



## April 29, 2009 MEETING Minutes

Co-chairs: Rita Beard NPS, Jenny Ericson FWS; Members: USDA: Al Tasker APHIS; Mike Ielmini FS, Bob Nowierski CSREES; Interior: Gina Ramos BLM, La Donna Carlisle BIA, Mike Lusk FWS; Other: Russ Jones, EPA, Pete Egan DOD Guests: none

### **9:00 am Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chairs

### **9:15 am Old Business**

1. Minutes from last meeting accepted as corrected.

Set next meeting Wed, May 27, Jenny will host at FWS

2. USFWS GMO decision implications to other agencies?

- Lusk. FWS Refuges was sued for use of GMO seed on a refuge and other topics. Lost the suit. Rita or Mike will send a copy of the decision to the signatory reps.
- Full policy response to case is in development.
- NPS is proposing to adopt a similar policy for their sites.
- Lack of rigor on NEPA analysis may be the key to the loss. Likely will not lead to a total ban on GMO crops, but would need a full justification. Example, GMO American Chestnut. There is potential to impact various restoration programs.

3. NISC and NEPA workgroup update

- How much added value for FICMNEW?
- Value would require a more consistent approach by the agencies. The workgroup product is intended to be a guidance document for approaching NEPA.
- FICMNEW agencies have individual NEPA implementing regs, but these don't typically address invasive spp. issues, e.g. impact of invasives if not controlled.
- A fruitful approach would be to make sure impacts from invasive are addressed like we address potential impacts on endangered spp. Invasive spp. are likely to impact endangered spp. if not controlled
- Documentation should ID ways to mitigate spread of invasive spp. Prevention measures, restoration, control & mgt etc.

4. Ongoing Business and committee Reports:

- Web site update and progress
  - i. Links update and proposals for new links

- ii. Old factbook. Need to post a copy of the PDF. Who has one.
- iii. White papers IPM, Stiltgrass, Tasker, Nowerski to check
- iv. EDRR
- v. Awareness/Education Ramos
- vi. Other papers of interest
  - 1. ?Hot topics Ditomasso Bioenergy risk paper
  - 2. Review Hot topics each month to keep current
- vii. Post upcoming meetings of interest, including FICMNEW meeting date, Time location, minute
- viii. Notices & update
  - 1. Minutes for Calendar year Tasker
- ix. Weed Mgt partners Ielmini, Egan
- x. Contact us. A FICMNEW email address. Ielmini will start out staffing the email as a test run. Send Jenny a link for agency websites.
- xi. Goal is to complete these tasks by next FICMNEW meeting
- MOU
  - i. Committee met to discuss draft.
  - ii. Charter has been completed and agreed upon last year.
  - iii. MOU not as critical, current one functional, new potential Departmental/Agency signators not yet appointed in new administration
  - iv. Status if invitees discussed, but since these agencies are not attending meeting now as guests, they don't seem all that interested in joining. Some interested personnel have changed jobs or left their agencies
  - v. We also need to develop the operating procedures document
  - vi. Committee recommends keeping the MOU tabled, as per FICMNEW decision a few months ago, to be addressed at the next workplanning meeting.
  - vii. FICMNEW next important workplan focus is the factbook revision, and the website reworking. These projects may give more traction as new products/activities as a selling point for signatures for the revised MOU
- Fact Book (Ielmini & Ramos)
  - i. Center for Invasive Spp. & Ecosystem Health aka Bugwood is drafting the weed primers (with photos)
  - ii. Need to update list on needs for the draft. (Gina)
  - iii. Need to provide the drafts we have agreed to do. Motion approved for a workmeeting to work on the factbook for 3 June 9 AM to 5 PM. Ielmini will provide the draft primers, La Donna will do the BIA lands section. Gina to send her some information. Bob offered a meeting room at CSREES, Mike Ielmini offered a backup at FS.
  - iv. Pete offered to setup a sharepoint site for the drafts in lieu of sending drafts to everyone
- 5. New Business and agency Updates
  - APHIS
    - i. Wavy Leafed Basket Grass meeting at NISC led by Kerrie Kyde MD DNR, & Marc Imlay. About 50 attended. A WLBG private listserv has been established. Contact Anne Simpson at USGS NBII if interested in joining. Kerrie concurs with posting WLBG minutes as a FICMNEW hot topic.
    - ii. Red baron. APHIS CPHST Sharon Talley has new genetic fingerprinting data showing probable reversion of Red Baron to invasive, seed bearing type.
    - iii. Cogon grant in AL \$6.3 Million over 3 yrs. Stimulus Package funds
    - iv. Rulemaking
      - 1. Weed program rule to update 7 CFR 360 and add seven new species to the Federal Noxious Weed list approved by OGC. A description of the taxa to be added is attached at the end of these minutes

