

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>		<b>MISAC Meeting Minutes</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	July 22, 2015	<b>Time:</b>	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Alicia & Stephanie	<b>Location:</b>	Capitol Building, Room 152, Helena
<b>1. Meeting Objective</b>			
Administrative business, programmatic planning and discussion			
<b>2. Attendees</b>			
See attached			
<b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Meeting is being recorded today. Via telephone: Steve Tyrrell, Integrated Ag Services; Lindy Garner, USFWS.		
<b>Invasive Species Stakeholder Listening Sessions – Dean Pearson, Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, USFS</b>	<p><b>Quantifying Impacts of Invasive Weeds for Prioritizing Management</b></p> <p>Why quantify? Economics – resources are limited, but invasives are many. Use a noxious weed list – basic starting unit. ID and prioritize. Tend to be subjectively selected and organized because of lack of info. MT list has priority 1A and 1B (not in system yet), 2A (minimal in system), 2B (widespread, lots of problems), 32 species. How address this group of 32? What about other exotics that are not on the list? Quantify impacts: Impact = Range of organism x Density x Per Capita Effect Range and density easy to quantify. Per capita effect is very difficult.</p> <p>Dean’s research has used a dry grassland example: bluebunch grassland. Why are some ranges more resistant to weed invasion (Argentina)? Why do some plants take off in such an aggressive way? Dean now has rankings for per capita effect in bluebunch grasslands. Cheatgrass is #1, #2 knapweed, #3 leafy spurge, #4 sulfur cinquefoil Other species identified as having a large impact that are not on noxious weed list, for example: moth mullein. Local abundance is important. This sort of ranking can identify future problems “sleepers” (moth mullein example) Degree of invasiveness does not equal impact. Some invasives can effectively start to act like a native in the system. MT list 1A and 1B are not on Dean’s impact ranking list because they are not yet in the state. In bluebunch habitat type, Knapweed has huge impact, but Canada thistle has little to no impact. Cheatgrass has huge impact #1, but is Priority 3.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> How applicable to eastern MT? This research was applicable to bluebunch habitats. In eastern MT, Canada thistle would have a huge impact. Model could be applied to other habitats</p> <p>Dave Burch – re: cheatgrass – every time petitioned, has scored high. But when Ag creates list, they recognize economic impact of the prioritization on the local county weed districts, and seed grass industry. So, the Ag noxious weed list is based on other factors than impact. But impact information is helpful information to managers.</p> <p>Conclude:</p>		

	<p>Can quantify and rank weed impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-current impacts</li> <li>-ID and rank sleepers</li> <li>-baseline for future impacts</li> <li>-habitat specific</li> </ul> <p>Dean estimates it would cost approximately \$50,000 per system to get these data for other habitat systems (weeds).  Can possibly also apply method to other types of invaders.  Lots of information on the USFS website:  <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs-beta/science-spotlights/invasiveness-and-impact-48-exotic-plant-species-native-grasslands">http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs-beta/science-spotlights/invasiveness-and-impact-48-exotic-plant-species-native-grasslands</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/wildlife-terrestrial/invasive-species/">http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/wildlife-terrestrial/invasive-species/</a></p> <p>Tom: has Dean compared to other risk assessments?  Is there a role for citizen scientists? Plant identification would be a challenge, but yes possible.</p> <p>Lindy asked about modifying the effect factor. Yes, could look at a specific response. Applicability to new invaders – local abundance is a huge factor, # of locations. With a new invader, like medusa head, when start, low # locations but large local abundance. 1A species – Ag has looked at impacts on other states. Dyers woad and yellow starthistle have had huge impacts in other western states. Could apply a modeling effort looking at similar habitats to MT in other states. Calculate an effect factor to yellow starthistle for MT (not available now).</p> <p>Virgil: What about where one invader is replacing another? Medusahead for cheatgrass, for example. Bluebunch very susceptible to invasion. Probably will have many invaders forever. Maybe other habitats are more resilient.  Dean offers to be a resource to the group.</p>
<p><b>Administrative</b></p>	<p><b>Review &amp; Approval of Minutes May 27 and June 15</b>  Dave motion to approve, Tom seconds. Please add “minutes” at the top of future minutes. Passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Charter and Bylaws finalization and approval</b>  Executive committee tweaked the bylaws based on comments from last meeting. Were reviewed by FWP legal staff. DNRC OK with FWP legal review. Tom said FWP legal review had no comments. Looked for gov’s office handbook parallelism. Took out references to MT, other languages changes are available in track changes.  Statement of commitment: <b>Please have signed by Sept. 27 meeting</b>  Tom motion to approve charter bylaws. Steve Wanderaas seconds. Passes unanimously.  <b>Stephanie will send out cleaned up version (renumber and take off draft, editorial changes)</b></p> <p><b>New appointments update</b>  Jim Jacobs NRCS – at NRCS cost share programs weed control is a significant aspect, does outreach work, helps with ID of weeds,  Plant materials program – develop plants to address natural resource concerns, plant trials. Based in Bozeman. Plant material center is located south of Laurel. Going through Governor’s approval process</p>

