

Meeting of the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council (PGISC)
Thursday, September 8, 2022 | 10:00am
(Held virtually via Microsoft Teams)

** All text in italics indicates additional information included by the minute taker except where scientific names are mentioned.*

Council Members Present: Andrew Ernst, Andrew Rohrbaugh, April Moore, Bradley Cardinale, Brian Harris, Cliff Lane, Fred Strathmeyer, Jocelyn Behm, Joseph Demko, Kate Harms, Lisa Murphy, Mary Beth Ruh, Ruth Welliver, Sara Stahlman, Sarah Whitney, Sean Mahoney

Other Participants Present: Ali Bowling, Amber Rose Stilwell, Brant Portner, Brenda Shambaugh, Dana Rhodes, David Nihart, David Scamardella, Deb Klenotic, Derek Eberly, Ekaterina Nikolaeva, Ellyn Campbell, Erin Lee Frederick, Eve Adrian, Grant R. Gulibon, Janet Creegan, Jessica Lenker, Jonathan Geyer, Jordan King, Kierstin Carlson, Kris Abell, Michael B. Dunn, Michael Hutchinson, Michael Parker, Nick Trivelli, Robert Caccese, Stephen Rudman, Susan Marie Boser, Trilby Libhart, Zachary Newby

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Fred Strathmeyer (PA Department of Agriculture – PDA) thanked members of all the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council (PGISC) committees who have been hard at work since the last Council meeting. Fred thanked Eve Adrian (PDA) specifically for her new role in spearheading the Legislative committee as well as making sure we are up-to-date on Council membership.

Fred thanked Kris Abell (PDA) and many others who tried to secure PRISM (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) funding for the state, which unfortunately has not yet occurred. Fred has talked with various stakeholders across the state in recent weeks and the need *(for a funded PRISM program)* is obviously there. In a few months, there will be a new administration along with changes in the state legislature. Fred looks forward to hearing what strategies the Legislative committee is discussing to ensure the conversation around PRISM stays front and center.

Announcements, Roll Call, & Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) conducted the roll call.

MOTION: Joseph Demko (PA Department of Transportation - PennDOT) moved to approve the June 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Cliff Lane (County Governments) seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) mentioned that the next PGISC meeting will be on December 6, 2022. Based on previous survey data gathered by Kris Abell (PDA), the December meeting will be virtual. The 2023 PGISC meeting schedule will be as follows:

March 7: In-person option - (this meeting type will be firmly decided upon on Dec 6, 2022)

June 6: Tentative site visit with virtual option

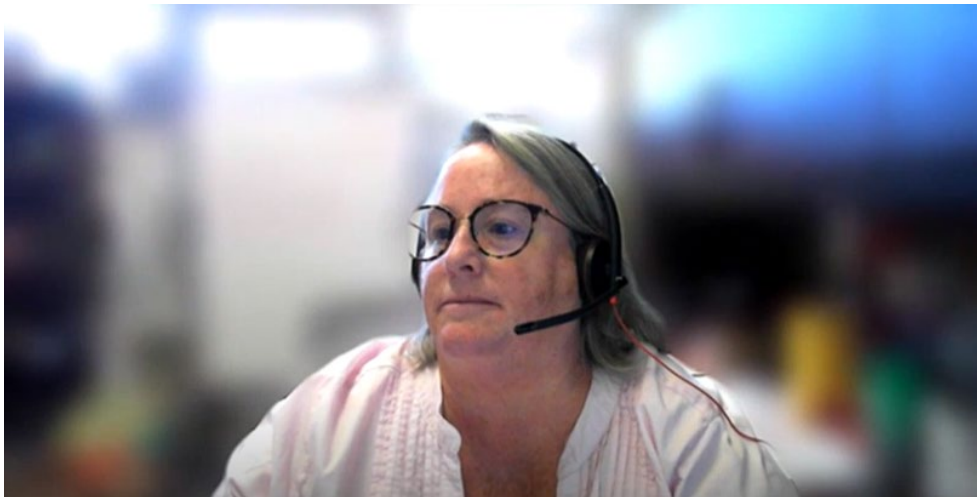
September 12: In-person option

December 5: Virtual only

Prior to COVID, the wish of the Council was to visit a site as part of a PGISC quarterly meeting. There's been very good success in getting participation from folks located around the state, both members and non-members, when PGISC meetings can be held virtually. With that in mind, we'll continue to talk about how to host future meetings as time goes on.

Do You Know Your State Plant Regulatory Official?

Guest Speaker: Dana Rhodes, Plant Protection Division Chief, State Plant Regulatory Official, PA Department of Agriculture



Dana Rhodes

Each state has a State Plant Regulatory Official (SPRO). A few territories including Puerto Rico and Guam also have a SPRO. The role of a SPRO is to act as a liaison with the [USDA APHIS PPQ](#). This includes issues of plant health and pest issues that could harm agriculture, interstate shipping (federal quarantine pests), and international trade.

A SPRO also acts as a liaison with other states on plant health and pest issues, interstate shipping (state quarantine pests), and interstate trade. Finally, a SPRO also liaisons with other state agencies such as DCNR, Penn State University, and PennDOT. (As an example, Dana mentioned that PGISC member Joe Demko of PennDOT has worked with her in the past on various projects.)

There is a national association for SPROs in states and territories called the [National Plant Board](#).

SPROs work with USDA on permit approvals such as for insect releases for bio-controls, research requests/containments, and butterfly releases, live bait, or live pet food. SPROs also work with USDA on trace events, such as when a greenhouse/nursery finds a pest of concern in their production area that was shipped. Shipping locations are identified and industry partners are identified to ensure they do not have the pest of concern. Or if they do, methods of proper disposal and sanitation are implemented. The goal is to ensure the pest does not establish. SPROs also work with USDA on new pest detections in order to determine the threat to agriculture and determine its distribution.