2. Interim rule to add 2 *Lygodium* spp. to FNW list already regulated under Federal Order as quarantine pests.
  - v. APHIS has been sued on the *Diorhabda elongata* moving into Willow flycatcher habitat. Movement was not done by APHIS.
  - vi. Dick Mack APHIS seminar re: invasive prediction parameters on 17 March 2009 at APHIS. 30 attendees. Lively discussion.
- BLM
    - i. Recent program review in WY
    - ii. Tamarisk/*Diorhabda* lawsuit
    - iii. Other lawsuits claiming the BLM is not doing enough on Invasive spp.
    - iv. Alaska program review in planning
  - BIA
    - i. program reviews on weeds and forestry mgt, for post burn and cutting
    - ii. new grant received at CIPM Montana State U., they have hired some interns.
    - iii. Schwartzlander in ID awarded a grant from BIA ?for his biological control training project for tribes.
  - FS
    - i. HR 669 Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act hearing occurred
    - ii. Jim Olivarez is retiring soon in Montana
  - CSREES
    - i. Invasive Species Working Group of the Office of Science & Technology Policy, Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Ecological Systems.
    - ii. Sharon Gross chair, Bob & Al of FICMNEW are on the committee. Currently drafting a plan for a workshop on Predicting and Forecasting Invasive Species. Objectives of the workshop would be identifying ongoing work and future research needs.
    - iii. National IPM meeting held in Portland, OR. 650 attendees,
      1. Workshop on reduced risk pesticide impacts on ecological services was standing room only.
      2. Bob is planning a follow-up meeting on this or a related topic
    - iv. ITAP is working on a microbial control workshop
    - v. IPM Center directors are in town June 9-10 Bob wants to invite FICMNEW members to a demo on his IPM training modules.
6. Topic/Speakers next meetings
    - i. Each agency could invite new appointees of interest to talk for 10 or 15 minutes, science advisors, et al. Discussion could center on money being spent on invasive plant mgt.
    - ii. Agency reps should suggest speakers to schedule.
    - iii. Al Suggestions
      1. MISC speaker (John Lydon),
      2. WLBG talk (Kerrie Kyde)
      3. APHIS speaker on enforcement.
      4. New barberry/wheat rust mgt Prakash Hebbar.
  7. Calendars – Meetings
    - APHIS Biotech Regulatory Services meeting on GMO bioenergy plants June 16-17 2009
    - Tamarisk & Russian Olive Research Conf. held in Reno Feb 18 & 19 2009. FWS and APHIS attended
    - ISAC meeting in Tucson, AZ 4-8 May 2009. Pete Egan attending for DOD Bob Nowierski substituting for Hilda Diaz-Saltero for USDA. Gordon Brown attending for Interior.
    - International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET), September 13-17, 2009 Duluth, MN Bonnie will attend. She says “At this time the Duluth, MN conference shows 4 papers on invasive plants and 4 poster sessions”. The sessions will be posted on the ICOET

conference site. <http://www.icoet.net/ICOET2009.asp>

- Inv Plant Symposium planned at WSSA/SRM in Denver Feb 2010. Working committee is interested in FICMNEW input; Rita will setup a separate teleconf to discuss. ½ day invited symposium speakers: David Lodge, Dick Mack, Dan Simberlof, et al. Volunteer papers in concurrent sessions; may ask FICMNEW Agencies to chair sessions &/or give session keynote lead papers.
- WAB May 26-29, 2010 at FWS NCTC Training Ctr in Shepardstown, WV. Steering committee is working on agenda. Jenny, Gina, & Rita are involved from FICMNEW.
- NAWMA Annual Conf. Kearney, Nebraska September 21-24, 2009. Rita will attend for NPS.
- Need to refine calendar to list FICMNEW agencies who will attend meetings of interest in the next month or so.

**Tabled Topics for discussion at later meetings:**

1. Interagency risk assessments. Hopefully, Richard Lee will be talking the lead on this subject. What is on the schedule for agencies in 2008, 2009 and beyond, priorities for the year etc.
2. NAWMA data std update. Discuss at NIWAW?
3. MOU and Operating procedures draft for discussion at a FUTURE meeting?