Other vacancy – Natural resource group – a few applications have trickled in, but Governor’s office will not have time to review until August. Get word out if have ideas for who could apply.

Full council = 21 members

#### **Coordinator Position update**

Stephanie works for DNRC, not for the Council. Stephanie passed out a draft summary of how she can support the council’s efforts. Percentages refer to half time. Is half time adequate? Stephanie not sure, this time of year is very busy. Stephanie will start to document hours she spends on MISAC work.

**Please make comments & send to Stephanie by July 31.** Stephanie and Alicia will work with DNRC human resources to finalize.

#### **Invasive Species Councils in other states, PNWR and MISAC**

How can MISAC best interact with these other organizations and efforts?

Takeaways from PNWR meeting:

Mark Reller says the attendees are weighted to legislators.

Bryce: PNWR is supporting concept of perimeter defense. MISAC should have representatives at future PNWR meetings.

Stephanie says PNWR hired a consultant to write a plan for how to use WRDA \$ if it is ever allocated (authorized for \$20 million). Plan being made for \$4 million. 28 priorities – too many, but they want input from the states. No strategy for how MT should respond. Stephanie passed out the plan summary she brought from the PNWR meeting. Expanding role to all invasives, not just aquatic

Mark thought the draft \$ allocation was lightly weighted to MT, too light. Clearly it’s important that MT have a voice.

Dave: there was talk of an invasive species council’s summit. There was good attendance to the invasives discussions.

Virgil: connected with WA state invasives staff. Linking water issues invasive plant species with invasive fish (ex. Flowering rush and northern pike)

Linnaea: agrees presence at future meetings is very important

**Tom will take lead for MT comments- PNWR contractor would like comments back on draft plan by July 31.**

#### **Calendar for State**

Dave: MISAC meeting needs to be posted on State site.

Stephanie: MISAC meeting was posted on DNRC site but **will work with Dave to be sure future meetings are on the State site.**

#### **Information Dissemination**

Starting in fall: All Invasives Newsletter, if group wants it.

Need for upcoming events notices

MISAC has a web site under DNRC: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/MISAC>

Executive committee is meeting every other Thursday.