Part of pest detection is conducting surveys. In Pennsylvania, Dana coordinates with DCNR, Penn State, and the American Public Gardens Association. Regulatory pests include:

[Sudden oak death](#) (*Phytophthora ramorum*)

[Ralstonia](#) (a genus of bacteria)

[Xanthomonas](#) (a genus of bacteria, many of which cause plant diseases)

[Boxwood blight](#) (*Calonectria pseudonaviculata*)

[Box tree moth](#) (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

[Japanese beetle](#) (*Popillia japonica*)

Common pests include green aphid, scale, and mealy bug.

SPROs always provide information regarding new pests. This includes working with industries and doing outreach with homeowners. SPROs also determine possible pathways for pests. For example, SPROs work with industries that are conducting shipping via trucking, air cargo, and rail lines to ensure they understand the threat of moving potential pests and provide assistance by looking for them.

Dana has been the Pennsylvania SPRO since 2011, and during that time, she has found there are many ways that pests can move around. This includes international trade, international travel

guests, interstate travel, artisans, tourists, leisure, and home goods. In particular, Dana mentioned the [Beagle Brigade](#) which are beagles that work at airports for Customs Border Protection to sniff out items (e.g., an orange) in luggage that should not be transported across borders.



Beagle Brigade

When emerald ash borer (EAB) was first becoming an issue, it was being traced to firewood used for campfires (*as its mode of transportation*).

Regulatory incidents are a single event where a pest is found, contained, and there is no need to worry. Surveys occur afterwards to double check the pest has not spread.

Examples of (*actual*) regulatory incidents include:

- A table shipped from China that contained live bugs inside; sounds of gnawing and chewing could be heard which alerted the buyers of the issue.
 - Wood carvings were purchased by a tourist; it was later noticed that sawdust was coming from the carvings from small holes. Wood borers were later discovered to be inside.
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Examples of regulatory incidents

To prevent these types of issues, it's important that wood is heat treated or kiln dried to ensure no (*live*) pests can move with these products when they are transported.

In relation to safe trade for green industry, Dana mentioned working closely with Gregg Robertson (another PGISC member) of the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association.

In relation to interstate trade (for green industry), SPROs provide access to training for plant inspectors on various pests. They also provide certificates/compliance agreements for interstate movement of plant material to meet other states' regulatory requirements.

In relation to international trade (for green industry), SPROs provide access to training for plant inspectors to become Accredited Certification Officials (ACO) to issue Federal Phytosanitary Certificates. SPROs also work with USDA on maintaining markets for Pennsylvania producers

to ship plant products such as logs, nursery stock, and seed. They also work with certification programs such as the [Fruit Tree Improvement Program](#) (FTIP), etc.

SPROs are responsible for setting up quarantines which are used to slow the spread of pests. Currently in Pennsylvania, quarantines exist for boxwood blight, spotted lanternfly, and a firewood quarantine. By establishing quarantines for particular pests, this helps give science and technology some time to develop management methods. Quarantines are also used in combination with providing outreach on a particular pest to the public and related industries.

When quarantines are established, it demonstrates to other states and countries that a pest is being taken seriously and that work is being done to make sure it is not moving on commodities. This was especially important with spotted lanternfly wherein many other states adopted the same language that Pennsylvania put together for the spotted lanternfly quarantine.

Quarantines also help companies continue with business by understanding necessary permitting requirements and the seriousness of certain high priority pests.

With certain pests, eradication can be possible; however, this can take years to achieve. At the very least, it takes four years to eradicate a plant pest, but usually around ten years. For example, Plum Pox Virus was successfully eradicated from Pennsylvania, of which Dr. Ruth Welliver (PDA) was a huge part of.

As the PA SPRO, Dana's duties with the National Plant Board include representing Pennsylvania at regional and national meetings, coordinating with other states on interpretations of regulatory requirements, and serving on committees. Committees that Dana serves on include:

- Phytophthora ramorum
- PPA 7721 (Farm Bill) Review Committee – Suggestion 4 – Nursery
- Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC)
- Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan

If there is a pest situation, there are options for mitigation including stopping sales that prevent spread and then a trace forward/back which entails knowing where plant material was shipped to or from. Notifications are made to other states as well as locations in Pennsylvania with necessary information with the goal of minimizing impact.

Surveying is another pest mitigation strategy. Many survey groups are working to determine if pests of concern are here in Pennsylvania. Then a determination needs to be made whether a quarantine is required, or if it is just a one-time incident.

Finally, treatment for mitigation purposes involves the removal of infected material, use of pesticide(s) for control, and in some cases the destruction of plant material (which is the worst-case scenario).

Please notify Dana if you find something new or unusual. Provide location information and a picture if possible. Don't make assumptions. Social media posts may be from a different location. Official identification is needed before action can occur. Be careful about sharing information. We don't want people to panic. Sharing information too early can impact Pennsylvania businesses. A pest may not be what we thought, or more information may be needed.

Be proactive by being an informed consumer and asking the following questions: Where is your material originating from? Are there pests of concern in high numbers nearby? Is your vendor aware of a pest concern that could move with shipments? Has the company had any problems with pests in the past?

Inspect shipments coming to you. Have a receiving area away from your main inventory. Don't co-mingle products together.

Consider asking vendors if they are in certification programs. Systems Approach Programs are being developed for many industries and products (seed, nursery stock, food programs, etc.). Programs have standards for companies to uphold. Programs verify the standards are being met.