**Tentative Schedule for 2009**

**May 27; June 24; Jul 29; Aug 26; Sep 30; Oct 28; Nov-Dec 2; Jan 27, 2010**

APHIS is proposing to add seven new taxa to the list of terrestrial noxious weeds in § 360.200(c) and to the list of noxious weed seeds with no tolerances applicable to their introduction in § 361.6(a)(1).

1. *Acacia nilotica* (Linnaeus) Wildenow ex Delile (prickly acacia), a perennial non-climbing shrub or tree. *A. nilotica* is a serious weed in South Africa and Australia, where it aggressively replaces grasslands with thorny thickets. Seedlings and young trees of *A. nilotica* are protected from grazing by thorns, and the plants have long-distance dispersal mechanisms allowing uncontrolled spread, large seed production, and long-lived seeds. Young *A. nilotica* plants grow rapidly, and the plants are tolerant of drought, fire, and salinity. Potential pathways for the introduction of *A. nilotica* into the United States include ornamental seed shipments, sale of seeds for medicinal purposes, and intentional importation in passenger baggage. *A. nilotica* occurs in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and may also be in Hawaii. It is possibly cultivated in other States, as it is offered for sale by at least three U.S. nurseries. We invite public comment on the distribution of *A. nilotica* in the United States.
2. *Ageratina riparia* (Regel) R.M. King and H. Robinson (mistflower), a perennial erect or sprawling herb to subshrub. Colonies of *A. riparia* increase in density and size by spreading horizontally and rooting at the nodes. The plant thrives in misty, upland pastures and mountainous areas with high rainfall, and its leaf litter is allelopathic, inhibiting the growth of other species. *A. riparia* is a serious weed in Africa, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Hawaii, and Madagascar. In Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the weed competes with native plants and occupies disturbed areas. *A. riparia* has been introduced as a contaminant in ornamental and agricultural material and is both an agricultural and environmental weed.
3. *Arctotheca calendula* (Linnaeus) Levyns (capeweed), a flat, stemless or short-stemmed, spreading, rosette-forming annual (or perennial in areas with frost-free climate). *A. calendula* produces stolons, which root at the nodes and are often vigorous. It is capable of infesting turf and pasture, competing with many kinds of crops, causing allergies and dermatitis in sensitive people, and negatively affecting stock production, with likely impacts to both agriculture and the environment. *A. calendula* is currently present in California. A purple-flowered, seed-producing type of *A. calendula* is regulated by the State. A sterile, vegetatively reproducing yellow-flowered type is not currently regulated by the State of California, but is noted by some to escape from cultivation. In addition, identifying a plant as a member of one type or another of *A. calendula* can be difficult. We invite public comment on whether it is appropriate to regulate the entire species *A. calendula* or whether we should only regulate the purple-flowered, seed-producing type.
4. *Euphorbia terracina* Linnaeus (false caper), a glabrous erect leafy perennial. An aggressive plant, it forms dense stands that inhibit the growth of native plants, competing with crops and pasture plants. In Western Australia, *E. terracina* is a serious weed of grazing land. *E. terracina* is avoided by livestock and can be toxic to animals.
5. *Inula britannica* Linnaeus (British elecampane), an erect biennial. *I. britannica* has been found in Michigan and Minnesota, where it is regulated by those States, and in the Netherlands. It was initially detected in Michigan in nurseries with hosta imported from the Netherlands. *I. britannica* has negative impacts on surrounding hosta, which must be sacrificed if chemical control efforts are undertaken.
6. *Onopordum acaulon* Linnaeus (stemless thistle), a prostrate annual or biennial herb. The plant is found in roadsides, wastelands, cultivated land, and pastures. *O. acaulon* reduces carrying capacity of pasture, and livestock eating the plant suffer impaction and liver damage. The seeds of *O. acaulon* are long-lived in soil.
7. *Onopordum illyricum* Linnaeus (Illyrian thistle), a tall, erect annual or biennial herb. In California, where *O. illyricum* is currently found and regulated, the plant is found in natural areas, disturbed sites, roadsides, fields, and especially in sites with fertile soils. *O. illyricum* is difficult to control and has the potential to infest pastures, reduce carrying capacity, and create physical barriers to stock and wildlife.