

Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Minutes

March 12, 2013

TWDB SFA Building Room 170

Austin, Texas

The meeting was convened by David Villarreal, Texas Department of Agriculture on March 12, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Committee members attending were Dr. Ron Billings of Texas Forest Service, Mel Davis of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Dr. Barron Rector of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Dr. Earl Chilton of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Carla Guthrie of Texas Water Development Board.

Guests: Johnny Oswald (TSSWCB), Bob Gruner (TSSWCB), Lucas Gregory (TWRI), Elizabeth Edgerton (TWRI), Dennis Markwardt (TxDot), Awinash Bhatkar (TDA), Jerry Cook (SHSU), Bret Erickson (TIPA), Russell Castro (USDA-NRCS), Tara Raabe (TIPPC), Scott Walker (TIPPC), Nick Dornak (PCWP), Paul Bauman (TAMU), Sky Lewey (NRA), Jessica Strickland (TIPPC), Stuart Kuehn (USDA-NRCS), Justin Wall (USDA-NRCS), Anne Rogers (TCEQ), John Doherty (Esri), Carla Guthrie (TWDB), Mary Gilroy (City of Austin), Loren Warrick (TSSWCB), Dr. Damon Wiatt (UT, Wildflower Center).

October 10, 2012 meeting minutes were approved after the notice of a correction. New business was brought about by Dr. David Villarreal; it began by introducing the proposal to withdraw bastard cabbage from the list and consider Cogongrass and Golden Bamboo to be listed by Dr. Damon Wiatt. Dr. Awinash Bhatkar, TDA presented the laws and processes of adoption. He presented the history of noxious plants in Texas and the listing process. Discussion was opened by the committee to vote about Cogongrass, TWDB abstained from voting, Ron Billings of Texas Forest Service made a motion to recommend Cogongrass to list, Earl Chilton of TPWD 2nd the motion, 2 recommended to pass and 2 recommended to not. The vote did not pass and Cogongrass was not listed. Dr. Damon Waitt presented a proposal to list Golden Bamboo. Discussion was heard throughout the group about the many effects of this Invasive. Dr. Earl Chilton of TPWD made the motion to list Golden Bamboo, Ron Billings 2nd the motion, the vote passed with a majority with TWDB abstaining. The motion was carried to add Golden Bamboo to the list.

Ongoing projects, updates, and briefs were brought forth to the committee. Dr. Earl Chilton (TPWD) updated everyone on Aquatic Invasives; a presentation was given on leaf hoppers and when they become established they will be quite effective.

Justin Wall (USDA) updated everyone on USDA-APHIS Federal Noxious Weed Programs. Mary Gilroy City of Austin updated everyone on the invasive controls they are establishing in Lady Bird, Lake Long/AKA Decker Lake. Dr. Jerry Cook of Institute for Study of Invasive Species (stationed out of SHSU in Huntsville) introduced his program to the group and the many different activities that they are working on that includes: early detection, rapid response, GIS component, economic Analysis, and many other components to help further the education of Invasive Species in Texas. Lisa Gonzalez of the Houston

Advanced Research Center (HARC) introduced what HARC has been doing to become a part of the critical work involving Invasives in the State of Texas.

The motion was brought to the table to adjourn the meeting by Mel Davis (TSSWCB) the motion was 2nd by Dr. Earl Chilton. The meeting was adjourned.