

Minutes from IN Aquatic Plants in Trade Working Group Meeting March 17, 2008

Attendees: Doug Keller, Cassie Hauswald, Ellen Jacquart, Sarah Peel, Pat Charlebois, Chris Jerde, Darren Yeo, Reuben Keller, Lyndsay Chadderton, Glenn Wuest, Ashley Baldrige, Jaci Chase.

Welcome and Housekeeping

The meeting began at 10:15. Pat Charlebois welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Charlebois asked everyone to introduce themselves because two new people were present. Everyone did so. The two new attendees were Ashley Baldrige and Jaci Chase, both with the University of Notre Dame. Charlebois then asked that the group members representing larger entities (e.g., INLA) follow-up on getting a “mandate letter” from each entity. This will help us document exactly which groups are represented. Charlebois then explained that there was no real agenda for the meeting, but that the plans for the meeting were to have the group do risk assessments in the morning and then analyze those assessments to see areas of concern and consensus in the afternoon.

Risk Assessments – Pat Charlebois

Charlebois introduced the activity by explaining that the end goal of the exercise was to be comfortable with the way that Jaci Chase, the Notre Dame student who was working on the scoring of known invasive and non-invasive plants, is scoring each plant. This includes comfort with her process, her references and her interpretation with those references--it is upon her work that the risk assessment scoring will be based. Charlebois then explained that the group would be divided among academics, policy people and industry representatives. Each subgroup would score at least the 3 invasive species and do more if time permitted.

The group spent the rest of the morning in these subgroups discussing the species scoring, and identifying questions in the risk assessment that caused problems. The group, in total, was able to analyze six species (*Myriophyllum spicatum*/ (Eurasian watermilfoil), *Hydrilla verticillata*/ (hydrilla), *Glyceria maxima* / (reed mannagrass), *Aponogeton distachyus* / (water hawthorne), *Najas minor* / (slender/brittle naiad), *Typha minima* (miniature cattail)).

Analyses of Risk Assessment Outcome – Chris Jerde.

After lunch, Chris Jerde (a post-doc from Notre Dame) showed slides comparing the scoring of each of the 3 subgroups and comparisons among the 3 groups. This exercise highlighted questions of the risk assessment that were interpreted differently by the different entities. Thus ensued a discussion about these questions and the questions identified as having problems (e.g, they were unclear, were open to interpretation, etc.).

The meeting ended with the group agreeing that the information used in the risk assessment should be the best available and that at times there will not be much information available. However, the scoring of the species can be changed based on any

new information. R. Keller then noted that the Notre Dame contingent would make changes to the risk assessment based on the discussion. Further “testing” of the “new and improved” risk assessment could then happen at the next meeting.

Charlebois concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and stating that the next meeting would be sometime in April and then the group would be on hiatus until after the busy season.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.