

Present: Craig Digiammarino (AOT), Kim Jensen (DEC), Lynn McNamara (TNC), Elizabeth Spinney (FPR), Bob Popp (F&W), Meg Modley (LCBP), Ann Bove (public), Aaron Marcus (F&W), Charlie Hohn (DEC-Wetlands)-**phone**, Lisa Thornton (FPR)-**phone**, Toby Alexander (USDA NRCS)-**phone**, Mike Bald (Got Weeds?)-**phone**, MaryBeth Deller (USDA Forest Service)

Meeting Minutes

1. November Minutes:

a) November meeting minutes approved

2. Defining VIEPC Role for the Future

a) Discuss supporting background material for the committee: recommendations from ANR Work Group on Invasive and Nuisance Species Management Report (VT ANR, 2017), VT State Statutes, and other resources to reach a consensus of how best to move forward. Historic role has been Pest Risk Assessments and adding species to the watchlist. "Review of the membership of the historical committee by leaders of the participating organizations, and adjust membership as necessary" --from the ANR Work Group Final Report

VIEPC—quarantine rule states that VIEPC should report once a year. Thought the committee has not been assigned by the Secretary, perhaps we can still provide those recommendations.

Other states have an Invasive Species Committee to help inform the governing bodies, a good case for something VT needs.

Groups that should be represented on the committee: USFWS, USFS, USDA, FPR, FW, DEC, TNC, (CISMA's & Cons. Districts?), general public (with a science/plant background), Horticulture representation? **Action Items:** If folks think of other groups that should be represented, we'll add them to the minutes. Committee to follow up on compiling recommendations into a report for AAFM. Everyone consider what our roles are, so that by the time we meet next, we have a near term and far term plan, Kim to work on draft summary of roles, and share that with everyone, plan to get that out by May.

b) Define what the role of the Committee is moving forward: what are the questions we are asked as a committee, and is there overlap with questions we are asked in our separate work roles? How do we better inform the public of the watchlist species, and how do we manage the watchlist moving forward? Do we keep completing Pest Risk Assessments and keep adding species to the list? What is our philosophy, what information is missing, and how do we move that information forward? Our potential charges: bringing together expertise in the state, and with that expertise, making recommendations for species to be added to the quarantine and watchlist. This diverse expertise could agree on an approach on how to manage species and have a coordinated approach across our represented groups. **Action items:** update the watchlist with Y/N column, and fix synonyms and spelling (and make sure version has thunbergii spelled right). When Committee proposes additions, add in the name changes that need to be updated.

c) Expand role of Committee: Factsheets- What kind of public education materials could we get behind as a group, so that whoever the public approaches, it is a similar message? Factsheets? **Example:** New York has long term education outreach plan- https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/iseoplan.pdf. Sharon Plumb, when with TNC, moved us forward with factsheets for a number of species, this includes ID information, quick facts on impacts, alternatives for planting, and methods of control. There are also Treatment Sheets for a number of species, which includes phenology and when which type of treatment is effective. **Example:**

<https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/fact-sheets/--factsheet-garlicmustard08.pdf>
https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/2016-11/--treatment-GarlicMustard_final.pdf

These Treatment and Factsheets need updating, and should include information on how to deal with disposal, spread prevention, what's appropriate for landowners to do for management, especially with herbicide use, Rewording—making control options very clear of what landowner vs. certified applicators can do (ex. Treatment near water), and clarify clip/drip method. TNC usually has Americorps members, always looking for projects to work on in winter, could help with this project, ---with guidance from FPR invasive plant coordinator

Expanding role of Committee: VTinvasives.org Gallery pages- Some gallery pages missing. Current list of species needing a page (from the quarantine or the watchlist): Cabomba caroliniana (fanwort), Egeria densa (Brazilian elodea), Hydrilla verticillata (hydrilla), Hygrophila polysperma (east Indian hygrophila), Myriophyllum aquaticum (parrot feather), Salvinia auriculata (giant salvinia), Salvinia biloba (giant salvinia), Salvinia herzogii (giant salvinia), Salvinia molesta (giant salvinia), Butomus umbellatus (flowering rush), Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (frogbit), Nymphoides peltate (yellow floating heart), Aldrovanda vesiculosa (Waterwheel), Callitriche stagnalis (Pond water-starwort), Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth), Marsilea quadrifolia (European watercress), Rorippa nasturtium (watercress), Stratiotes aloides (water soldiers), Valeriana officinalis (common garden valerian).

