

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC)		
Date of Meeting:	9/17/2015	Time:	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Hester	Location:	Capitol Room 172
1. Meeting Objective			
Regular bi-monthly meeting—stakeholder listening session continued, administrative business, programmatic planning, and discussion.			
2. Attendees			
Bryce Christiaens, Tom Boos, Steve Hertel, Amy Gannon, Dave Burch, Floyd Thompson, Gary Adams, Jane Mangold, Lindy Garner, Mark Reller, Mike Miller, Patricia Gilbert, Steve Bekedam, Steve Tyrrel, Steve Wanderaas, Virgil Dupuis, John Tubbs, Ray Beck, John Cantlon, Leigh Greenwood, Bob Peterson, Linnaea Schroeer, Alicia Stickney, Stephanie Hester Phone—Chip Weber, Jeff Baumberger			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Introductions	Bryce called the meeting to order at 10:02 Introductions- round robin		
Informational – John Cantlon, Cantlon Resources, Executive Director Healthy Habitats Coalition Presentation on HR 1485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described HH Coalition • Sponsors from House • Have had 2 subcommittee hearings • Opposition to bill – light • Just started working with Senate • New Senate bill will drive process over next few weeks • Category exclusions are core in legislation for EDRR • Addresses cooperative approach and capacity issues • Wants GOA audit to build metrics into bill • State governors are key to moving legislation along • Bill provides framework for leadership, prioritization, strategic planning • Other areas to address: line items, NEPA failures, funds that aren't on-the-ground driven <p>Q: Has this been vetted with legislative affairs [Forest Service] folks in WA? A: Forest Svs supports</p> <p>Q: Does this bill provide a new allocation for funding? A: Congress has to tell approps what numbers are. Built bill from approps. Want more money dedicated that doesn't "wobble away" to do on-the-ground invasive species work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to be a specific number attached to bill, but it would "score" (capture new money), so took out. Now just addresses efficiency of existing funds • How does money get distributed to non-federal land? Many layers—first didn't want to harvest money for Washington admin. Secondly, bridge private and federal (New Mexico example) • Why is DOD not mentioned in bill? They are included. Secretaries of Interior and Ag take lead role. <p>Q: What are education and research allocations? A: Looking at redundancies, e.g. multiple cheat grass studies.</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note of caution: decrease in modeling processes. Way to prioritize is to use modeling. USFWS is using these processes Incentives for those who are seeing success <p>Q: Capacity funds for planning not included. This is critical for tribal lands. A: The budget is 1.6 to 2.2 billion on invasive topics, admin at 10%. Included specific language for Tribes. Q: 5% net reduction in invasive species. What are the perimeters of measuring reduction. A: Bill doesn't write criteria for strategic planning. Q: Would line items protect funds from being transferred to fire? A: Up to Congress. Not taking lead in natural resource management. HHA can't write bill for Congress.</p>
<p>Listening Session – Leigh Greenwood, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Don't Move Firewood Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNC overview Campaign started in 2007 to reduce forest pest and pathogens from vector perspective vs. pest by pest Species: all forest pests and pathogens that move on firewood <p>Q: have you dealt with restaurants, e.g. mesquite wood A: yes Q: Does message vary by species? A: differs by species of concern in region Q: Explain heat treatment of firewood vs. kiln dry A: It's a numbers game. Most people burn in 24 hrs. But still a percentage that doesn't burn. E.g. leaving extra firewood at campsite. Heat treated is wood heated in kiln. No industry standards right now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNC works in most states + Canada to improve coordination Create custom materials Campaign focuses on personal behavior. Not about commercial supply. Emerald ash borer is biggest concern, second is proliferation of gypsy moth Emerald ash borer can be living 7 yrs. prior to ability to detect Have evaluated national poll data to understand if campaign is effective In Montana biggest concern is non-residents
<p>Administrative Session</p>	<p>Review and approval of minutes from July 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom moved to approve minutes as drafted Patricia seconded Passed unanimously <p>New appointments update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Smith appointed to MISAC to represent Natural Resource groups Gov. office suggested the council also include the other applicant, Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute, to participate in meetings, assessment, and summit. <p>ACTION: Once we have list of needs, send email to Mike and other applicants not selected encouraging them to attend meetings, summit, and participate on committees. Also ask Mike to present at the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to have system for members reaching out to others re: MISAC <p>ACTION: Create separate distro list for MISAC communications. SH to request members send list of individuals who should be on list serve. Also include survey participants on listserve</p> <p>ACTION: Mark and Chip will welcome newest member Tom Smith and bring him up-to-speed on MISAC. Need link to legislature—Bryce is working on this</p>