Don't continue to use vendors which send bad material or pests of concern. The "good deal" they offer may not be worth the money. Treatments and destructions are at the cost of the owner. The vendor may not provide credit or offset costs. State and/or federal authorities do not have authority to make a vendor provide restitution. The time you spend can't be compensated.

Working together with a SPRO can take many forms. Examples include forming partnerships and providing information to each other on missions and goals. Also, finding ways to link everyday tasks to assist each other, such as DCNR's Parks Reservation System which allows individuals to input their zip code which then provides information about how firewood used by campers can provide a transport method for pests. Also, coordination with the DCNR's Forest Survey Coordination keeps all informed on important surveys, such as for Beech Leaf Disease. Additionally, the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) is run out of the PDA, and the CAPS annual meeting allows for coordination amongst PDA and other state agencies on the pests being looked for. Finally, building relationships prior to an emergency is a very important way to work together.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Updates

Spokespersons: Robert Caccese, Director of Policy at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), and David Nihart, Division Chief of Fisheries Management for the PFBC



Left: Robert Caccese, Right: Dave Nihart

The PFBC currently has a proposed rule out for public comment to rewrite some regulations concerning the introduction of fish into Commonwealth waters as well as addressing aquatic invasive species (AIS). This proposed rule is known as the Chapter 71A rewrite and aims to rewrite Chapters 71 and 73 of PFBC's regulations in Title 58 of the PA Code. Part of this new proposed rule would be a stocking authorization program. Much of what is already in Chapters 71 and 73 would remain as this is good regulatory information (e.g., retaining information about triploid grass carp applications and introducing those species into waters). The intent is also to add some new sections to address aquatic invasive species (AIS), conservation challenges that are being dealt with, and to be in line with neighboring states (*in regards to their rules and regulations*).

One new section would be the creation of a stocking authorization program. PFBC is also proposing to have fish health regulations for certain species intended to be stocked in waters of the Commonwealth. Most notably in this new rulemaking, especially for members of PGISC, would be the creation of watercraft inspection requirements. The purpose of watercraft inspections is to prevent anglers or boaters from spreading AIS from one waterbody to another. This would include not allowing individuals to drive away from a waterbody with aquatic vegetation present on their boat and making sure recreationists are inspecting their boats prior to leaving an area. The new rulemaking would also specify the need for boaters to drain live wells and bilges to prevent contaminated water from being spread from one waterbody to another.

Currently, at least 19 other states have this type of AIS regulation in place. Regarding the stocking authorization program, at least 30 states have something in place and Pennsylvania is one of a few states in the Northeast that does not.

This new rulemaking does not intend to prohibit or prevent fish stocking in the Commonwealth. The PFBC wants to ensure our state has a healthy aquaculture industry and healthy aquatic resources that we strive to manage.

Right now, the public comment period for this proposed rule is open until September 17, 2022. All comments received are read and taken seriously by the PFBC. Needed revisions will be made before finalizing the new rulemaking.

On September 28, there will be a Fisheries and Hatcheries Committee meeting of the board of commissioners; a link will be available to watch the meeting online. During that meeting, public comments received for this proposed rulemaking will be reviewed, next steps will be determined by the board, and discussions will be had on how to improve certain aspects of the regulation.

For the PFBC to provide proper protection for aquatic resources and address concerns related to AIS, there needs to be a mechanism in place that allows the agency to review all requested fish stockings and consider if there are ecological risks. Where appropriate, the PFBC can then authorize a stocking. Anyone interested in stocking fish in waters of the Commonwealth will be required to submit an application. Examples of fishing stocking could include an angler wanting to stock fish behind their camp for recreation purposes, a sportsman's group holding a derby, etc.

The proposal process is being looked at in two phases. Phase One is notice of stocking; this would be implemented beginning January 1, 2023 and go till December 31, 2024 (two years). All individuals wishing to stock fish would be required to submit a notice to stock. This will provide an opportunity for the PFBC to gather additional information on what is happening (*regarding fish stockings*). As it is now, the PFBC has very limited knowledge of stockings that are occurring across the state, except for what the agency itself is doing. Gathering this information will help PFBC ensure they have enough staff to help review these permits and applications when the time comes.

Then on January 1, 2025, Phase Two will begin which is known as the stocking authorization. At this point in the process, all applications received by PFBC will be reviewed and either approved, considered for revision, or denied. Certain criteria will be used by PFBC during the review process (e.g., species of fish, number of fish, stocking location, or any fish health concerns that PFBC has).

More information about this PFBC proposed rulemaking is available on [PFBC website](#) – it's titled "FISHING – Proposed Rulemaking – Propagation and Introduction of Fish into Commonwealth Waters". Online, interested individuals can view the:

- [PDF of Proposed Rulemaking published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin](#)
 - [PFBC Fish Health Protocol](#)
 - [Comment on this proposed rulemaking](#)
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Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) asked how PFBC plans to enforce the watercraft inspection portion of the proposed rulemaking, and are there plans to have watercraft cleaning stations to help promote this aspect of the new regulation? Robert Caccese responded, saying that if a PFBC law enforcement officer was present at a dock (*at a waterbody*) and noticed something, the agency could take enforcement action. However, the key to enforcing the watercraft inspection portion of the proposed rulemaking is via education to ensure folks know what the regulations are. Regarding cleaning stations, Robert is aware of a cleaning station that was in use at Beltsville State Park (*Carbon County*) this past year, but the PFBC is looking at grants and other funding opportunities to possibly get more cleaning stations put at inland waters in the future. Sean Hartzell (AIS Coordinator at the PFBC) would have more information.

