

IPAC Meeting Minutes from January 17th , 2023, 9:30 AM On Google Meets Platform

Participants:

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection & Weed Management (MDA, PPWM)

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PPWM

Steve Bell: MDA, PPWM Nursery Inspector

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Chesapeake and Coastal Services

Daniel Root: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forester

Joel Bush: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Forester

Leslie Cario: Chesapeake Horticultural Services

Jennifer Vaccaro: Living Landscape Solutions

Brent Cassell: Leyland Landscaping

Kim brought the meeting to a start at 9:35 AM.

Membership and Minutes

Kim asked for updates or corrections on minutes from November. Members can reach out to Cathy or Kim until Friday the 18th with changes. Minutes will be accepted into record on Friday January 20th 2023.

Kim updated the group on remaining open positions for the council.

The vacancy for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) representative can wait until February because the new administration will appoint the MDE staffer just as the outgoing administration had done.

The NGO representative for IPAC is still vacant. Steve had a contact in mind and discussed with Kim.

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Concerns

Kim asked if the committee could revisit the plant of concern that Jennifer had mentioned since she was in attendance. *Cayratia japonica* or *Causonis japonica*, Bushkiller, which is a vine. Jennifer found this in Maryland at Cape St. Claire in 2012 but this species wasn't on DNR or other plant invaders lists. Plant is resistant to herbicide, goat grazing and combinations of herbicide and hand pulling were not successful in controlling it, according to Jennifer during her experience trying to remove it from the site in Anne Arundel. Subsequently found on the Eastern Shore in Centerville at a federal site which is not being maintained. The plant looks similar to Virginia Creeper so might be missed by land managers. Not widespread yet, might be good to look into how the plant is establishing. Since it's not in the nursery trade it's a poor candidate for inclusion to the list and less of a priority for IPAC but should be tracked by MISC and several members of the committee will list the plant on Thursday's MISC (Maryland Invasive Species Council) meeting. Leslie also suggested making sure it appears on invasive plant tracking

databases like EDDMAPS which didn't contain data for those two sites Jennifer discussed. Folks should try and report to Invasive Plant Atlas. <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>

Plant Invaders Book and other miscellaneous items.

As part of the amended law the Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic will be incorporated into the Maryland regulated plant list. Sarah sent out a digital link for the latest edition of the book again. Kim is working on getting the list online at the MDA site.

Staff are still waiting at MDA for the new administration to discuss funding that has been submitted with the budget requests.

Some question about DNR role in WRAs. DNR keeps the GIS info for the WRA models. No one assigned that role in DNR and need to discuss how that portion of the WRA will be completed. Sarah offered to ask around about data availability.

The next meeting date was set for **March 21** which is the third Tuesday of the month and will be a continuance of the bimonthly schedule for the committee. The meeting will be virtual unless otherwise needed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

IPAC Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2023, 9:30 AM on Google Meets Platform

Participants:

Kim Rice: Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Protection & Weed Management (MDA, PPWM)

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PPWM

Steve Bell: MDA, PPWM

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (MD-DNR), Chesapeake and Coastal Services

Daniel Root: MD-DNR, Forestry

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD), College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Laura Mulvaney: Consumer Representative

Leslie Cario: Chesapeake Horticultural Services

Joel Bush – MDOT

Kim Rice started the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting were approved by the group.

Membership:

Kim will reach out to MDE regarding that open position now that a new administration has been appointed.

Regarding the open NGO position, Laura suggested reaching out to Sarah Knebel at the Scenic Rivers Land Trust. Sarah mentioned contacts made at a recent Forestry meeting as potential candidates to fill the NGO position. Kim requested that any contact information be sent to her and she will reach out to prospective members.

2023 Legislation:

- A) House Bill 0090, Control of Running Bamboo: Kim described features of this Bill that is currently being considered by the MD Legislature as she recently sat it on a related Committee meeting. The Bill involves **County** level regulations and fines if landowners allow Golden Bamboo or Yellow Groove Bamboo (both Tier 2 invasive plants) to grow without proper upkeep or allow it to spread to adjoining properties or a public right of way. Kim also mentioned that legislators had questioned why these bamboo species had not initially been determined to be Tier 1 invasive plants.
- B) House Bill 0950, Establishment of a Native Plants Program: This Bill, also under legislative consideration, involves the establishment of a Native Plants Program as a **voluntary** resource for garden centers and wholesale nurseries to promote and market plants as “Maryland Natives”. The Bill, if passed, would also require an official Native Plants List and create a UMD-Extension Native Plant Specialist position.