Current list of species with pages "in the works" (from the quarantine or the watchlist): Filipendula ulmaria (Meadow dropwort), Petasites japonicus (Japanese sweet-coltsfoot)

Action Items: Both Treatment and Factsheets need updating, and it would be useful to create Factsheets for more species. We need clarification of what can be provided on the factsheets. Tasks—list of what species have factsheets, which other species do we want to prioritize for the new factsheets, what species are on the vtinvasives.org website (aquatic vs. terrestrial). Work with VTinvasives.org Aquatic Invasive Species contact (Josh Mulhollem, Kim Jensen?) to complete pages for each of the species listed above that do not have gallery pages. Need photographs of *Filipendula ulmaria* and *Petasites japonicus* for their gallery pages. Factsheets—when they start to be updated, everyone shares their distribution data for each species. TNC and Elizabeth to speak this year about project for Americorps member (factsheets), which would be reviewed by the Committee.

3. Vermont Invasive Species Collaboration

- a) **VTinvasives.org Webpage-** Can the website be used as an all-inclusive location for information across our groups? What are other ways we can collaborate? The committee is represented on the VTinvasives.org website— <https://vtinvasives.org/land/regulations/vermont-invasive-exotic-plant-committee>
It was asked if the link to the watchlist can be moved forward on the website? Potential to add it to the Summary text at the top of the Gallery Page. **Action Items:** Elizabeth to speak with website lead on whether we can add a more visible link to the watchlist. Need to cross reference the riparian species in both aquatic and terrestrial galleries (ok to be repetitive). Everyone to review the VTinvasives.org website to become familiar with existing resources and identify what we want to add to/improve/make new, and also review APIPP resources: <http://adkinvasives.com/>
- b) **How do Committee member agencies define and list species and inform/share with other agencies and the public?** Our different groups have different guidance documents for internal and external education/information. Example: AOT has guidance documents for maintenance activities, and how to avoid the spread of plants, which gets the information out there to its staff, that the work is not just pulling up or spraying, but also cleaning off gear and boots, etc. AOT—federal work program, nexus to highway system, is updating their guidance documents, may be able to do a cost share, JULY/AUGUST for OCT 1, moving forward for a year.

Can we share our management plans from each of our entities, with the rest of the group? What are the guiding philosophies for each entity? We should identify whether these documents are for internal guidance, and what information is available to the public? **Example:** Wetlands- more that could happen through the permitting, it would be good to anchor to something, a universal resource?

Prioritization- spread prevention (ties all our organizations together), factsheet information, used to inform a guidance document (later on)

Data Collection- Should be a statewide effort amongst our organizations. Need something like iMapInvasives, or EDDMaps, need funds for iMapinvasives, other free options like EDDMaps?

Functionalities of each? Each of us has our own mapping databases internally, can get make a central repository for the data?

- maybe a position to have someone overseeing the database, and receiving the information from everyone

- talk with groups like VCE who have experience

- need buy in from all groups to put information in a central place

ex: *Ficaria verna* in a few more places than thought, centralized data would be useful!

Action items: Everyone send Elizabeth a couple sentences of what their organization does to combat invasive plants, so we can highlight the achievements of our organizations

4. Other Items of Discussion

a) **Municipal mowing of knotweed**- Last summer, informal communication from town crews with Invasive Plant Coordinator indicated that in the past, Towns were told mowing didn't spread knotweed. Elizabeth working with Joanne Garton (FPR) and Stu Johnson (AOT- Local Roads) on a training opportunity in Calais this spring, and will make sure the most current information on knotweed management is shared.

AOT- VTrans training center, group sessions held, Stu taps into that, multiple venues to get information out to municipalities, VTTC, Local Roads is an offshoot, and focus on municipal needs

Rivers and Roads training, Kim took training, but it did not talk about invasive plants, offered by River Engineers at DEC (they have a booklet, maybe add something into that booklet). Municipal roads general permit, manual lacks invasive plants, talk to Jim Ryan (Kim offered to do this), and share information on invasive plants.

VTrans- materials- invasives BMP, targets their maintenance operations folks, municipalities refer to that, willing to review that with the committee and have it updated and have a consistent messaging among all groups

b) **Question to the group (of experts!): Fallow agricultural land, how to manage invasive plants in that succession?**

c) **Species that have "fallen through the cracks"- Knotweed, purple loosestrife, phragmites, yellow flag iris.** Can we propose who might be the point organizations for the species? What is the goal? For point organization to share information on ID and control? For point organization to manage state wide? Need to clarify goals.

d) **Need the following Pest Risk Assessments** (will be older ones archived somewhere!):