Fred encouraged Council members to stay tuned with PFBC's proposed rule-making. It's the right thing to do in terms of dealing with invasives. Fred commends PFBC for moving forward with these efforts.

Kris Abell (PDA) asked for clarification on whether the proposed rule-making also includes information on bait buckets. Robert responded, saying that yes, the rule-making does include information on bait buckets and that individuals should not release bait into a waterbody after they are finished using the bait. This will prevent spread of bait species.

Dave Nihart continued the PFBC presentation by talking about environmental DNA (eDNA) detection of [silver carp](#) (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) in Presque Isle Bay that happened earlier this year as part of sampling done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The USFWS detected eDNA from silver carp in one of their water samples that was collected in Spring 2022 in Presque Isle Bay. This sampling effort was done as part of the USFWS's early detection work of invasive carp in Lake Erie as well as the other Great Lakes. In this case, invasive carp refers to three species of fish including silver carp, [bighead carp](#) (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), and [grass carp](#) (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*).

On July 11, 2022, the USFWS contacted the PFBC with information that they detected the presence of silver carp eDNA in one of the 100 water samples that were collected in Presque Isle Bay from their sampling efforts that occurred during the first week of May.

Note: It's important to understand that a positive eDNA detection doesn't always indicate that a particular species is present in an area; rather, eDNA indicates that a species may be present there. eDNA can be transported through bird droppings, boat live wells, bait buckets, etc.

However, in this case, the eDNA findings were a bit alarming based on the knowledge of the harm caused by invasive carp in other areas where they are present. The last thing we want is for invasive carp to invade the Great Lakes.

Once the PFBC was informed of this news, there is a process in place (an invasive fishes communication protocol developed by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission). As part of that protocol, an event description form was filled out by the PFBC. This form gives the PFBC the ability to provide information that is known, as well as information that the PFBC would like to know. This information is then vetted by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. In this case, it is reviewed by the Lake Erie Committee which Pennsylvania is a member of. The benefit of handling things this way ensures that this matter is handled in a way that other agencies approve of, and also allows these other groups to provide input and guidance on how they feel the PFBC should address the issue(s).

As part of PFBC filling out an event description form, information on next steps was included. Those next steps included targeted boat electrofishing in the area where the silver carp eDNA was detected, which was the southwest corner of Presque Isle Bay. Three days after the occurrence was detected (on July 14), PFBC biologists conducted two hours of targeted boat electrofishing in and around the area where the positive detection was located. Thankfully, no silver carp were detected or observed from that effort.

In addition to next steps, one of the requests by PFBC was that the USFWS return during the month of September and collect additional water samples for eDNA testing. The agency does plan to do this in about three weeks' time. They plan to collect another 100 samples from the same area where the original samples were collected. They will look to see if any additional eDNA is collected.

In addition to PFBC's sampling, the USFWS returned to the area the week of August 29th (about a week and a half ago) and they conducted some additional boat electrofishing. Their sampling effort encompassed 190 minutes of dedicated sampling time. They did not collect or see anything. They also did some [fyke netting](#) in the area, but didn't collect any invasive silver carp (or other types of invasive carp) from these efforts.

Next steps will hinge on the results from eDNA testing that the USFWS will collect in a couple weeks. If no additional eDNA is collected, PFBC will consider the action to be complete and the area will continue to be monitored through routine surveys.

On July 25, the PFBC released a press release detailing this information.

If anyone has specific questions regarding this event, folks can reach out directly to Dave Nihart or Robert Caccese of the PFBC. Any time eDNA is collected for an invasive carp, it is concerning. Thankfully at this point, based off the additional information we currently have, it's just one positive eDNA test and does not indicate there is a presence of adult or live invasive carp in the area.

Invasive Species Listing Committee

Spokesperson: Kris Abell, Pennsylvania Governor’s Invasive Species Council (PGISC)
Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

At the last PGISC meeting in June, the Listing Committee submitted several lists of invasive species for consideration and voting by the Council to post to the Council’s website. The vote passed at the last meeting and the [website has been updated](#) to reflect these lists. The following screenshot(s) taken from the PGISC website shows this updated information.

The screenshot displays the PGISC website's 'Invasive Species of Concern for Pennsylvania' page. The page is structured with a navigation menu on the right side, containing links for 'About Us', 'News', 'Invasive Species of Concern for...', 'Managing Invasive Species', 'Proposed Partnerships for Regional...', 'Report an Invasive Species', 'Pennsylvania Native Species Day', and 'Learn More'. The main content area is divided into several sections, each with a title and a brief description, followed by a link to a PDF document. The sections include: 'Plants' (More than 140 invasive plant species pose significant risk...), 'Plant Pathogens' (There are 25 plant pathogens of most concern...), 'Insects' (There are 18 insects of greatest concern...), 'Aquatic Animals' (Almost 60 invasive aquatic animals are identified...), 'Aquatic Animal Pathogens' (Ten viruses and diseases are of greatest concern...), 'Mollusks and Other Land Invertebrates' (Asian jumping worm and broadhead planarians are emerging threats...), and 'Birds and Mammals'.

Kris encourages all Council members to visit the website and see this information for themselves.

The plants list has been on the website for a while, but the new lists (shown on the right side of the screen capture) are the newly added species lists. This includes plant pathogens, insects, aquatic animals, aquatic animal pathogens, mollusks and other land invertebrates, and birds and mammals. This is a great accomplishment and a step forward to have these lists provided on the PGISC website.

