

Meeting Notes for Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group
Thursday, September 10, 2015

ATTENDEES

Bruce Michael
Joe Love
Carol Jacobs
Jonathan McKnight
Jay Kilian
Margie Brassil (Delegate Stein's Office)
Elliott Campbell
Rich Norling

Donna Morrow
Barbara Beelar
Matt Ashton

Via Phone
Mark Lewandowski
Eric Null

Workgroup Introductions

B. Michael - reported to group that he met with Delegate Stein to brief him on progress of workgroup

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Video:

- Workgroup watched a watercraft inspection/decontamination video from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW4s8yeJkmo>)
- Workgroup also watched a new MD DNR video "Stopping the spread of invasive species in Maryland waters" (<http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/ais/index.cfm>).

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Presentation:

(Dee Davis, representing Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)

<https://app.box.com/s/icbkxdevthnb6ex1o4hrv4xnf20kchxe>

- Presentation described Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination trainings held in western states at Lakes Mead, Powell, Havasu, and Piru. These trainings are funded by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Lake Mead – five agencies involved; provide a “dry time” calculator to boaters; use high pressure and high temperature WID
 - Lake Havasu – Use a “Sticker a Mussel” program – boaters required to place sticker on boat
 - Lake Powell – Utah is very proactive – offer free decontamination for boats leaving Lake Powell to prevent ANS spread to other Utah lakes; Utah provides an online self-certification program for boaters. Boaters take the online training and print out the online form and place on dashboard of vehicle.
 - Lake Piru – Enacted a 30-day dry minimum with economic impacts (lost revenue from a cancelled bass tournament and decline in recreational users)
- WID trainings have incorporated a tool kit for teaching adults (link available in powerpoint) to improve ed/outreach to adult learners.

- Dee referenced the Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards document (http://www.aquaticnuisance.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/UMPS_II_doc2_APRIL_5_2012_FINAL_final_edits.pdf)
- There was a lot of initial push-back from boaters in western states; boaters often felt like inspections were invasion of privacy and were resistant.
- Dee was unaware of how each state funds their ANS efforts; Colorado has operating budget of approximately \$4 million; California and Nevada have an ANS fee with boat registrations – use sticker on boat to display to confirm that boater has paid fee.
 - E. Campbell – Any economic impact studies of inspection programs in west? Dee was not sure, but will check for the workgroup.
 - J. Love – How successful have these programs been? Dee replied that efforts at Lake Powell held off Quagga mussel invasion for 10 years, but now have a sustainable population.

Clarification of Bill Language – Lakes that are Owned and Managed by State:

- B. Michael – ANS prevention is a larger issue than just state-owned lakes; statewide ed/outreach is key
- D. Morrow – DNR Boating Services has increased ANS outreach efforts this year.
- C. Jacobs – What about a sticker certification program in MD? - where boaters are sent ANS prevention information and return a completed form for certification.
 - Group discussed the high expense of this type of program; MDNR licensing would need to be involved
- M. Lewandowski – provided update on the options/alternatives list
 - A WID station at the DCL State Park will cost approximately \$950,000; this does not include engineering costs for a new traffic pattern
- C. Jacobs - the cost of a 10 × 10 car wash will be \$59,000 for sewer hook-up
 - E. Null - this would also require a county hook-up to water source and power supply...extra \$ costs.
- E. Null – DCL State Park budget cannot cover costs of purchase and implementation of a WID station; current funding not adequate.
- J. Love – How do we generate cost/benefit for each option for all state-owned lakes – including long-term upkeep and maintenance costs, and over what time frame?
 - B. Michael – Estimates will be based on DCL given its size, number of users, importance to economy, etc.
- B. Michael – The report to the legislature will include a list of most ANS prevention options with associated estimated costs
 - B. Beelar – would like this to include a cost/benefit economic analysis
 - B. Michael - E. Campbell and C. Jacobs will be examining economic impacts
- Margie Brassil – one of the goals of the report should also be to educate legislature of importance of the issue
- J. McKnight – cautioned workgroup about using western states as a comparable model – akin to apples-to-oranges comparison; also reiterated E. Null’s concerns regarding funding to cover costs of WID or other efforts at DCL State Park.
- J. Love – the list of options should examine vessel launch vs. removal in prioritization.
- B. Michael – List of options will be completed by next meeting and will be sent to workgroup one week prior to next meeting.

- E. Campbell – discussed difficulty in estimating economic impacts of invasion since some species (e.g., Hydrilla, zebra mussel) can have effects that are viewed favorably by some stakeholder groups (e.g., anglers, divers); will use economic impact assessment from Lake George to evaluate MD options.
- C. Jacobs, B. Beelar, M. Lewandowski – will finalize the list of state-owned lakes and provide the list to the workgroup.

Mid-Atlantic Panel of the ANS Task Force “Species of Interest” List:

- J. McKnight – provided Mid Atlantic Panel AIS list of species of concern in MD; cautioned group that the list is good, but incomplete.
- B. Beelar – Should we use “Invasive” or “Nuisance” in the report.
 - J. McKnight – provided definitions of the various terms used
 - B. Michael – should continue to use the term “invasive” in the report

Discuss, Review, and Assign Responsibilities for the Report:

B. Michael discussed the list of sections to be included in the report. The draft report should include:

- Executive Summary
- Background (including list of state AIS efforts to date)
- Statement of the Problem
- Existing Maryland Law
- Examples of AIS Control Measure from other States
- List of Prevention Options
- Economic Impacts
- Possible Funding Sources for Implementation
- Recommendations
- Appendix – List of State-Owned Lakes

J. McKnight – suggested that the workgroup provide the legislature with a list of recommendations or menu of options with costs and potential efficacy with a discussion of where we think the “sweet spot” would be; warned against providing a specific definitive statement of what the policy should be.

B. Beelar - will circulate a list of possible funding sources to the workgroup.

Next Meeting:

Tentative Date – Thursday, October 15th 1-4pm

J. McKnight – recommended inviting a representative from the Baltimore City Department of Public Works to give a presentation on control/ prevention efforts they have taken to prevent zebra mussel invasion in the city’s reservoir system

- J. Kilian – will contact Baltimore City Reservoir Natural Resources Section to schedule a presentation for upcoming meeting