**Stephanie asked for a communications committee to help her look at the web site and make it useful.**

<p><b>Invasive Species Stakeholder Listening Sessions – Clint Sestrich, USFS, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Council (GYCC)</b></p>	<p>What is GYCC? 50 yrs old, Managers from national parks, USFS, BLM, refuges in Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. 22 million acres, headwaters of 3 major river systems. Native animals still present, native fish still present. Consensus decision making. Assign priorities allocate \$ to invasives including aquatics. 11 subcommittees. Travis Ziehl and Clint are the subcommittee for AIS Note EWM, CLP, mud snails, they observe CLP and mud snails spreading Mission is to work cooperatively.</p> <p>Goal 1 – prevent new introductions of AIS Inspection stations, decontamination equipment, messaging to public, doing a gap analysis (noticed lack of a database), prevention protocols How they would like to coordinate with MISAC: -social marketing campaigns -prevention messaging -inspection stations -prevention and decontamination protocols</p> <p>Goal 2 – Survey report and respond to AIS Database: thanked Stephanie for providing data How they would like to coordinate with MISAC: -Standard survey and monitoring protocols -Conduct AIS surveys strategically -Share data -Rapid response planning (maybe federal waters NEPA compliance would delay response for years) 2016 rapid response exercise planned</p> <p>Goal 3 – Abate ecological socioeconomic and public health safety impacts from AIS How they would like to coordinate with MISAC: -Develop plan for &amp; implement effective AIS treatment control &amp; containment needs</p> <p>Goal 4- provide cooperative environment Turnover is a challenge, duplication of effort, limited capacity of people and \$ How they would like to coordinate with MISAC: -Participate in calls and meetings -Develop relationships</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> How do subcommittees function? Meet separate, Have subcommittees summit. NEPA bottleneck: Plans for programmatic options? Hard because site specific analysis might be needed. Virgil: invasive species legislation? – will be talked about later.</p>
<p><b>Program Discussion – Priorities and Budget</b></p>	<p><b>Governor’s Support on Priorities</b> Governor’s office is supportive and in agreement about priorities, but has no staff or \$ to contribute. Missoula County Weed District has received \$ 27,000 for MISAC. (including \$10,000 from DNRC, \$10,000 from Missoula County,\$5,000 FWP, \$2,000 Avista )</p> <p>Gary Adams says Farm Bill \$ opportunity is coming up. The FY 2016 Implementation Plan and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the Farm Bill Section 10007 Web site at <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/farmbill">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/farmbill</a>. APHIS will offer webinars in the coming weeks to assist anyone who is planning to submit a suggestion. Webinar details will be sent through the APHIS Stakeholder Registry. They will also</p>

be posted to the Farm Bill Section 10007 Web site.

Questions about the FY 2016 open period should be sent to [farbillsection10007@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:farbillsection10007@aphis.usda.gov).

### **MISAC Three Goals, Priorities, Timelines, Outcomes**

See strategic priority graphic

Gary Adams wants to be sure the tasks include creation of a list of priority species Group in agreement on the identified goals, priorities, timelines, outcomes

#### **1 - Program assessments RFP**

RFP Closes 7/24/15

Bryce passed out the RFP. Has heard from 3 groups interested in proposing. (One thing would be to spell out or develop a framework for how to ID priorities species list. Risk assessment. How rank? How often revisit?)

Tasks:

- 1 Assess programs and gap analysis etc.(may be a questionnaire? Will ask proposers for what method they propose. May be stakeholder meetings?)
- 2 Statute and rules gap analysis
- 3 Develop criteria for prioritization of invasive species

RFP Reviewers: Steve Bekedem, Dave Burch, Steve Hertel, Tom Boos, Mike Miller, Bryce Christiaens, Stephanie Hester, Amy Gannon

Ranking criteria was identified in the RFP. Patricia has comments. Need to assign points. Will do that next Thursday at the executive committee meeting. Steve Bekedam would like to participate. Executive committee will do, and Patricia offered to help.

Tom would like to see the criteria refined after the proposals come in. There may be a need to have interviews with the proposers (maybe on the phone).

Missoula County WD used county procurement process. Others have expressed that the process needs to be transparent and fair.

Patricia wonders about assessments that have been done in other states, places. Bryce: Kate in Alberta felt there was value in assessment they got, appreciates being able to refer to outside experts.

Oregon and Washington still rely on their assessments and they are a powerful tool to work with their legislatures.

Patricia other comments: Want to see tasks broken out by \$ amount.

Contractor to attend the September meeting.

#### **2 - Invasives Summit**

Stephanie has started leg work.

Comments on previous AIS summits were that Feb/March is not a good time for a summit. So looking at Fall 2016 specifically November.

Thoughts? Conflict with MACD?

Tom: What is goal of the summit? Should guide the selection of the date. Audience

and purpose of previous summits was not necessarily the same, should not guide the selection of the date for this one. Thinks a summit should come earlier for the purposes of preparing a strategic plan.

If goal is to present the assessment to the public & get their input, is a November date a good idea?

Stephanie explained goals of summit were defined as follows:

The Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) is hosting an Invasive Species Summit in early 2016. The event is intended to engage stakeholders in an in-depth dialogue and examination of prevention, detection, rapid response, and management of invasive species in Montana.

In 2015, MISAC sponsored program assessments for taxonomic groups (aquatic, terrestrial, animal, pest) within the state to evaluate and identify gaps in existing efforts. The Summit will serve as a platform for invasive species managers, county leaders, local and tribal governments, lake association members, conservation districts, angling groups and others who work at the local level to review assessment findings, suggest actions, provide the latest science, and develop a shared invasive species strategy for the state.

