

MISAC MEETING MINUTES (conference call), 15 June 2015

Meeting called to order by Bryce C. at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Bryce Christiaens, Chip Weber, Dave Burch, Gary Adams, Jane Mangold, Jeff Baumberger, Lindy Garner, Mark Reller, Mike Miller, Steve Wandaraas, Tom Boos, Steve Hertel, Stephanie Hester

A. Defining MISAC Priorities

1. *Independent assessment of all programs*

- We would have an all-taxa assessment instead of solely aquatics as has been performed in OR and Alberta. Those people who expressed an opinion during the meeting were in favor of an independent assessment.

2. *Hold invasive species summit to share and discuss results of assessment with stakeholders*

- Primary focus of the summit would be the information gained from the assessment and gaining further input from stakeholders and the public.
- Question was raised as to whether this would be an open meeting or just MISAC. It would be open to anyone.
- Bryce would run idea past the Governor's office to get their approval and hopefully endorse the summit.
- Need to make it very clear from the onset what the goal of the summit is, that is, discussion of the assessment.

3. *Development of a strategic plan*

- Information gained from assessment and summit will be incorporated into a roadmap for Montana. This strategic plan could result in a prioritization invasive species for MT (previously an identified priority from Stephanie's 6/12/15 email).
- What would be cost of some of the recommendations in the strategic plan and how would we come up with those costs? Point was made that this would be addressed in implementation stage and not necessarily a task of MISAC. Perhaps this could provide justification of why MISAC should continue after our two-year appointment. Council could prioritize objectives into short, mid, and long-term objectives and assign who should/would be responsible for carrying them forward.
- This priority seems like it would be the hardest of them all because we might be comparing things that are so different and how would we prioritize which is most important. Montana is a little bit late in the game with this all-taxa strategic plan. It's not clear if we would have to develop a scoring mechanism on our own or we could borrow from other states. Two separate perspectives (inside MT and outside, independent assessment), so we try to find a comfortable place in the middle.
- We each represent a different stakeholder group and it would be up to us to figure out who would be best fit to fill a gap in the strategic plan, carry out task, etc. So, we know who has the capacity to take action in solving the problem. The strategic plan doesn't necessarily solve the problems, but rather identifies the problems/needs/who could address the needs.

- Once we have assessment, who consolidates information into a strategic plan? Do we develop workgroups to do this? That seems like something we will have to address in the future as to whether MISAC can take this on or if we hire someone to do it for us.
- Is the final deliverable of MISAC the assessment or the strategic plan?
- Important for us to use a strategic plan model that already exists so we can plug in our information rather than coming up with something completely new.
- MDA has started working on a list of priorities. Will the assessment take this into consideration? Yes, they should be able to review what is already in existence and take it into account.
- Question was raised about questionnaire that Tom, Dave, and Gary are developing. Do we need to do this in conjunction with independent assessment? Discussed below. . .
- *Motion to accept these priorities and communicate them to Governor's office (Dave B., seconded by Chip, motion passed, unanimous).*
- Do we need approval from Governor's office? No, but it would be good to give them an update, get their endorsement, so they might possibly help fund the assessment/summit.
- Carrying these priorities forward is dependent on available funding.
- \$30,000-\$35,000 is likely required to do an all-taxa assessment.
- Having the priorities on the Governor's desk will allow us to move forward with pursuing these priorities; can talk about funding as we move forward.

B. Workgroups

- Need to put at least two workgroups together to develop RFP for all-taxa assessment and planning of summit.
- *RFP workgroup:* Executive committee + Stephanie will draft one and let the rest of the council review it
- *Summit planning workgroup:* Stephanie, Tom, Dave, Mike M.; possibly some others who aren't on call today.
- Mark R. stated that BPA might be able to find some funding to help with this. If workgroup can put together a short paragraph describing what summit will be, we could take that to potential funding sources.
- Workgroups will move forward with tasks once priorities are communicated to Governor's office

C. Questionnaire

- Seems like having the independent assessment plus questionnaire might be confusing.
- General agreement that questionnaire is not needed since we are moving forward with the independent assessment.
- Questionnaire will be put on hold until after independent assessment is conducted

D. Open letter to public to collect public perception data re: invasive species

- Mark R. would be willing to put something like this together.
- It would probably be wise to get approval from Governor's office if we are sending out something like this.
- Good idea, but maybe a bit early in the process? Might be a good way to advertise the summit and get information from stakeholders.

- We might get all kinds of information, but none of it useful enough to incorporate into assessment/summit/strategic plan.
- If/when the time becomes right, Mark R. is still willing to work on this.

E. Other items

- We need to get feedback from rest of MISAC since this is a proposal of how we're moving forward.
- Email to members who aren't present that outlines what we discussed, how we're moving forward, etc.
- Members knew that we would be voting on these priorities today.

Motion to adjourn (Tom B., Mike M. seconded). Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jane Mangold