Review of Updated Plant List:

Kim pointed out that several plants have been added to the Maryland Invasive Plant List as “Additional Plants Considered”. Per State Law, these additional plants are among those listed in the publication titled Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas. Note: No Aquatic plants, recognized Federal Noxious Weeds, or plants deemed to not be offered in the green industry trade were added to the list.

Sarah posed the question of whether IPAC should prioritize a “Top 10” list of these plants. This would serve as a starting point if/when a new MDA staff position is created to oversee, among other related work, the completion of these Weed Risk Assessments. In response, Kim provided the group with the updated list and requested that IPAC members send her their prioritized “Top 10” lists of plants to receive WRAs prior to the scheduled May meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.
- Next IPAC Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2023 with invitations and agenda forthcoming.

IPAC Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2023, 9:30am on Google Meets Platform

Participants:

Brent Cassell: Nursery Representative, Leyland Landscaping

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Dean of College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Cathy Stragar: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Steven Bell: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Nursery Inspector

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Chesapeake and Coastal Services

Daniel Root: Forestry Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Lara Mulvaney: Consumer Representative, Unity Gardens Anne Arundel

Joel Bush: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Forester in office of Environmental Design

Kim brought the meeting to a start at 9:33 AM on Google Meets platform. Intros not necessary, attendees are regulars.

Membership

Membership will continue to be updated as long as positions remain empty. Four positions have been filled but two remain empty. In particular, the MDE representative which should be filled by the new administration. Also the NGO position remains open. All candidates suggested have been unresponsive after initial contact. New suggestions for candidates for the NGO position are welcome.

Minutes

Kim sent the March meeting minutes out and asked for any changes. The committee voted to accept the notes for March without changes. Kim is working on getting the minutes for IPAC meetings onto the MD IPAC website page.

Legislative Update

Bamboo Bill (0090)

Native Plant Bill (HB950)

Kim sent out the final copies of each bill to participants to take a look at and ask questions or make comments. She gave a brief synopsis of each.

(HB950)

This is the voluntary program for nurseries to promote native plants for landscapes. This is a completely voluntary program. What's interesting is that this bill has the funding for the MD Extension position of

Native Plant Specialist included in the bill. Maryland Extension and MDA Marketing are implementing this program. Bill is in effect July 2024.

(HB0090)

The Bamboo Bill

This is also a voluntary program that Maryland counties may adopt to compel landowners to remove running bamboo from their property. The county can also ban the sale of bamboo within the county. Bill goes into effect October 1, 2023.

A discussion of the bamboo bill evolved from Brent Cassell's question towards the end of the meeting, about whose responsibility the bamboo removal is when a neighboring property is sending bamboo onto a homeowner's parcel, especially when that property is a roadside, ROW or park. The particular property is in Baltimore County off Rt. 30. This will be one of the challenges of the bill to fairly regulate these property/trespass questions. Kim mentioned that several county folks have shied away from adopting the bill since their parks and properties have significant stands. It will be interesting to see what role MDOT will play since they manage a significant amount of roadside.

Brent and Steve Bell had good observations about people still planting bamboo and small landscape companies illegally dumping yard waste onto roadsides and natural areas. Larger growers and nurseries must dispose of invasives in landfills or incinerate them. Smaller businesses often don't have the resources to do that. The bill does not explicitly mention bamboo dumping, although existing littering and dumping laws might cover the regulation of this activity?

Invasive Ranking

As a follow-up to an agenda item on the last meeting, Kim attached the results of ranking a list of invasives for WRAs from the new list. Four participants responded. Kim hopes others will submit their rankings. Still no final word on the budget but looks likely there will be no funding for staffing to implement the many new additions to the list of invasive plants for WRA review.

Brent listed English Ivy as one and then the grasses Miscanthus and Pennisetum as top three to get on the tier listing for Maryland. He talked about making sure to use the right plant in the right place. And how Vinca minor could be used in contained beds and was low maintenance and very deer resistant but should never be planted on the edge of a woodland or natural areas.

Daniel asked Kim to resend the list and Kim asked those who hadn't responded to take a few minutes and get back to her in an email. Of the four who responded there was both overlap and yet rankings were very different.

Kim closed the meeting at 10 AM after all the agenda items were discussed. The next IPAC meeting will be Tuesday July 18th, 2023 at 9:30 on the Google Meets platform.