This two day-event will also feature national and state leaders and technical experts who provide on-the-ground applied science and actions to lower the risk of invasive species spread. Please join us for this important and timely collaboration to learn and plan together for effective, local invasive species prevention in Montana.

Stephanie said planning committee thought OK to simultaneously work on strategic plan, could still incorporate public input in time for end of year. November timing is good for pre-Legislature.

People concerned that November is too close to Legislature, too late to incorporate comments. All times of year have problems.

Tom thinks focus on timing that is right for the purpose of the summit. March might be the best time for working with contractor, have time to listen to public and incorporate their comments, has ideas for how could structure.

Dave: agencies will probably need time to review and to OK any strategic plan. Stephanie thinks need 6 months to plan a summit, so aim for March earliest date.

Why was the no Feb/March comment made on previous summit?

Will contractor be involved in summit planning? No

Tom: what is purpose of summit? Review plans, brainstorming, how fix, how address in field? Legislative needs. Work session more than just presentations.

Steve Tyrell: assessment should drive the working and info summit. Summit is also to get feedback from public and others, after assessment and summit comes the strategic plan.

Tom: MISAC needs to be fully engaged to make summit worthwhile, useful.

Summit committee needs:

-logistics

-presenters & format, structure

-communications (save the date, etc.)

Is there budget for an events coordinator? McCone county CD administrator may be able to help.

Who is writing the strategic plan? Contractor? How much will this cost? Who has

time? Will revisit later.

Decision for summit date:  
Propose March 22-23  
March 29-30  
April 5-6  
April 22-23  
**Stephanie will send out possible dates after checking other conflicts others will send Stephanie by end of week.**

Summit committee: Patricia offers, Gary Adams, Mike Miller. **Others?**

On strategic plan graphic, Tom wants to: Redefine Summit Goal: add engage stakeholders on assessments, give input to state strategic plan (done) Are two days necessary? Determined yes.  
Virgil: Poster session? Working sessions? Vendors? Informational sessions?  
Case studies for aquatic, weeds, pests? # of people to expect?  
Consensus on two days? yes

**3 - Strategic Plan**  
End product of the program assessments and invasives summit.  
Gary: Hope it includes a list of priority species. Yes, contractor to develop criteria.

**Overall MISAC Budget**  
Budget needs for Projects:  
Assessment: \$30,000-40,000  
Summit: \$15,000 -18,000  
Council functions: \$7,000  
Strategic Plan Draft: \$ 15,000

Present Funds:  
Missoula County: \$10,000  
DNRC grant: \$10,000  
FWP: \$5,000  
Avista: \$2,000  
Have: \$27,000

Need: ~\$38,000  
Potential other sources (now that MISAC has projects identified)  
MACD, MWCA, TU, Northern Rockies Council, Crop Production Services', BNSF  
Bayer

Steve Tyrell willing to approach:  
NorthWestern Energy - owns dams, aquatic interest  
DOW and DuPont Chemical – maybe summit sponsorship, terrestrial interest

Marketing: **Stephanie will put an info sheet together to approach funders.**  
Can't hire assessment contractor until have commitment for \$.  
Mike Miller might be able to get \$10,000 for assessment. (can't commit yet)  
Tom can maybe chip in another \$5,000  
Jeff - Bureau of Rec may have \$, but the process to transfer the \$ can be complicated.  
Steve Tyrell – CDs can sponsor grants  
Patricia wonders if can funnel all federal \$ through one federal agency, like Bureau

	<p>of Rec, if they can figure the process out. Her purchase order maximum right now is \$2,500. But could do a larger amount through another federal agency          Jeff B. will take the lead for finding out about funding at Bureau of Rec. <b>Other federal agency reps will figure out funding or other support available from their own agencies.</b>          Virgil – talk to Flathead Lakers, BIA          University of MT &amp; DOD contract for research for DOD facilities. Rick Hauer          Floyd – BLM has to go through assistance agreements. No \$ going out in MT because MT officer retired. He has no \$ this year. Next fiscal year not looking good.          Dave – Ag funding would have to go through the Noxious Weed Trust fund.          Amy - DNRC forestry division might be able to find \$ for strategic plan.</p>
<b>Program Discussion – Aquatic Sampling Field Guidelines</b>	Tom is revising and Virgil helping. Major revisions. Will send out a draft in a couple of weeks. Mark Aagenes contributing.
<b>Program Discussion – Healthy Habitats Legislation</b>	HR 1485 - would make invasive species a line item, get the \$ on the ground, back into the states. Can get someone to present more information on the bill. Will ultimately want support from MISAC and State legislature.
<b>Other Business Public Comment Agenda Items Adjourn</b>	<p>No public comments          Next meeting September 17 in Helena          Dave passed out Highest priority invasive species list from Dept. of Ag.</p>