When clicking on one of the species lists, the information that appears is in the form of a downloaded PDF. (*Below is an example of the “Invasive Insects of Greatest Concern to Pennsylvania” PDF.*) Explanations are provided for what the terms in the Threat Category refer to (potential, emerging, and established) as well as a definition for the Score column. Species in

each of the PDFs are listed based on their Threat category, and then within each of those categories, species are listed alphabetically by common name.

Invasive Insects of Greatest Concern to Pennsylvania				
Threat Category:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential: Not yet found in Pennsylvania, but considered a potential threat. • Emerging: Has been detected in some locations, with risk of spreading. • Established: Widely established in Pennsylvania. 				
<p>Score: A composite score from 0-80 reflecting the potential invasiveness of a species and its economic, environmental, and human health impacts using a modified Generic Impact Scoring System for invasive species. The scoring system was modified to include an assessment of invasive potential. Species without scores have yet to be evaluated.</p>				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Threat Category	Regulatory Status	Score
Allium leaf miner	<i>Phytomyza gymnostoma</i>	Emerging		
Cherry curculio	<i>Anthonomus consors</i>	Emerging		
Elm zigzag sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Emerging	Federal	
Fall armyworm	<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>	Emerging		
Hemlock woolly adelgid	<i>Adelges tsugae</i>	Emerging	Federal	
Lily leaf beetle	<i>Lilioceris lillii</i>	Emerging	Federal	
Sirex woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio</i>	Emerging	Federal	
Spotted lanternfly	<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	Emerging	State	37
Viburnum leaf beetle	<i>Pyrrhalta viburni</i>	Emerging		
Walnut twig beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>	Emerging		
Balsam woolly adelgid	<i>Adelges piceae</i>	Established		
Brown marmorated stinkbug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	Established		
Elongate hemlock scale	<i>Fiorinia externa</i>	Established		
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agilus planipennis</i>	Established		
Introduced pine sawfly	<i>Diprion similis</i>	Established		
Japanese beetle	<i>Popillia japonica</i>	Established		
Spongy moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Established	Federal	
Spotted-wing drosophila	<i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	Established		
Asian garden beetle	<i>Maladera castanea</i>	Potential		
Asian giant hornet	<i>Vespa mandarinia</i>	Potential	Federal	
Asian longhorned beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Potential	Federal	
Box tree moth	<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>	Potential	Federal	
Crape myrtle bark scale	<i>Eriococcus lagerstroemiae</i>	Potential	Federal	
European fire ant	<i>Myrmica rubra</i>	Potential		
Kudzu bug	<i>Megacopta cribraria</i>	Potential		
Red imported fire ant	<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>	Potential	Federal	
Spruce longhorned beetle	<i>Tetropium fuscum</i>	Potential	Federal	
Winter moth	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>	Potential		

At the last meeting, there were a few questions/concerns that were discussed by the Committee. For example, several species were presented that were not assigned a threat category yet, or were changed subsequent to when voting occurred. These changes were not significant enough to require a new vote; however, we wanted to make the Council aware of them. Please review the lists on the website and if there are any concerns or issues, let Kris Abell know.

As a starting point for all of the Committee's lists, the [Pennsylvania iMapInvasives tracked species list](#) was used, which was a big help. From there, some species were removed or added, based on the determination of the Committee.

The aquatic pathogen list was compiled by Coja Yamashita of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. The Committee thanks him for his efforts. (He is not a member of the Listing Committee, but his expertise and time were greatly valued.)

At the last PGISC meeting, there was a question raised whether we intend to create any other lists, particularly for human, livestock, animal, and wildlife pathogens. At the last Listing Committee meeting, it was determined that both human and livestock pathogens are out of the scope for both the Committee and the Council. However, the Listing Committee is considering compiling a list of wildlife pathogens, similar to what has been done for aquatic pathogens, and is currently consulting with the PA Game Commission to determine what the list might be and if it makes sense to provide that information on the website.

At the last PGISC meeting, Jim Grazio (DEP) and a few other individuals pointed out that species can't always be easily assigned to a Threat Category. There are some details and complications that make this process difficult. This can relate to distribution, where some species are native to a part of the state, but invasive in others. We're also combining a number of characteristics of a species (i.e., distribution, invasiveness, and if it's an Early Detection Rapid Response [EDRR] species), which can result in difficulty when assigning a species to a correct category. While the Committee hasn't come to a clear conclusion on a method to amend the species categorization, it is recognized as an issue and the Committee will continue to discuss and hopefully make improvements.

A question was asked regarding whether information should be posted on species that are considered by Committee, but ultimately rejected for inclusion on species lists housed on the PGISC website. The Committee determined that this information should not be published to the website. Their reasoning was that the compiled lists are based primarily on expert opinion, and without a formal scientific assessment process, there's not a solid/defensible way to justify why those species were rejected other than expert opinion. In the case that a formal assessment is done, which would provide reasons for why a species is rejected, then this information could be released (*posted to the PGISC website*).

Because the [Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee](#) (CP&NWC) conducts rigorous assessments of the species they consider for addition to the state noxious weed list, there is justification and benefit to maintaining a list of rejected species by the CP&NWC on their website.

Finally, the Committee recognizes that more assessments are needed to assess the invasiveness of more species.

The CP&NWC requested that the Listing Committee consider whether the following species should be added to the PA noxious weed list, and if they would consider adding them to the PGISC invasive plant list. (This request arose from public comments received by the CP&NWC.)

- * [Rose-of-Sharon](#) (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
- * [Sweet Annie](#) (*Artemisia annua*)
- * [Lilacs](#) (*Syringa*)
- * Plantain (this could refer to either [genus](#) or [species](#))
- * Zoysia grass (this could refer to either [genus](#) or [species](#))
- * [Bedstraw](#) (*Galium* spp.)