	<p>Budget update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed out budget update sheet • What does your agency need for additional requests? • Corp and MDT needs clarification on why Missoula County is fiscal agent • Corp Memorandum of Agreement must be signed in order for Corp to transfer money. Paves the way to exchange money • Patricia suggests each agency does their own MOA • Forest Service – transferred money through MOA <p>Statements of Commitment signed by members. ACTION-get statements from members not in attendance.</p>
<p>Listening Session</p>	<p>Bob Peterson, Associate Professor MSU, Risk Assessment Thresholds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment paradigm: 1) problem formulation; 2) analysis phase (risk-- effects, exposures); 3) Risk characterization (effect x exposure=risk) • Invasive species risk assessment is in the early stage of development. Dynamic nature of invasive species makes RA very difficult. • Consequence of establishment—once here what are the risks— environmental and economic. • Use tools to prioritize and better understand risks • Invasion Ecology vs. Disturbance Ecology • Need to understand your land management goals (economic and environmental) to understand degree of risk • Need to really understand effects and consequences. Need to get away from invasive is here, so treat, mentality. Do we need to target and control every invasive in every area? Need to evaluate case-by-case • Science-based risk assessment vs. perception-based risk <p>Q: What opportunities are there for risk assessment? A: Emerging science. Know of some studies, e.g. tree pest risk assessment—UC Santa Barbara, NCEAS</p>
<p>Assessment Discussion</p>	<p>Lisa De Bruyckere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 respondents so far, 3 businesses, 5 fed agencies, 10 institutions higher learning, local & co govts (about 20, mostly weed districts, including 1 weed board member, mosquito district, 1 water district), 3 non profits, state agencies) Need tribal/sovereign input. • Need to aim for Sept 30 as hard deadline because need info to do financial analysis, especially state and federal responses • Key entities who do not meet this deadline may need personal contact • After Sept 30, spend next 2 weeks tracking down missing info • Mid-Oct will have initial results to share. Coming to MT second week October and would like to review the results or can do via webinar. <p>Any concerns?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several have experienced issues with the survey being slow and/or getting kicked out of the system • Resolution. Decided on making available two forms: (1) original form and (2) a fillable PDF (can download on personal computer and fill out at leisure and submit later) • Is Lisa missing any other info? People have been sending Lisa information about programs, reports, etc. and Lisa is creating a document repository. She is amazed at the how much good information she has already been getting. • Lisa has done 4-5 personal interviews to help people filling out surveys, addressing issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virgil has a mailing going out to tribal chairs, natural resource reps--to go to 7 tribes in MT. Lisa offers to meet with them in October when she's in MT. Virgil may try to facilitate a meeting. • Bryce wants to make sure the survey is completed by NGOs. Stephanie put together a list of NGOs and others to reach out to at the beginning of process. Lisa will cross check against who has already submitted. For example, Wiltshire (ISAN) and Greenwood (TNC) have both filled out the survey. Have all the logical NGOs been contacted? • Issue about radio buttons only allowing one option to enter data? Lisa says already corrected. Lisa to look into issue. • Google document –MISAC members asked to review the google doc, who has filled out the survey, ID who else needs to be contacted. <p>Summary: Lisa will send and post a fillable pdf for the survey; she will update the google doc. ACTION: MISAC members will review and reach out to others as needed.</p>
<p>Summit Update</p>	<p>Stephanie presented an update and conceptual plan for summit (see handout for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to emphasize that the event is not just aquatics to distinguish it from previous AIS summits • Stephanie and Bryce meeting with the Governor's office tomorrow to ask for support and sponsorship of the summit ("the Governor's" summit) • Focus of the event is to gather stakeholders across MT for a working session to vet assessment findings and to come up with a framework of a strategic plan for the state • Meeting objectives: from where we have been, where we are now, where are we going? • MWCA gets close to 300 in January. Mountain Pine Beetle conference 2 years ago (with not a lot of outreach) had 80 people. So Stephanie will plan for 300 as a base. Will not cap attendance. • Will do a "Save the Date" in mid-October • Registration fee: \$100 suggested, possible offer continuing ed credits, scholarships for students, etc. Group feels no more than \$50 is appropriate. Limit amount to cost of food and cost of room. \$25 is better than \$100. • Vendors – not yet decided on. Steve Tyrell says commercial entities want to know what they get for their participation. Also, MWCA is a known entity, so vendors know what they are getting. This is a new market for private entities and they need to establish this relationship. Chip suggests a separate room or poster session? Don't need to decide today. Tom wants no registration fee. Wants people to come to work. Dave says industry people should not sit at booth