

Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Minutes

November 30, 2016

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

1497 Country View Lane, Temple, TX 76504 Temple, Texas

The meeting was convened by Mel Davis, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) on November 30, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members attending were Dr. Jim Houser of Texas A&M Forest Service, Mel Davis of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Dr. Barron Rector of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Monica McGarrity of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Awinash Bhaktar of Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Dr. Mark Wentzel of Texas Water Development Board.

Mel Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Davis began the meeting with a call to order and approval of the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Dr. Barron Rector of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Awinash Bhaktar of TDA seconded the motion the majority ruled and the meeting minutes were approved.

Election of New Chairman took place. A nomination by Dr. Barron Rector of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for Mel Davis of TSSWCB, he accepted the nomination. Awinash Bhaktar of TDA seconded the nomination, the majority voted for Mr. Davis to continue as Chairman. The Committee also agreed upon on having Monica McGarrity (TPWD) continue as the Vice-Chair.

Listing Process of Invasive Plants – Awinash Bhaktar

- Dr. Rector mentioned that any plant entering Texas must be certified pest free.
 - TDA mentioned the exact definition of what a nursery is in the state of Texas
- Inspection of TDA was mentioned plus the timeframe which is dependent on the inspector's schedule
- The concern of when a massive drought hits Texas and hay was being brought in from other states there was no inspection of noxious weeds. This could become a concern in the future.
- Stakeholders have to agree before a plant or an animal is listed as an invasive.

Ongoing projects, updates, and briefs were brought forth to the committee.

- Update on Aquatic Invasive Plants and Zebra Mussels in Texas - Monica McGarrity, TPWD
 - TPWD updated the committee on coordinated efforts and are working on implementing strategies based on new sampling.

- TPWD is continuing to develop and expand a coordinated, interagency monitoring strategy for zebra mussels in the State. Furthermore, TPWD and partners are funding research to help enhance understanding of zebra mussel population dynamics and downstream dispersal in Texas waters.
- Some research suggests that zebra mussel populations have declined in some areas in recent years; however, long-term research is needed to fully evaluate these trends.
- Update on Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program – Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
 - TSSWCB updated the group on the many efforts of coordinating the Carrizo cane efforts.
- Update from TISCC Members on Invasive Species Projects at their Agencies –Committee Members
 - Discussion on the Emerald Ash Borer
 - Discussion on future meeting dates and locations

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Warrick (TSSWCB)