[American lotus](#) (*Nelumbo lutea*)

[Heavenly bamboo](#) (*Nandina domestica*)

The Listing Committee determined there was no justification for including six of the above-named species on the PGISC invasive plant list (*see starred species*), and at this time are not recommending that they be considered by the CP&NWC as additions to the PA noxious weed list.

However, the Listing Committee did feel that America lotus could be considered for the PGISC invasives list, but was not recommended for consideration as a noxious weed (but more research is needed). Finally, the Listing Committee felt that Heavenly bamboo should be researched further and possibly be included on both the CP&NW list and the PGISC invasives list.

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) asked how the Listing Committee is proposing to create a pathway to have additional research done, like what is needed for Heavenly bamboo. Will the Committee be reaching out to universities or other states for assistance? Will grant money be sought to conduct the needed research? Andrew Rohrbaugh (DCNR) responded, saying the Committee is leaning on expertise from the DCNR to conduct research needed for Heavenly bamboo (which is mostly on Andrew R. at this point). That will include conducting an invasive species assessment and bringing more information back to the Listing Committee as well as the CP&NWC. Andrew's research will also impact whether the DCNR will include Heavenly bamboo on their [invasive plant list](#).

Fred responded to Andrew's comments, saying Andrew is just one person (and he already has a full-time day job with DCNR). Looking to the future, this will not be the only instance when additional research needs to be done. Reliance should not be on just Andrew/DCNR, or Trilby/PDA. Fred suggests that the Listing Committee start looking at other methods to build out some of these questionable pieces, and if research is needed, start looking at grant opportunities with USDA, Fish and Wildlife, PDA, etc. This is a big task for someone who has a full-time job doing other things. Kris Abell will bring this to the Committee's attention at their next meeting. Andrew R. also mentioned that the Listing Committee has done a good job of reaching out to a variety of different groups and stakeholders to get help with conducting invasive species assessments and other research projects. However, a grant process would make this much easier.

Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee Update

Spokesperson: Trilby Libhart, Botany and Weed Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

At the most recent Controlled Plant & Noxious Weed Committee (CP&NWC) meeting held on July 21, 2022, the Committee voted on and approved three plants to be added to the Pennsylvania noxious weed list. They include:

[Lesser celandine](#) (*Ficaria verna*) (Class B noxious weed)

[Chocolate vine](#) (*Akebia quinata*) (Class A noxious weed)

[Wild chervil](#) (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) (Class A noxious weed)

These species will become official noxious weeds on October 11, 2022 (60 days after being published in the [PA Bulletin](#)).

The next CP&NWC meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022 from 1-3pm and is open to the public. Species to be voted on at the October meeting for addition to the PA noxious weed list include:

[Burning bush](#) (*Euonymus alatus*)

[Chinese privet](#) (*Ligustrum sinense*)

[European privet](#) (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

[Japanese privet](#) (*Ligustrum japonicum*)

[Border privet](#) (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)

Also at the October meeting, there will be presentations on invasive (*shrub*) [honeysuckles](#) (*Lonicera* spp). as well as [starry stonewort](#) (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), an aquatic plant.

There will also be discussion of moving [parrot feather](#) (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), which is currently listed as a PA noxious weed, from a Class B to a Class A noxious weed. There wasn't enough research done on populations of this plant found in Pennsylvania, so it is being considered for Class A designation due to there being fewer populations of it than originally thought.

These species (i.e., honeysuckles, starry stonewort, and the noxious weed designation for parrot feather) will be voted on at the January 2023 CP&NWC meeting.

Legislative Committee

Spokesperson: Eve Adrian, Executive Policy Specialist 2, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

As many know, a [Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management](#) (PRISM) program for Pennsylvania did not get funded by the legislature this year. Because of this, the Legislative committee is shifting our focus to the creation of draft legislation while simultaneously planning for legislative field visits and outreach efforts by other organizations and stakeholder groups. This is different from our previous strategy because we were more focused on putting legislation on the back burner.

For the draft legislation, our aim is to get a draft completed for PGISC and PRISM. Ultimately, we want PGISC to be more permanent and also have the PRISMs be funded. There's a few different ways to do that. Currently, our committee is trying to narrow down how the legislation can be most effective while not causing legislators any concerns. We'd like to complete the draft legislation in time for when the Senate is back in session in the fall. We'll also be able to promote it during the Farm Show in January.

Shea Zwerver (former lead of the Legislative Committee) provided very helpful notes that are being used in our current efforts. They include info on getting potential legislation sponsors, co-sponsors, and having legislative champions.

Regarding our outreach efforts, we hope to do legislative visits to build support for PRISM within the legislature. We also hope to empower some champions in the legislature; however, so far, we have not been able to identify any legislative champions. We want to make an impact on the new legislators that will come into office after the upcoming election.

When conducting field visits, our plan is to go to various sites around the state and showcase where invasive species have impacted industry, livelihoods, utilities, etc., while also focusing on the message that invasive species impact you (the legislator), your stakeholders, your industry, and financially, they are a drain. To combat this issue, we feel that establishing a PRISM program in Pennsylvania is the best and most effective way to manage the spread of invasive species.

In addition to legislative field visits, we'd also like to do presentations for legislative committees including tourism, appropriations, environmental resources, agriculture and rural affairs, transportation, etc. These efforts will go hand-in-hand with others that aim to get in front of legislators and send the message that invasive species personally impact you (the legislator) as well as your constituents.

We're also trying to do external outreach to build a coalition of groups that can advocate for PRISM funding to legislators.