4. Action Items				
Action (according to due date)		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Develop marketing info for fundraising for MISAC	SH	7/29/15	Done
1	Comments on perimeter defense plan—send to Tom	All members	7/30/15	
2	Comments on coordinator position description	All members	7/31/15	
3	Post approved meeting minutes to website. Add “minutes” to header	SH	8/1/15	
4	Summit planning—formulate committees and meet	SH	8/15/15	
5	Formulate communications committee for website, invasives newsletter and summit	SH	8/15/15	
6	Sign statement of commitment—send to SH or bring to Sept. 17 mtg.	All members	9/17/15	
7	Comment on Farm Bill \$ (see info. in meeting minutes)	Gary	9/14/15	
8	Post meetings on MT e-calendar	Dave B. and SH	Ongoing	Ongoing
9	RFP committee to meet 7/30/15 to discuss proposals	Bryce, Steve B., Dave, Tom, Patricia, Mike, Steve H., SH	7/29/15	
10	Schedule phone interviews with firms that submitted RFP and request they break out budget by task	Bryce	8/10/15	
11	Fundraising	All	Ongoing	Ongoing



# Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: MISAC  
 Date: 7/22/15  
 Place/Room: Montana State Capitol  
 Time: 10-4  
Rm. 152 Helena

PRINT NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
1. Dave Burch	MDA	St. Weed Coordinator	444-3140	dburch@mt.gov
2. Alicia Stickney	DNRC	RDG Program	444 0547	astickney@mt.gov
3. Steven Bekedam	NPS	EPMT Liaison	307-344-2185	steven_bekedam@nps.gov
4. Patricia Gilbert	COE	NRS	406-526-3411	patricia.gilbert@ausace.army.mil
5. Mike Miller	MDT	Marketing	444-6991	mikemiller@mt.gov
6. Steve Wanders	Picnic CO	Chair	650-7864	stevew@midhivers.com
7. Gary Adams	WMA/WRHS/WR	SPNO	449-520	Gary.D.Adams@aphis.usda.gov
8. Floyd Thompson	BLM	RMS + Executive Sp. Counselor	896-5025	fthompson@blm.gov
9. Tom Boos	MFNP	ATSCoord	444-1267	tboos@mt.gov
10. Jeff Baumberger	Reclamation	Manager, Resource Mgmt	247-7314	jbaumberger@usbr.gov
11. Bryce Christensen	Massada City	WED	258-4217	bryce@massadacity.org
12. Mark D. Keller	BPA	Montana Liaison	449-5783	mdkeller@bpa.gov
13. Tim Jacobs	USDA-NRCS	Travels Sp. Specialist	587-6995	Tim.Jacobs@mt.usda.gov
14. Dean Pearson	USFS	Research Scientist	542 4159	dpearson@fs.fed.us
15. Amy Gannon	DNRC	Information Systems	542-4283	agannon@mt.gov

# Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Project: MISAC  
 Date: 7/22/15  
 Place/Room: Montana State Capitol  
 Time: 10-4  
Rm 152  
Helena

PRINT NAME	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL
1. <u>Deann Pearson</u>	<u>USFS</u>	<u>Scientist</u>		<u>dpearson@fs.fed.us</u>
2. <u>Linnaea Schroeder</u>	<u>MT FWP</u>	<u>Biologist</u>	<u>444-3378</u>	<u>lschroeder@mt.gov</u>
3. <u>John Hagenruber</u>	<u>USFS</u>	<u>State Liaison</u>	<u>42910225</u>	<u>jhagenruber@fs.fed.us</u>
4. <u>Stephanie Hester</u>	<u>DNRC</u>	<u>Coordinate</u>	<u>447-6691</u>	<u>Shester@m.dnrc.gov</u>
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