Myriophyllum heterophyllum (variable-leaved milfoil), Salvinia auriculata (giant salvinia), Salvinia biloba (giant salvinia), Salvinia herzogii (giant salvinia), Vincetoxicum hirundinaria (pale swallow-wort), Aegopodium podagraria (goutweed/bishopsweed/snow-on-the-mountain), Ailanthus altissima (tree-of-heaven), Alliaria petiolata (A. officinalis) (garlic mustard), Celastrus orbiculatus (oriental bittersweet), Lonicera x bella (bell honeysuckle), Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle), Lonicera maackii (amur honeysuckle), Lonicera morrowii (Morrow honeysuckle), Lonicera tatarica (Tatarian honeysuckle), Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife), Potamogeton crispus (curly leaf pondweed), Rhamnus cathartica (common buckthorn), Rhamnus frangula (glossy buckthorn), Trapa natans (water chestnut), Vincetoxicum nigrum (black swallow-wort), Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertner European black alder, Amorpha fruticosa L. False indigo, Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Maxim.) Trautv. Porcelainberry, Cardamine impatiens L. Narrowleaf bittercress, Centaurea maculosa L. Syn.: Centaurea biebersteinii DC Spotted knapweed, Elaeagnus angustifolia L. Russian olive, Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb. Autumn olive, Euphorbia cyparissias L. Cypress spurge, Glyceria maxima (Hartman) Holmberg Reed mannagrass, Hesperis matronalis L. Dame's rocket, Ligustrum obtusifolium Sieb. & Zucc. Border privet, Lonicera xylosteum L. Dwarf

honeysuckle, *Lysimachia vulgaris* L. Garden loosestrife, *Marsilea quadrifolia* L. European waterclover, *Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus Japanese stilt grass, *Paulownia tomentosa* (Thunb.) Sieb & Zucc. Ex Steud. Princess tree, *Phalaris arundinacea* L. Reed canary grass, *Polygonum perfoliatum* L. Mile-a-minute vine, *Polygonum sachalinense* F. Schmidt ex Maxim. Syn: *Fallopia sachalinensis* (F. Schmidt ex Maxim.) Dcne. Giant knotweed, *Populus alba* L. White poplar, *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. Black locust, *Rosa multiflora* Thunb. ex Murr. Multiflora rose, *Valeriana officinalis* L. Common (garden) valerian

Action items: everyone review Japanese knotweed PRA, if you have old PRA's from the list above, please send them to Elizabeth. Kim to start list of who created what PRAs, when, how many versions, and does a factsheet exist? (Ann to help revise it)

- e) **List of contractors we can share with the public** (up to them to clarify if contractor is certified) **Action items:** NRCS to share list with Committee, if Okay.
- f) **Statewide plan for invasive plants?** Can we work towards a ranking evaluation process tended to focus on areas of higher ecological importance, areas with less invasive plants in the landscape? Can we develop a cohesive state plan? See models from New York, in their Invasiveness ranking <http://nyis.info/?action=israt>

5. 2018 Schedule

November 8th, 2018. Please add meeting date to your calendar.

6. Future Topics (To be discussed at a later date)

- VT Early Detection, Rapid Response Network: Develop a Vermont Network to incorporate/include defining the structure for the VT EDRR. Examples from Forest Pest Resource Plan (Kathy), VT DEC AIS (Kim), LCBP EDRR (Meg), Draft terrestrial document by Brian Colleran? (Bob)
- Go over PRA's of species on watchlist to review which ones we wanted to recommend to the quarantine
- Bob P. has updated Aaron's RTE document, and bolded ones already on the watchlist, and 5-7 species not on the watchlist. List from ANR Invasive Policies group also has list of species, Bob P. to check the old sharepoint drive to see if he can find that list. **Action Items:** Bob P. to send Eliz his updated version, and put file on up on the SharePoint
- Species with documented decline impact to native species, or just known to be present? In a lot of these cases, species are becoming abundant, and look like they might have an impact, but there is not documented decline. Higher on the list has more documented information, but no direct studies. In VT, we don't have a lot of data documenting the invasion impact, NY does have case studies with data. And in some places, there are invasive plants that aren't having an impact on RTEs. Can we include some of this information in PRAs?
- Wetlands- preliminary data of poor wetland condition and invasive species, still in progress
- Might be helpful to know where invasive plants are potentially impacting RTEs, for other land managers in the state. How to share that information?
- Maybe start PRAs for species on Aaron's list of potential problem plants?
- Japanese stiltgrass—folks in other states are finding no luck with management. Bennington County, Japanese stiltgrass, Mike Bald to point us to the source of this information, good to get this documented
- Working with the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets- new utility projects, conditions in the certificate of public good requiring the utilities to manage and control invasives. It is not dictated how they do that. Are using herbicides. From Ag—not covered under utility pesticide agreement. Can only control species that are going to impact the wires. Controlling invasive species invading ecologically sensitive area, RTE, or wetland/riparian area is not an allowed use. Ag may be leaning towards allowing it for ecological purposes if required by a permit to treat invasive plants. This is fairly recent information, nothing certain yet. Bob and DiGi will continue the conversation. This is impacting AOT and ANR programs and permits.