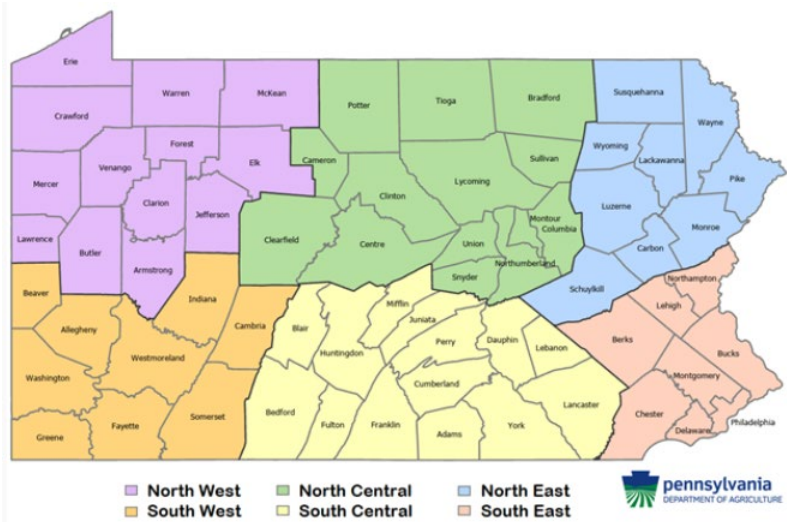
It seems like it's more desirable to get the message of funding PRISM and having PGISC in legislation via stakeholder groups than it is by the PA Department of Agriculture and department personnel. With that in mind, we are trying to universalize the message and talking points that we already have on file and send out to a variety of groups (e.g., outdoor, environmental, etc.) to hone in on our message and make it impactful for legislators.

We'll also be sending out a survey to organizations that work on invasive species management to gauge how many more resources are needed for management of invasives in the various regions of the state. This information will help pinpoint the amount of funding needed for invasives work (e.g., this is how much we spend on invasives, and this is how much more money we need to do additional work).

The PRISM Committee will be put on a temporary hiatus and will instead work with either (or both) the Communications and the Legislative committees on these outreach materials for PRISM.

We're also creating a toolkit of outreach materials needed by organizations or committee members who are advocating for PRISM. For example, if someone is doing a presentation for a small group of farmers, they could pull a sample presentation to be used as a template. This would also be true for printed materials, speaking points, etc. needed for outreach purposes. We hope to make any outreach related to PRISM as streamlined as possible.

Our committee's current strategy is to create a clear timeline for each task that includes responsible people/entities and how each task fits into the bigger objective (*of funding PRISM and establishing PGISC legislatively*). We created a shared document that all committee members can access and edit as needed. We hope this is an effective way of tracking all the various efforts that are happening simultaneously. The way we want to prioritize developing materials and outreach strategies is by PRISM region (*see graphic below*). In other words, for each of the six different PRISM regions, we will determine which are a priority compared to others. This will be done using legislator priorities in combination with cumulative potential impact(s) of invasive species in each region. However, that may be easier said than done.



Also, once the election is concluded, we'll be able to dive into legislative outreach and have a large body of resources available to us for those purposes. At present, our committee is determining what resources we need to conduct the most effective outreach moving forward.

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) asked what the Committee's timelines are for completing legislative language, toolkits, etc. Eve responded that the Committee just began doing this work and currently has preliminary timelines in place. For example, the timeline associated with completing draft legislation is slated for when the Senate is back in session. Prior to that, the timeline to complete incremental milestones is still something that needs to be done. Regarding outreach materials, that will be an ongoing effort. Ultimately, we have "high level" timelines in place that will require more detail. We'll need to talk more with Committee members because the timeline we use for these efforts will be predicated on who is committing time to do the outlined tasks.

Fred followed up by saying that the Committee needs to understand there is some urgency involved with this work (i.e., this isn't something to wait on till Fall 2023). The Committee needs to be prepared to move forward with action items sometime in Spring 2023 and potentially prior to the next budget cycle. Eve agreed, also saying there should be an internal conversation to gather thought, external factors that play into these efforts, and when things get done. This should happen before we meet again with the entire Legislative Committee. There are a few meetings already scheduled (internally) where this can be talked about further.

Deb Klenotic (DEP) commented about the proposed legislation and wondered how to make it as effective as possible. Is funding available (*to hire an expert*), or can we work with an expert consultant who knows how to write a legislative proposal? Eve responded, saying she wasn't sure if the Committee could work with a consultant, but she has names of a few legislative proposal experts (Matt Gabler and Gary Kale) who can be contacted for review purposes after

we complete draft legislation that is acceptable by Committee members. Stephen Rudman (PDA) expressed his full support for having Matt Gabler provide his feedback for this purpose.

Communications Committee

Spokesperson: Deb Klenotic, Deputy Communications Director, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

During the Legislative update, Eve Adrian (PDA) mentioned many initiatives that the Communications and Legislative committees will be partnering on together.

This fall and moving into next spring, we are prioritizing our efforts around trying to get PRISM funded and implemented. We learned last week that the PRISM workgroup is on hiatus, and anyone from that committee is welcome to join the Communications committee. We look forward to partnering closely with the Legislative committee on their efforts. After attending some of the Legislative meetings, Deb feels that some of the interaction between legislative, communication, and program experts (like PRISM) is incredibly productive.

As efforts to advance PRISM continue, we felt an online survey would be an effective way to gather helpful information. A year or two ago, a survey was sent out to several people asking if they wanted to be a partner in a proposed PRISM framework. The survey we are working on now will be a bit different by focusing on things like the top three invasive species being dealt with in an area/municipality/community/business sector, etc. What would you like to do to meet the challenge? What level of funding would help you accomplish your goals?