and be a vendor, but participate. Not going to go with vendors or sponsorships for now. • Poster session – value vs a dinner • Helena venue options: Gateway Center is a conference center, bring in own food, lots of room vs. hotel downtown. Group likes this choice and approved moving forward on booking the space. • Budget: Stephanie put together a possible model. Looking at overall summit needs, the point is, the conference is affordable, MISAC can afford it. • Facilitation: It was decided that MISAC will hire professional facilitators for the break-out sessions. Several members expressed that this is key to having productive sessions with beneficial outputs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in hiring Lisa as facilitator since she will be presenting findings at Summit. Summit planning committee to discuss. <p>ACTION: If you have contacts/resources/availability for facilitators, please send them to Stephanie Steve Wanderaas knows a facilitator and offers the services of the CD administrator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of discussion about the proposed summit breakout sessions, possible topics for session, possible structures of sessions, ways to manage sessions, session priorities, how the statewide assessment may influence the breakout sessions, how to include all participants, what the role of facilitators may be, a facilitation pre-meeting, how to have interactive facilitators, what sort of knowledge and training facilitators may need to have, flexibility of sessions, possible for need for MISAC to reconvene on the evening of the first day to review the first day and refine for the second day • Summit planning committee will continue meeting to plan the event and will update the full Council at regular meetings or via email.
Communications Committee	<p>Bryce summarized committee progress and highlighted 3 main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be clear on main talking points for MISAC, so that if approached by others in agency or by press, we are consistent in our messaging. Stephanie will send out about 5 items to use for a standard message and an update of present status of projects. • Aquatic News distribution – Celestine Duncan’s contract with DNRC is ending and she is no longer going to do the Aquatic News. Celestine will send out one last message at the end of the month and pass the torch to MISAC. The new MISAC e-newsletter will be an ALL taxa newsletter. MISAC will send one mid-October • Goal of the e-newsletter is to make it simple, clean, succinct, relevant, and factual. • Stephanie looking for MISAC members to take the lead on categories and filter info to send to Stephanie. E- newsletter will be made into a pdf and posted on the MISAC website.
Montana Aquatic Sampling Field Guidelines	<p>Celestine putting on final touches. Stephanie will recirculate “final draft” for MISAC member review. Virgil has specific comments and will call to discuss with Celestine.</p>
Envirothon 2016 – Invasive Species	<p>Theme this year is invasive species. Stephanie is helping to write the problem scenario. May ask Council for help in reviewing.</p>
Other Business Public Comment Agenda Items Adjourn	<p>Washington Invasive Species Council is sunseting (they have a 5 year term) and needs to be reauthorized by the Washington Legislature. They are asking for a support letter from the MISAC. Bryce motions, Steve Bekedam seconds, group agrees. Bryce will check with the Governor’s office tomorrow to be sure is OK.</p> <p>Re: Healthy Habitats support – Western Governor’s group has supported, but Dave Burch says they are also seeking support from individual governors. MISAC will wait to provide any official support until the Senate version of the bill is out.</p> <p>In re appointments – charter says could remove a member for lack of participation. What is Governor’s role? Tom wants a process defined.</p> <p>--Process is defined, Stephanie will verify: If someone resigns or removed for lack of participation, governor will reappoint someone for that position. MISAC can recommend new members.</p> <p>An updated roster with new members was provided.</p> <p>Stephanie will also send out a roster with committee members, and seek other</p>

	<p>members.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u> John Tubbs - Director Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - sees great commitment of members travelling a long way to participate and clearly speaks to the importance. Glad to hear about the upcoming summit, and thinks best chance to get Governor to speak is to schedule early. Suggests direct contact with members not participating. Recognizes the purpose of this group is to protect Montana's natural resources. Likes the focused goals. Invasive species is a significant issue for many entities across the state. Thanks the members for their participation.</p> <p>Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 Meeting adjourned at 3:49 PM</p>
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4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send email to MISAC applicants not selected inviting them to participate	SH	Wait until we have tasks	On hold
2	Invite Mike Koopal to speak at the next MISAC meeting	Bryce	10/10/15	
3	Develop list serve for MISAC-related communications	SH and members	Ongoing	
4	Welcome Tom Smith	Chip and Mark Reller	10/20/15	
5	Statements of commitment from members not at meeting	SH to gather	11/10/15	Email sent
6	Review google doc – one last push for survey participation	All	ASAP	
7	Send name of potential facilitators to Stephanie	All	11/10/15	
8	Send out committee roster	SH	10/15/15	