there is *some* local funding for ongoing programs: for example, the Contra Costa county crop report lists pest management efforts, as do some 25 other counties. More funding is needed, especially for biocontrol efforts, which are the only effective ways to tackle established weeds like YST.

Joe DiTomaso: the Blueprint goals include reduction of redundancy and increasing efficiency by collaboration

Victoria Brandon: Cache Creek Ravennagrass eradication project is an example of an apparently successful project that will be completely futile without followup to eliminate regrowth.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Without a quorum, the outstanding minutes could not be approved and officers for 2014 could not be elected. Members present provisionally agreed to select January 15, 2014 for the next meeting date, and asked the Chair to set up a Doodle poll for the full 2014 meeting schedule.

UPDATES

- Website. Victoria Brandon reported that since CISAC unfortunately did not receive its Specialty Crop Block Grant, the construction of a new interactive website aimed at the general public can't go forward yet, but in the meantime we can continue to post links and other information to the existing CISAC website. She particularly urged all members to provide information about conferences and other events for the Calendar.
- Legislative Update. Austin Webster said that a number of the bills he has been tracking are still pending. Of those that made it to the Governor's desk, he signed AB 763 (Aquatic Invasive Plants), AB 1319 (Diseased Animals), SB 348 (County Agricultural Seed Enforcement), and SB 504 (Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Standards) and vetoed AB 571 (Citrus Disease Prevention). He again requested that committee members inform him about bills (state and federal) of interest to them.
- 21st Century Pest Management Symposia. A fourth Symposium, focusing on Invasion Biology and featuring insects, gastropods, nematodes, and diseases will be held on October 17 in Davis. Dr. Daniel Simberloff, Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, will be the keynote speaker. In conjunction with the Symposium, a tour of the Bee Lab, Contained Research Facility, and Bohart Entomology Museum is being offered this (October 16) afternoon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Niemela of the Department of Public Health reported that two species of tropical mosquitos, *aedes albopictus* and *aedes aegypti*, have been found in California, which had previously been thought to be too cold for their survival. Both are major vectors of serious diseases, including dengue fever (*albopictus*) and yellow fever (*aegypti*), both are active during the daytime, both breed in tiny puddles of water, and both are easily transported, for example in potted plants. Eradication is very difficult and expensive, and the current

distribution of these species in California is not well known. Gary Goodman, Assistant Manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Vector Control District, said that public awareness is key to controlling these mosquitos: in particular, people should be encouraged to report incidents of being bitten during the daytime. He suggested that CISAC provide information and a link on our website.

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on January 15, 2014, in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15PM

Minutes taken by CISAC Chair Victoria Brandon
Approved by Secretary Christiana Conser