Deb mentioned that Amy Jewitt (Western PA Conservancy) provided insight into what the key information is that we hope to attain from the survey in order to inform future communications and outreach around the effort to gain legislative support for PRISM. Amy put together an initial draft of the survey that aimed to get at this target information. Deb is currently seeking feedback from other Committee and Council members regarding the survey – is there anything missing; anything that we could consolidate? We'll also need to identify who we want to take the survey and how we plan to get it to them. The information we gather from the survey will be invaluable.

There have been several outreach components mentioned in various calls over the past month or so, and ideas for others. Deb would like all outreach efforts to be coordinated under one plan. Generally, a communications strategic plan identifies target audiences, goals, strategies, messaging, products, channels and a timeline.

Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Workgroup

Spokesperson: Sara Stahlman, Extension Leader, Pennsylvania Sea Grant

Currently, there is a new version of the “[Pennsylvania Rapid Response Plan & Procedures for Responding to Aquatic Invasive Species in Pennsylvania](#)” posted to the PA Sea Grant website. We’re also hoping to get the Plan posted to the PGISC website.

A summer intern with PA Sea Grant was able to pull together a variety of information that was reviewed by the workgroup for use in an update to the “Best management practices for control and management of AIS in Pennsylvania” portion of the Plan. *(The following screenshot shows some of the updated information.)* The information is broken down by:

- Control method (e.g., eradication or management of a species population)
- What the various control methods are that fit within those categories
- Range of costs
- Examples of species managed by a particular control method
- Timing for control method
- Comments and considerations for specific control methods (e.g., permits needed, other species that could be affected, etc.)

Control Method	Description of Control Method	Cost (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$)	Examples of Species Managed	Timing	Comments
Eradication					
Chemical	<p>Pesticides/Biopesticides Used to remove and/or deter unwanted insects, fish, invertebrates, etc. Pesticide choice depends on the species being managed. May impact non-target species, though more targeted methods such as pesticide pellets for invasive fish are being developed.</p> <p>Some (bio)pesticides for AIS control include Rotenone, TFM, Antimycin A, Niclosamide, Zequanox, etc.</p>	\$\$\$	Mainly aquatic fishes including invasive carps, northern snakehead, and Eurasian ruffe as well as aquatic invertebrates such as zebra and quagga mussels.	Several factors may influence when pesticides are most effective including identity of target fish, environmental conditions such as pH, and risk of harm to non-native fish	<p>Permit Required (Appendix H)</p> <p>Product labels contain important information on use and safety precautions.</p> <p>Some chemical agents are broad spectrum and can impact species other than intended target.</p> <p>Some chemicals have both terrestrial and aquatic formulations.</p>
	<p>Herbicides Chemicals used to control/kill unwanted invasive plants. Herbicide choice depends on the plant being managed. Contact herbicides kill only the area in contact with the chemical. Systemic herbicides are absorbed and transported through the plants vascular system,</p>	\$-\$	Most aquatic and facultative invasive plants.	<p>Pre-emergent: Applied right before a plant emerges from soil.</p> <p>Post-emergent: Applied after plant has emerged. Often applied multiple times after emergence</p>	DEP Joint Permit Required (Appendix H)

This is an abridged version that fits into the Rapid Response Plan; however, there is still the idea to have a database of this information housed on the PGISC website and be organized by species. Right now, our workgroup is making sure all information is accessible when posting to the website. Once that task is done, this table (*seen in the previous screenshot*) will be put on the PGISC website.

Updates, Activities, and Events

Spokespersons: Council Members

Kris Abell (PDA) commented that Farm Show 2023 is quickly approaching and we hope to have a PGISC booth at the event. In the past, we've discussed having a different agency or organization of the Council take the lead (each year) and use the booth space, free of charge, as an opportunity to communicate their specific invasive species concerns to a broad audience. Now is the time to give this opportunity serious consideration. Please get in touch with Kris if your group has specific content you'd like to use the booth for and we can begin working on necessary planning. The dates for the 2023 Farm Show are January 7-14 and the hours the Show is open for exhibitors are from 8am-8pm (approximately). Crowds are generally heaviest from 10am-6pm. Kris clarified that a lead agency/org for the booth would not be exclusively responsible for staffing and set-up; it's really more about figuring out the content. As we've done in the past, there would be the opportunity for Council members to help staff the booth and do set-up.

April Moore (U.S. Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest) commented that this past week in the Allegheny National Forest, a large population of [mile-a-minute weed](#) (*Persicaria perfoliata*) was found. This is the first large occurrence of mile-a-minute weed that's been found in the area. (Previously, one mile-a-minute plant here and there was all that was found in the area.) This population of mile-a-minute is currently being treated.

Public Comment Period

None.

Concluding Remarks

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) provided concluding remarks and thanked all individuals serving on committees who continue to work diligently in between the Council's quarterly meetings.

Fred asked Kris if there is a timeframe Kris is hoping to get plans for a PGISC-sponsored booth figured out for Farm Show 2023. Kris responded that he will choose a deadline for this effort and will communicate that information to the Council ASAP.

Adjourn

Fred Strathmeyer (PDA) adjourned the meeting. *(No formal motion was made.)*

Next PGISC Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 10:00am on Microsoft Teams

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Jewitt, Invasive Species Coordinator with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program.

Questions concerning these minutes should be submitted to Kris Abell (krabell@pa.gov), Council Coordinator. If you are a member of the public and wish to attend the next PGISC meeting, please contact Kris for more information on the meeting's date, time, and location.
